

The Fiqh of Halal and Haram Animals



"O mankind: Eat of what is lawful and good on earth" (Quran 2: 168).

What are the lawful animals?

The general rule in Islamic Law is that all animals are allowed to be used for food except for those that are expressly forbidden in the Qur'an or the Prophet's traditions.

Forbidden animals are as follows:

1. **Pigs:** Pigs, indeed any of their body parts and by-products, are considered 'filthy' in Islam and thus forbidden for human consumption. As the Qur'an states, *"Forbidden to you (for food) are: Al-Maitah (the dead animals — cattle — beast not slaughtered), blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which Allaah's Name has not been mentioned while slaughtering (that which has been slaughtered as a sacrifice for others than Allaah, or has been slaughtered for idols) and that which has been killed by strangling, or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall, or by the goring of horns — and that which has been (partly) eaten by a wild animal — unless you are able to slaughter it (before its death) - and that which is sacrificed (slaughtered) on An-Nusub (stone-altars). (Forbidden) also is to use arrows seeking luck or decision; (all) that is Fisqun (disobedience of Allaah and sin). This day, those who disbelieved have given up all hope of your religion; so fear them not, but fear Me. This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But as for him who is forced by severe hunger, with no inclination to sin (such can eat these above mentioned meats), then surely, Allaah is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful"* (Al-Maa'idah, 5:3)
2. **All meat eating animals,** whether they are large, such as lions and tigers, or small, such as cats and dogs are also included in this category.
3. **Carrion or dead animals,** the decaying flesh of dead animals is unhygienic and offensive to human taste.
4. **The Meat of Animals Slaughtered in Dedication to Other than Allah**

5. **All predatory birds**, such as falcons and eagles.
6. **Flowing blood**, blood carries organisms which are responsible for various diseases. It is therefore harmful to consume blood.

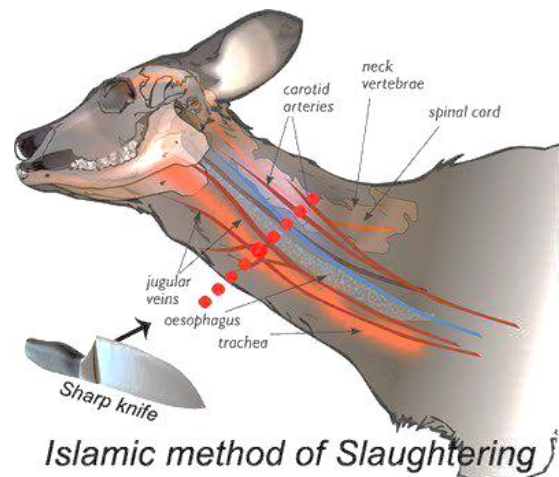
Islamic Slaughter

This means slaughtering animals in a manner which satisfies the conditions of slaughtering stipulated by Islamic law.

Conditions for slaughtering animals in Islam

Allah ﷻ has made the food of the People of the Book (Jews and Christians) lawful for us as long as they observe the legal method of slaughtering animals.

1. The person undertaking the slaughtering process must be Muslim or a member of the People of the Book (that is, Jews or Christians). In addition, he must have reached the age of discretion and carries out this act for the intended purpose.
2. The tool used for slaughtering the animal must be suitable for the intended purpose and sharp, such as a knife. It is forbidden to use anything that may kill the animal due to its heavy weight, hit its head to death or shock it and render it unconscious by resorting to electric stunning, for instance.
3. The name of Allah must be pronounced by saying Bismillaah (in the name of Allah) at the time of slaughtering the animal.
4. The cut must sever at least three of the following: the trachea, the oesophagus and the two blood vessels on either side of the throat.



If these conditions are met, the meat of the slaughtered animal will be lawful; however, if one single condition is not met, its meat will not be lawful.