



ADDAX



Class: Mammalia Order: Artiodactyla Family: Bovidae
Addax nasomaculatus

Description: With its heavy head and shoulders and slender hindquarters, the addax is a clumsy-looking animal.

Length: 3.5-4.5 feet

Height: 3-4 feet

Weight: 132-275 pounds

Habitat: Desert

Distribution: Isolated areas of Sahara Desert

Diet: Grasses, herbs and leaves on small bushes

Life Span: Up to 19 years

Status: Critically endangered, the Addax is considered one of the rarest animals in the world

Special Characteristics:

- The spiraled horns are found in both sexes.
- The wide hooves have flat soles and may be spread widely, which, along with the well-developed dewclaws, prevent the Addax from sinking in sand.
- The short, glossy coat is off-white to pale grayish brown in color and is lighter in the summer and darker in the winter. The rump, belly, limbs, and lips are pure white. There is a white 'X'-shaped blaze on the face, and a mat of dense, dark hair on the forehead. Long hairs on the throat form a scraggly beard.
- Nocturnal, the Addax will dig "beds" in the sand with their forefeet in which to rest during the day and to protect themselves from the wind and glaring sun.
- Nomadic, always searching for food.
- Get water from the moisture in their food and rarely if ever drinks water.
- The body temperature of the addax varies during the day and this lessens the need for sweating, and thus conserves water.
- Live in mixed herds of 2-20 animals. Hierarchy is determined by age.
- It is a short-legged runner and cannot run fast.
- The meat and the skin of the addax are prized by local people, who use the hides for shoes and sandal soles.

Reproduction:

- Sexual maturity is 1.5 years for females and 3 years for males
- Gestation is 8.5 months
- Female addax leave the herd a few days prior to birth of a calf and are typically accompanied by an adult male, which remains with the female and calf for some time after birth.
- Single birth
- The reddish brown calf is born primarily in winter and spring

