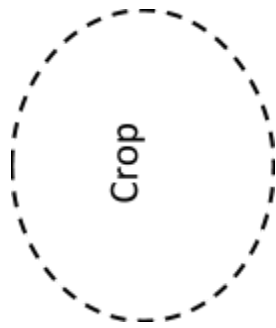
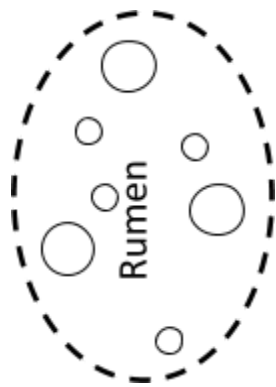


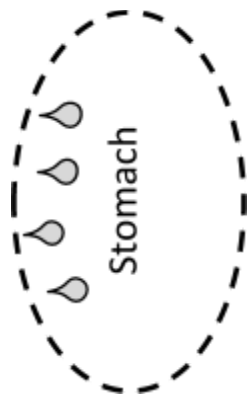
Digestive Organs



A crop is a stretchy sack that stores food before it goes to the stomach. Sometimes, feeding can expose an animal to danger. Animals with a **crop** can come out of hiding, quickly gobble down a big meal, and get back to safety. Then they can digest their meal in peace.



Grass and tree leaves are tough to digest. They contain cellulose, which the stomach can not dissolve. A **rumen** contains microscopic bacteria that dissolve cellulose for the animal. This produces lots of gas. An animal with a rumen has to belch often to release the gases.



Every animal needs a **stomach**. This is where acid and other chemicals are mixed with food to dissolve it. Like all the other digestive organs, a stomach can move. This motion is needed to mix and move things along to the next organ.



Some animals have no teeth. They can grind their food in a **gizzard**. This organ has tough walls and powerful muscles. Some animals swallow small pebbles and rocks which stay in the gizzard to act like teeth, helping to grind the food.