

Animal Sounds in Spanish

If a cow says "moo" in English, what does she say in Spanish? Mu, of course. But when we're talking about sounds that animals make, it isn't always that simple. Although the words we give to animal sounds are an example of onomatopoeia, those sounds aren't perceived the same in all languages or all cultures. The following list shows the sounds made by various "Spanish-speaking" animals. Special verb forms, where they exist, are in parenthesis following the word(s) for the sound. English forms follow the dash:

abeja (bee): *bzzz (zumbar)* — buzz

búho (owl): *uu uu (ulular)* — who, hoo, hoot

burro (donkey): *iii-aah (rebuznar)* — heehaw

caballo (horse): *jiiiiiii, iiiiou (relinchar)* — neigh, n-a-a-a-y

cabra (goat): *bee bee (balar)* — b-a-a-a-a

cerdo (pig): *oink-oink, oinc-oinc (grunir)* — oink

cuco (cuckoo): *cúcu-cúcu* — cuckoo

cuervo (crow): *cruaaac-cruaaac* — caw

gallina (hen): *coc co co coc (cacarear), kara-kara-kara-kara* — cluck

gallo (rooster): *kikirikí, ki-kiri-ki (cantar)* — cock-a-doodle-doo

gato (cat): *miau (maullar)* — meow

león (lion): *grrrr, grgrgr (rugir)* — roar, growl

oveja (sheep): *bee, mee (balar)* — b-a-a-a-h

mono (monkey): *i-i-i*

paloma (dove): *cu-curru-cu-cú (arrullar)* — coo

pato (duck): *cuac cuac* — quack

pavo (turkey): *gluglú* — gobble

perro (dog): *guau guau, guau (ladrar)* — bark, bow-wow, arf, ruff

pollito (chick): *pío pío* — chirp

rana (frog): *cruá cruá, berp, croac (croar)* — ribbit, croak

tigre (tiger): *ggggrrrr, grgrgr (rugir)* — roar, growl

vaca (cow): *mu, muuu (mugir)* — moo

*Keep in mind that some of these terms can vary by country, and that there very well may be other terms in use. That shouldn't be surprising — after all, in English we use words such as "bark," "bow-wow," "ruff-ruff" and "arf" to imitate the sound of a dog. There also may be a variety of spelling alternatives. Note also that in Spanish it is possible to use the verb *hacer* to put a sound in verb form. For example, one could say "the pig oinks" by saying "el cerdo hace oink-oink."