Rindvieh = "cow".

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "cow", or "idiot". The term is applied to males and females over the age of 15. It implies straightforward stupidity in men and women. The relationship existing between the addressee and the addressee is informal and hostile, but formal when used by a stranger. It is conventional, abusive and used by most people. The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

dummes/blödes/altes Rindvieh = stupid/dumb idiot/clot/cow

Kalb = "calf" and is figuratively translatable as "girl" or "clot". The term is used pejoratively to describe stupid, innocent, ignorant, young girls between the ages of 15 - 25. The relationship existing between the addressee and the addressee would be informal and hostile, but intimate and affectionate if a husband called his wife "Kalbchen". The term is conventional and abusive and used in middle to upper class circles. A regional variation is "Kalble" (southern Germany).

dummes/blödes/junges Kalb = stupid/silly girl/clot

v) Pferd = "horse". In ancient times the horse was a god and a symbol of virility, and even today it retains its
significance as a phallic symbol. In medieval times it was used to represent the sensual sinner and in Shakespeare's time a "hobby horse" was a lustful or loose woman or prostitute. To the Hebrews the stallion was a symbol of lust, but it was also one of retribution and war. The horse and charriot were much dreaded by soldiers and religious writers often used them to represent divine power (Rowland 1974:109).

"Pferd" is figuratively translatable as "idiot" but the use of this term as an epithet is very rare in German, and when it is used, the usage is highly idiosyncratic. As an idiom it would be applied to males and females over the age of 15 and would imply an informal and affectionate rapport between the speaker and the hearer. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- er/sie ist das beste Pferd im Stall = he/she is a brick, one ewa's lamb, one in a million.

Hengst = "stallion".

IDIOMS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "stud" (randy fellow or randy chap). The term is only used idiomatically and is applicable to sexually mature males. "Hengst" used on its own, simply means a good-natured fellow, but when used in conjunction with a modifier, the relationship
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between the addresser and the addressee may be informal and hostile or informal and friendly. The term is conventional but not often used.

- ein flotter Hengst = an Apollo, a young blood (applicable to a handsome, well-dressed man)
- ein geiler Hengst = stud, lecherous/randy bastard

Gaul = "workhorse".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "ass", "idiot", "pal" or "buddy". The term is usually applied to common, idiotic, stupid men over the age of 20, and hence the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal (or formal when used by strangers), hostile and abusive, but if one man says to his friend "Na, komm mit du alter Gaul", the relationship between him and his friend would be informal and affectionate. The term is conventional but normally only used by teenagers as a colloquial term. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- dummer/blöder/alter Gaul = silly old ass/idiot
- alter Gaul = weakling or buddy, mate, chum, pal

vi) Schaf = "sheep". The sheep still stands for the same qualities it stood for in the Bible, symbolising
stupidity, blind submission and helplessness while led to the slaughterhouse. In early Christian times however, the symbolism of the sheep was elevated by associating it with the sacred lamb, the symbol of Christ. Theologians looked upon sheep as the perfect symbol of kindliness and gentleness because they surrendered their only possessions: milk, meet and wool. The origin of the term "black sheep" is not clear and Rowland (1974:139) suggests that "the pejorative sense may derive from nothing more than the fact that a black sheep looks different from the rest of the flock."

EPITHETS

Figuratively "Schaf" is translatable as "clot", "dunce" or "idiot". It is applied to foolish young men and women between 15 - 25. The relationship between the addresser and the addressee is usually hostile and informal (or formal when used by strangers), as the term is abusive but not vulgar. It is conventional but not commonly used. When the term is used by lovers to their women in the form of "Schafchen", the term expresses affection. Regional variations are "Schafle", "Schaflein" (southern Germany). The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- dummes/blödes/altes Schaf = stupid, old fool/jackass
- armes Schaf = poor old soul/sod (sympathetically affectionate)
- Schäfchen = darling, love, baby
- frommes Schaflein = goody two-shoes, strait-laced girl
  (sarcastic term for describing a young conservative, religious girl up to the age of 30).

**IDIOMS**

- er/sie ist das schwarze Schaf der Familie = he/she is the black sheep of the family (not abusive, but simply a statement of fact).
- er/sie ist ein raudiges Schaf = he/she is a boor, no-good, unrefined person
- er/sie ist ein verirrtes Schaf = he/she has gone off the rails
- er ist ein Schafskopf = he is a bird brain/numbskull
- er/sie hat eine Schafsgeduld = he/she is as patient as Job

**Hammel** = "ram".

**EPITHETS**

Figuratively the term is translatable as "idiot" or "fool". The term is used to describe a dull, stupid, witless man over the age of 15. The relationship between the addressee and the addressee is informal (or formal when used by a stranger) and hostile. The term is conventional and common in the lower and middle class and commonly used in conjunction with a modifier. It is
usually abusive but is sometimes idiosyncratically used by parents to their little boys or older sons, by girlfriends to their lovers, by wives to their husbands or by male friends, in the form of "Hammelchen" to express affectionate criticism about the silly deed of a friend or loved one.

- dummer/blöder/alter Hammel = stupid old fool/idi0t/clot
- Hammelchen = buddy/pal/mate/dar ling/love

IDIOMS

All the idiomatic expressions with "Hammel" are abusive

- Geizhammel = miser, stingy man
- Haushammel = hermit/lonewolf/homebird
- Neidhammel = green with envy
- Streithammel = fire-eater
- Zankhammel = someone who causes bad blood
- eigensinniger Hammel = mulish person, stubborn as a mule

Lamm = "lamb".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "lamb", "love", "darling" or "pet". The term is used as a form of endearment for little girls under the age of 5. The term is usually applied within a harmonious family relationship by the parents to their little daughter. The term is
conventional and commonly used in middle to low class circles. The form "Lämmchen" is also used in an affectionate sense towards little girls, girlfriends or wives.

- süßes/kleines/liebes Lamm/Lämmchen = sweet little baby/angel/darling/love.

Schwein = "pig". The pig also signifies over-indulgence in sexual activity, and today people are referred to as pigs as soon as they over-indulge in anything, especially eating. The Jews uphold an ancient taboo on eating pork because it is considered to be unclean meat, and here may lie the origins of the expressions denoting filth. "The pig is an unpleasant epithet applied to a variety of individuals (usually to males and young children), and together with "hog" and "swine" usually carries implications of greed and filth. (Rowland 1980:209).

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term could be translated as "pig" or "swine". It is the second most commonly used expression of abuse after "Hund" in German. The term is applied to ill-mannered, badly behaved, over-indulgent, indecent males older than 15. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is informal and hostile, but formal and hostile when used by a stranger. It is
conventional and commonly used by most people when they are angry or frustrated about something. When the term is used in conjunction with a modifier, it is always vulgar and abusive with only one exception: "armes Schwein".

- dummes/blödes/altes Schwein = stupid pig, disgusting idiot, filthy swine
- armes Schwein = poor old sod. (A term of affection expressing genuine sympathy towards a man or woman)
- Charakterschwein = pig (referring to males)
- Schweinehund = pig (referring to males)
- Schweinnickel = pig (often used by parents to their young children in an affectionately critical sense)
- Schweinkerl = pig (strongly abusive)
- Schweinchen = little pig, piggy. (Term of endearment for little boys and girls up to the age of 10, often used with modifiers such as "süsses", "kleines", "dreckiges").

Sau = "sow".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "cow", "pig" or "bitch". This vulgar term is used to describe ill-mannered females, usually of low morals. The term is applicable to girls and women over the age of 15. When used in conjunction with another noun e.g. "Sau + Igel" or "Sau + Affe" or certain adjectival modifiers e.g. "Sau +
massige(r)" or "Sau + widerliche(r)" (the latter being highly idiosyncratic), the term is sometimes also applicable to all males. The relationship existing between the addressee and the addressee is informal and hostile and the term is always abusive. It is taboo in middle to upper class circles but is heard there nevertheless.

- dumme/blöde/alte Sau = stupid old pig/cow/bitch
- er ist ein Sauigel = he is a pig (used for males only)
- er ist ein Sauau = he is a swine
- das ist ein Sauluder = slut, disgusting young girl
- er ist ein saumässiger Kerl/dass ist ein saumässiges Weib = foul-minded and foul-mouthed person

IDIOMS

- seine/ihre Arbeit ist unter aller Sau = his/her work is of very low standard
- sie/das ist eine dreischwänzige Muttersau = whore or prostitute or slut (idiosyncratic usage).

Ferkel = "piglet".

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "piglet" or "piggy". The term is used for small children up to the age of 10, existing also as "Ferkelchen". The term is often used by parents and the relationship between them and
their children is affectionate but slightly angry. It is conventional and acceptable to most people. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- süßes/kleines/dreckiges/schmutziges Ferkel(chen) = sweet little pig/piglet/darling.

viii) Ziege = "goat". The Elizabethan zoologist Topsell, said "There is no beast that is more prone and given to lust than is a goate" (Rowland 1974:80). The goat has always symbolised libido and promiscuity in Greece, Egypt and Rome. It is also said to be the Devil's disguise, and since the Jews were regarded as the people of the Devil, the goat was a symbol of Judaism. Aphrodite, the goddess of love, had young bucks sacrificed to her. This stood for the incarnation of lust. Even today in the rural parts of Austria and Bavaria a goat's beard is worn on the watch chain to further the procreative power of the wearer. Lust, one of the Seven Deadly Sins, was a woman riding a goat and carrying a dove.

EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "goat" but other more suitable equivalents would be "cow", "hag", "bag" or "bitch". The term is applicable to any girls or women over the age of 15 when for example if they drive inconsiderately or push into a supermarket queue or when
they are rude and unhelpful on the telephone. The relationship existing between the addressee is always informal (or formal when used by a stranger) and hostile. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier. It is abusive and very commonly used by most people under frustrating circumstances.

- dumme/blöde/alte Ziege = stupid old cow/goat/bitch
- alte Ziege = nagging old hag
- freche Ziege = cheeky bitch (mainly for young girls)
- alter/dummer/blöder Ziegenbock = stupid fool, idiot, half-wit (applicable to males only; very abusive).
- Ziegenbock = horny bastard, stud
- Meckerziege = grouser, woman who chirps the odds

IDION

- ein flotter Bock = an Apollo, a handsome, well-dressed man

**c. Beasts of Burden**

The beasts of burden featuring most commonly in German animal metaphors are: Pferd, Ochse, Esel, Kamel, and Elefant. As the first two animals have already been dealt with under the "farm animals" category, only the remaining three will be discussed.
Elefant - Throughout the Orient the elephant was a symbol of divine wisdom, of patience, endurance and longevity. For the Romans it was the symbol of the conqueror, of war and of triumph. According to the ancient fable, the snake bit the elephant fatally but was then squashed by the elephant as it fell. This symbolised the power of the elephant. In the East a white elephant was costly and required considerable upkeep, but was useless as a fighting beast, and hence the expression "white elephant", which even today suggests something valuable but useless.

EPIPHETES

Both on a literal and figurative level the term is translatable as "elephant" but another suitable equivalent would be "blunderfoot". The term, when used on its own (as it usually is), is applicable to males over the age of 15 and refers to their physical strength, size and subsequent clumsiness. The relationship existing between the addresser and the person being referred to is affectionately critical but not abusive. The term is not used commonly.

- Elefantenbaby / Elefantenküken = fatty, blunderbuster, blunderfoot, (term of endearment for small children, which simultaneously implies clumsiness and fatness.
Esel - In many Eastern countries the ass was highly regarded as a symbol of the rich and noble. The proverb "one knows a man by his ass" stems from the high estimate of the ass. In medieval times however, Christ's use of the ass became a symbol of His humility, for the animal was despised in Western countries. In Greece and Egypt the ass came to symbolise lust. In Aesop's Fables the ass was the first animal to have been eaten by the lion because it was foolish and stubborn and brayed instead of running away. Hence the expression "as stubborn as a mule". In anti-Semitic symbolism the ass represented the Jewish, who "like asses would not understand the evident truth of Christ...wherefore our Saviour secretly upbraided their dulness, when he rode upon an asse" (Rowland 1974:26). The custom of forcing prisoners to wear the fool's cap with ass's ears, was intentionally degrading to the wearer, and until today the ass stands for sluggishness and stupidity.

EPITHETS

"Esel" is literally translatable as "donkey" but would be better translated as "ass", "half-wit" or "lame-brain". The term is applied to males over the age of 15 and expresses sheer stupidity and idiocy. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is informal (or formal if used by strangers), critical and only slightly abusive. In some cases even girls and women have been known to call each other "Esel" but this usage
is idiosyncratic. The term is used by most people regardless of their social standing. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- dummer/blöder/alter Esel = silly, stupid old ass/idiot

IDIOMS

- er sitzt in der Eselsbank = he is a dunce (refers back to the medieval monastary schools when lazy pupils were made to sit on wooden asses for punishment (Spalding and Brooke 1959:695).
- Er ist nicht Schuld daran dass die Esel keine Hörner haben - he can't help his stupidity
- Er ist ein richtiger Esel = he is a real fool, half-wit, he is as dense as a donkey.

iii) Kamel = "camel". Although the camel was subjected to much misrepresentation in medieval art, its habit of kneeling down to receive heavy loads was well known. Etymologies suggest that the word "camel" may have meant "on the earth", implying that the camel was a humble beast of burden. It was also the symbol of Christ's humility, stooping to take on the load of the world's sin. The association of the camel with lustfulness and "a medieval nymphomaniac" (Rowland 1974:49) has fallen into disuse.
Figuratively the term is translatable as "fool", "idiot" or "clot". The term is usually applied to men over the age of 15, but has been known to be used for women. It expresses stupidity and foolhardiness. The relationship existing between the addresser and the addressee is informal (or formal if used by a stranger), critical and marginally abusive. At times the term even expresses sympathetic affection e.g. where one friend says to another "Du bist aber vielleicht ein Kamel!". The term is conventional, relatively commonly used and acceptable in middle to upper class circles. The term is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- dummes/blödes/altes Kamel = stupid fool/idiot/clot

d. Wild animals

i) Affe = "monkey". Because it resembled man, the ape came to epitomise a variety of human vagrancies (Rowland 1974:8). It had and still has the tendency to imitate the less admirable deeds of man. It symbolised sin and lust. In more popular sayings it represents a prankster or fool, and today it symbolises a person who is neither intelligent nor good looking.
EPITHETS

Figuratively the term is translatable as "monkey", "ape" or "idiot". It is applicable either to children up to the age of 10 or to males above the age of 15. When used for children, it is often used in the forms: "Ape" or "Affchen", and it is always a term of affection. When the term is used for men, it is always a term of abuse. In the case of the term being applied to children therefore, the relationship between the addresser and the addressee is informal and friendly, but in the case of the term being applied to a male, the relationship is hostile and informal, or formal if the addressee is a stranger. In all cases the term is conventional and used mainly in lower and middle class circles. It is usually used in conjunction with a modifier.

- dummer/blöder/alter Affe = silly old fool/idiot
- süsses/kleines Affchen = (sweet/naughty little) monkey/brat
- süsse/kleine Ape = sweet/little actor/show-off

IDIOMS

- Brüllaffe = a loud mouth
- Grassaffe = greenhorn

ii) Bär = "bear". Even as far back as the ancient myth, a certain simplicity and faithfulness was inherent in the