

CAMEL, DROMEDARY

RANGE:

Southwest Asia and North Africa. Feral in Australia.

HABITAT:

Semi-arid and arid grassland, deserts, plains.

SIZE:

1000 to 1400 lbs. 7 to 11 feet tall.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Possibly 50 years. Become full grown at 5 years.

REPRODUCTION:

Bear single young. 13 to 14 month gestation.

DIET:

Wild: Grasses, scrub, almost any vegetation. Can drink salt water.

Zoo: Hay oats, Dairy Chow, carrot surprise (carrots, onions & sweet potatoes)

BEHAVIOR:

- Often ill-tempered.
- Gurgling sound in throat is a sexual display.
- Can inflict a lethal bite with large mouth and rear canines.
- Can kick in all directions as a defense.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Camels have a 3 chambered stomach.
- The only mammal with oval blood cells. (This may have something to do with the fluid intake).
- Camels can stand much greater dehydration than man (25% vs. 10% water loss).
- Can drink 30 gallons in about 10 minutes.
- Have huge feet with soft pads act as "snow shoes" for walking on sand.
- Have thick knee pads and a chest pad.
- The camel does not store water in the hump, but can do so in the stomach lining.
- During long treks the hump is used for food and when broken down, water is a byproduct.
- Hump actually sags after long trips.
- Can carry up to 600 lbs. And cover 30 miles in a day.
- Closable nostrils, extra eyelashes, and hair in ears are adaptations for sand storms.

STATUS:

Domesticated.

REFERENCES:

Camels and Llamas. Encyclopedia of Mammals. (Barnes & Noble, Inc), 1999; 512.

Even-toed Ungulates. Encyclopedia of Animals. (Fog City Press), 1993; 199.

theZOO
LOUISVILLE



Order: **Artiodactyla**
Family: **Camelidae**
Genus: **Camelus**
Species: **dromedarius**