HOST : It is an organism (man/animals) which harbors a parasite. It is always larger than parasite.

Type of Hosts

1. Definitive Host or Final Host or Determinate Host
It is the host which harbours the adult stage of the parasite. The parasite attains sexual maturity in it, e.g. Dog for Ancylostoma caninum, sheep, goat, cattle, buffaloes for Fasciola gigantica, Moniezia sp., Haemonchus contortus, etc.

2. Reservoir Host

It is a verebrate host in which a parasite of disease occurs naturally. In this although, the host harbours the parasite but it does not produce any harm to host. For this reason the infection of the parasite is not detected in these host which serves as a source of infection of the parasite for the other definitive host in which it may produce the disease, e.g. Balantidium coli commonly occur in pigs and horses.

3. Intermediate Host

It is the host which harbours the larval stages of the parasite. Depending upon the species of the parasite there may be first, second, third intermediate hostes, e.g. snails in trematodes.

4. First intermediate host it is the host parasitized by the larval stages of the parasite, e.g. Cyclops in the Diphyllobothrium latum.

5. Second intermediate host It is the host parasitized by the larval stages at a later period in the life cycle, developed in the first intermediate host. Thest larval stages in this host further developed and normally reached to infective stages of the parasite, e.g. fishes for the Diphyllobothrium latum and ants for Dicrocoelium dendriticum.

6. Paratenic Host

It sis like the transport host but in this case the immature stage of the parasite gets encapsulated in the tissues of the host, Hence, they cannot be voided out and remains encysted until the definitive host eats the paratenic host, e.g. lizards acts as paratenic host for spirocerca lupi in dog . The role of such hosts is to fill up an ecological gap between the intermediate host and the definitive host.