

Siberian musk deer ... my, what big teeth you have!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
CERVID TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 3 feet

Height: 2 feet at shoulder

Weight: 24-40 lbs



Forest



Northern Asia

IUCN
VULNERABLE
CITES II

Unknown wild
population

Why exhibit musk deer?

- Round out your presentation of biodiversity with this unique ungulate, the only representative of the ungulate family Moschidae in zoos.
- Reduce movement headaches! Because it is not a true deer, this species is exempt from transport restrictions due to Chronic Wasting Disease.
- Cash in on the public's fascination with vampires: male musk deer generate significant attention with their HUGE "fangs" (canine teeth)!
- Educate your guests on the implications of the trade in wild animal parts. The trade in musk (a secretion used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes) is a strong conservation story.
- Give context to popular Amur tiger and leopard exhibits by displaying this ecosystem-typical prey species nearby.

Get involved with stewardship!

Improving Law Enforcement in the Russian Far East
<http://www.wcs.org/saving-wild-places/asia/sikhotealin-forests-russia.aspx>

Himalayan musk deer conservation in Pakistan
Contact Baseer Qureshi: baseerqureshi@gmail.com

Care and Husbandry

Candidate Program: 8.6 (14) in 4 AZA institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Matt Ardaiole, Denver Zoo

mardaiole@denverzoo.org; (720) 337-1669

Social nature: Solitary or in small groups. Adult males are tolerant of immature offspring, but not of each other (territorial).

Mixed species: Successfully displayed with goral in Europe.

Housing: Bedded shelters are very important in poor weather: rain and dampness are more problematic than cold. Very low temperatures can be tolerated otherwise. Fences should be at least 8 feet high, as musk deer are agile climbers and jumpers.

Medical notes: Can be a challenge to feed properly - animals are often underweight. Susceptible to pneumonia in wet conditions.

Special requirements: Often secretive and fractious. Thoughtful placement of hide spots minimizes stress while encouraging visibility. Use caution when handling due to large teeth.

Keeper resources: Straightforward husbandry, with the exception of special feed preparation.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman and D. McGarry. Published September 2019.