



## Glossary

**Sympathetic nervous system:** The autonomic nervous system that contains chiefly adrenergic fibres decreases the tone and contractility of smooth muscle, and increase heart rate.

**Nerve trunk:** The main stem of a *nerve*, consisting of a bundle of *nerve* fibres bound together by a tough sheet of connective tissue

**Reflex:** An action that is performed without conscious thought as a response to a stimulus.

**Sedation:** Sedation is the reduction of irritability or agitation.

**Fatigue:** Extreme tiredness resulting from mental or physical exertion or illness.

**Tetanic muscle contraction:** It is a sustained muscle contraction evoked when the motor nerve that innervates a skeletal muscle emits action potentials at a very high rate.

**Depth of respiration:** The movement of chest wall while breathing.

**Reflex arc:** The nerve pathway involved in a reflex action, including at its simplest a sensory nerve and a motor nerve with a synapse between.

**Vasomotor:** Denoting a region in the medulla of the brain (the *vasomotor centre* ) which regulates blood pressure by controlling reflex alterations in the heart rate and the diameter of the blood vessels, in response to stimuli from receptors in the circulatory system or from other parts of the brain.

**Para sympathetic nervous system:** The *parasympathetic nervous system* is one of three divisions of the autonomic *nervous system*. Sometimes called the rest and digest *system*, the *parasympathetic system* conserves energy as it slows the heart rate, increases intestinal and gland activity, and relaxes sphincter muscles in the gastrointestinal tract