

White-lipped deer ... majestic mountain monarchs!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
CERVID TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 6 feet

Height: 4-5 feet at shoulder

Weight: 250-500 lbs



Grassland



China

IUCN
VULNERABLE

7,000 in
the wild

Why exhibit white-lipped deer?

- Provide year-round viewing opportunities, especially in northern climates, with this cold-weather species endemic to the Tibetan plateau.
- Wow visitors with one of the largest and most impressive deer species.
- Enhance educational programming by using white-lipped deer to interpret seasonal changes in coat development and antler cycles, or surprise visitors with the mountain adaptations of this species, such as their broad hooves.
- Appeal to visitors' desire to get hands-on by using biofacts. The huge antlers of males (4 feet long and 15 lbs each!) are shed annually — a perfect interpretive tool for inspiring awe.
- Reinforce conservation messaging surrounding issues of over-hunting, the impacts of traditional Asian medicine, and habitat loss.

Stewardship Opportunities

Support the Chang Tang Nature Reserve

<http://www.wcs.org/saving-wild-places/asia/chang-tang-china.aspx>

Care and Husbandry

RED SSP: 7.14 (21) in 2 AZA institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Steve Castillo, Disney's Animal Kingdom

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Social nature: Herd-dwelling. Females and young typically kept with one breeding male, or segregated except for breeding. Antlered males can be housed in bachelor groups without issue.

Mixed species: Successfully housed with Bactrian camels, red deer, and fallow deer in a typical zoo setting. Urial, markhor, other medium and large deer, and wild cattle have proven compatible in large paddocks.

Housing: Does well in warm to cool/temperate weather. Acclimated animals typically do not need supplemental heat if given shelter - they regularly endure below-freezing nighttime temperatures for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year in the wild. Steep slopes and rocky terrain pose no concern.

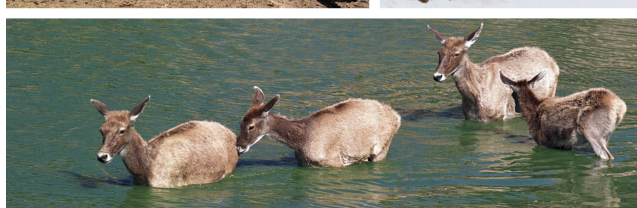
Medical notes: Generally robust.

Special requirements: Water features deep enough for wading are recommended in warm temperatures.

Keeper resources: Typical cleaning of exhibit and holding areas. Deadfall is a preferred form of enrichment for browse and sparring.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published May 2019.