

DROMEDARY CAMEL

Camelus dromedarius

Status: domesticated animal

Habitat (original): desert

Range (original): throughout the Middle East

Diet: vegetation

Size: Weight - 600-1200 lbs.

Other facts:

- The dromedary camel has one hump. Contrary to some myths, they do not store water in their humps. Their humps do contain fat that can be used for energy.
- Dromedary camels were domesticated by 1800 BC (and perhaps as early as 4000 BC).
- Camels were important in the development of the nomadic culture and trade routes in the Sahara Desert.
- Today, the dromedary camel occurs only as a domesticated animal, except for a feral population of about 25,000 camels that were imported to Australia at the turn of the century.
- An estimated 14 million camels are found throughout Africa, Europe, and Asia.

