

Eld's deer ... opportunities galore to help a very rare species!



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 4.5-5.5 feet

Height: 3-4 feet at shoulder

Weight: 130-275 lbs



Grassland/forest



Southeast Asia

IUCN
ENDANGERED
CITES I

<7,000
in the wild

Why exhibit Eld's deer?

- Link your zoo with established *in situ* research, conservation, and reintroduction activities involving this flagship species in Asia.
- Lend expertise and support to embryo transfer work occurring in Thailand, and share with visitors how such technologies can help save species.
- Educate visitors about the threats of the black market trade in animal parts: the antlers of Eld's deer are touted as an aphrodisiac.
- Provide an ecosystem context for tiger exhibits - particularly with Indochinese tigers - by displaying this prey species, and reinforce the common conservation messages that affect both species.
- Compare the issues facing the endangered Eld's deer with those facing the abundant white-tailed deer and mule deer in North America.

Get involved with stewardship!

Habitat restoration, population assessment and GPS tracking in Mondulkiri Protected Forest, Cambodia.
AND

Reintroduction in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand.

Contact Dr. William McShea, SCBI: mcsheaw@si.edu

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 23.41 (64) in 6 AZA institutions (2016)

Species coordinator: Dolores Reed, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
reeddm@si.edu; (540) 635-6524

Social nature: Gregarious; management is well understood. Males must be housed individually or given extra space during rut to avoid fatal aggression.

Mixed species: Successfully housed with other deer and antelope, banteng, Indian rhino, cranes, waterfowl, and peafowl. Risk of hybridization with other deer.

Housing: Shelter needed in temperate climates, including supplemental heat in colder temperatures. Barriers should be at least 8 feet tall. Space and opportunity to retreat from public are keys to success.

Medical notes: Susceptible to meningeal worm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenius*) infections and possibly chronic wasting disease. Females are prone to necrotic fat associated with Fescue grass.

Special requirements: Hands-on management with young deer results in calmer, more tractable animals. However, fully hand-raised males often show aggression towards people when adult.

Keeper resources: Typical hoofstock husbandry. Sparring devices are very helpful in reducing damage to exhibit during rut. These deer do best with a core group of familiar keepers.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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

