

Bactrian camel ... the famed "ship of the desert"!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
WILD CATTLE AND
CAMELID TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 11 feet

Height: 7.5 feet
at humps

Weight: 2,000 lbs



Cold deserts



Central Asia

IUCN
**CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED**
(wild type)

<1,000 wild
camels exist

Why exhibit Bactrian camels?

- Generate guest excitement with this highly recognizable and charismatic species.
- Raise awareness of the plight facing the critically endangered wild Bactrian camel using domestic Bactrian camels (managed in AZA facilities as an SSP): wild camels are not found in zoos and rely on *in situ* efforts for their survival.
- Add a memorable close encounter to your list of guest experiences: with proper halter-training, females make great ambassador animals! Their annual moult also provides mountains of hair that can be used for biofacts and animal enrichment.
- Provide your education department with interpretive opportunities for days! Their tell-tale humps, broad feet, extreme eyelashes, and cleft upper lip all tell the story of desert survival.

Stewardship Opportunities

The Bactrian camel SSP serves as a link to the conservation program for the critically endangered wild Bactrian camel.

<http://www.wildcamels.com/>

Care and Husbandry

Candidate Program: 46.55 in 34 AZA institutions (2018)

Species coordinator: Currently vacant. Contact TAG Chair for more info.
Lisa Smith, lsmith@buffalozoo.org

Social nature: Gregarious and non-territorial. A single breeding male can be housed with a group of females year-round or separated to time breeding. Groups of bachelor males have been successful.

Mixed species: Space is key to mixing this potentially ornery species. Successfully mixed with wild equids, yaks, caprids, and deer.

Housing: Very tolerant of hot summers and cold winters - shade and wind protection should be provided.

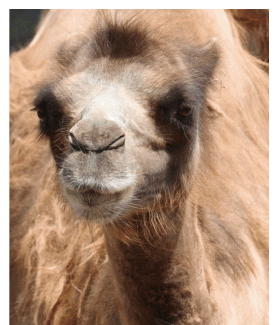
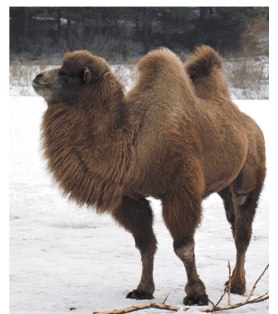
Medical notes: A generally healthy, hardy species. Prone to whipworm infestations and fly issues during moult and over summer.

Special requirements: Diets high in forage (e.g. coarse hay) are recommended for this species: rich diets may lead to bloat. Non-leafy browse is a favored item.

Keeper resources: Cleaning is a breeze with shavings forks. Often worked free-contact, but their large size, kicking ability, bite strength and disposition make them potentially dangerous.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

<http://www.azaungulates.org/>



Photos by B. Huffman, J. Martin, and J. Rolfs. Published June 2019.