

Bactrian wapiti ... an endangered substitute for elk!



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 5.5-7 feet

Height: 4 feet
at shoulder

Weight: to 500 lbs



Open forest



Central Asia

IUCN
LEAST
CONCERN
CITES II

~2,500 in
the wild

Why exhibit Bactrian wapiti?

- Get on board with this program - only two AZA institutions currently work with this awesome species and more holders are needed.
- Impress visitors with these regal deer; stags are especially stunning in the fall with their immense antlers and thick, maned necks.
- Get involved with the strong *in situ* conservation program that has already achieved milestones in the protection of this species in the wild.
- Extend public viewing into ALL seasons (especially in problematic northern exhibits), with this cold-hardy Asian species.
- **TAG Recommendation:** Consider breaking strict geographic rules and replace common, generic American elk with priority Bactrian wapiti in North American exhibits. They can be mixed with bison, or can make a stunning exhibit on their own!

Stewardship Opportunities

Habitat restoration in Tigrovaja Balka, Tajikistan
Contact Dr. Olga Pereladova, WWF- Central Asian
Programme: opereladova@wwf.ru

Care and Husbandry

Candidate Program: 27.38.3 (68) in 2 AZA institutions (2014)

Species coordinator: Curt Coleman, The Wilds
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Social nature: Herd-living. Multiple females are usually kept with one male for breeding purposes. Males can be housed together (even with antlers) to form spectacular bachelor groups.

Mixed species: Successfully housed with other hoofstock, including wild cattle, caprids, and various deer and antelope.

Housing: Very tolerant of cold weather if provided with shelter from wind. Shifting facilities are recommended to ensure keeper safety, particularly with breeding males.

Medical notes: Generally robust. Prone to parasites if kept on pasture.

Special requirements: Secluded hiding spots (deadfall, boulders) are used by fawns during the first two weeks of life; females may become overly stressed if they are unable to cache their young. Deadfall is also well-used by males shedding their velvet.

Keeper resources: Typical cleaning of exhibit and holding areas. Imprinted males in rut can be very aggressive towards keepers.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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

