

List of Melanistic Animals

Big Cats & Land Mammals

Vocabulary	IPA (US)	Short Description
Cheetah (melanistic)	/ˈtʃiː.tə/	An extremely rare dark-colored cheetah; only a handful of cases have ever been recorded in the wild.
Jaguar (melanistic)	/ˈdʒæɡ.wɑːr/	A jaguar with black pigmentation; commonly called a black panther . In this species, melanism is a dominant trait .
Leopard (melanistic)	/ˈlɛp.ə.d/	Often called a black panther in Africa and Asia; unlike the jaguar, melanism in leopards is a recessive trait .
Rabbit (melanistic)	/ˈræb.ɪt/	A rabbit with dark or jet-black fur instead of typical white, brown, or gray coloring.
Red Fox (melanistic)	/rɛd fɔːks/	A red fox displaying dark coloration; often confused with the silver fox , a specific melanistic variant.
Wolf (melanistic)	/wʊlf/	A gray wolf with black fur; this trait is believed to have originated from ancient interbreeding with domestic dogs.
Gray Squirrel (melanistic)	/greɪ ˈskwɜː.əl/	A gray squirrel with entirely black fur, frequently seen in urban populations in North America and the UK.

Birds, Reptiles, and Marine Life

Vocabulary	IPA (US)	Short Description
Flamingo (melanistic)	/fləˈmɪŋ.gou/	An exceptionally rare individual with black plumage; this may result from rare mutations or specific metabolic variations.
King Penguin (melanistic)	/kɪŋ ˈpɛŋ.gwɪn/	A penguin with unusually dark feathers covering its white belly; only a few confirmed sightings exist.
Owl (melanistic)	/aʊl/	An owl with dark feathers caused by increased melanin, often making its facial disc appear soot-colored.
Rattlesnake (melanistic)	/ˈræɫ.əl.sneɪ k/	A snake with darker scales, which can improve heat absorption (thermoregulation) in cooler climates.

Grass Snake (melanistic)	/græs sneɪk/	A non-venomous snake with entirely black scales; this condition is more common in certain European populations.
Manta Ray (melanistic)	/'mæɪn.tə reɪ/	A black morph manta ray, with a dark underside instead of the typical white, often seen in Raja Ampat.
Seal (melanistic)	/si:l/	A seal with dark brown or black fur; observed in approximately 1 in 400 gray seal pups.