

ADDAX ANTELOPE

RANGE:

Africa; Isolated pockets within the Sahara Desert.

HABITAT:

Waterless areas, especially dunes.

Size:

250 lbs.

Life Expectancy:

Wild: 12 - 15 years

Captivity: 18 - 20 years

REPRODUCTION

- Usually produces a single calf.
- Gestation period of 7 ½ to 8 months.

DIET:

Wild: Grasses, desert scrub.

Captivity: Hay, grain, carrot surprise (carrots, onions & sweet potatoes)

BEHAVIOR:

- Live in small groups of 5-15 animals led by a mature male.
- They roam across the deserts and semi-deserts in a continuous search for grazing grounds.
- May go weeks or months without water.
- To protect themselves from strong winds and the sun's radiation, they dig shallow depressions with their front legs and lie down in them.

Points of Interest:

- Winter coat is longer and rougher than the summer coat.
- Widely splayed hooves for walking on sand.
- Like all desert animals, the Addax lives on a very thin margin. When nomadic domestic livestock pass through an area, they consume what little forage there is and the Addax starves. Fortunately, they can still maintain themselves in areas where livestock can't live.

STATUS:

Endangered (Appendix I, CITES).

REFERENCES:

Bovids-Addax. The Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia. (Macmillan Publishing), 1984; 148.

The 24 Species of Grazing Antelope-Addax. The Encyclopedia of Mammals. (Barnes and Noble, Inc.), 1999;571.

theZOO
LOUISVILLE



Photo by Laura Church

Order:	Artiodactyla
Family:	Bovidae
Genus:	Addax
Species:	nasomaculatus