

GUANACO

RANGE:

South America, Andes Mountains

HABITAT:

Dry mountain areas.

SIZE:

Height: 3 - 4 feet tall (at the shoulder)

Weight: 160 - 200 lbs.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

24 years in captivity

REPRODUCTION:

- Mating season is November through February.
- Gestation: 11 months
- Usually give birth to one offspring at a time.
- Male spits into face of female during courtship

DIET:

Wild: Herbivore. Feeding on vegetation.

Zoo: Alfalfa, grain mix

BEHAVIOR:

- Live in small groups of about 20 animals, 1 male per group.
- When males fight they try to snap the opponent's front legs in order to knock him down and force him on his knees. If their necks cross, they try to press each other down with their necks.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Guanaco is the original form of the domestic Llama and Alpaca.
- Foot pads are small and movable, helping the animals to move securely over narrow trails and gravel slopes.

STATUS:

Extinct or rare in certain areas of its original distribution.

theZOO

L O U I S V I L L E



photo by Robert Kemnitz

Order:	Artiodactyla
Family:	Camelidae
Genus:	Lama
Species:	guanicoe