



**KETTERMAN
RANCH**
WILDLIFE





A OUDAD]

Scientific Name: *Ammotragus lervia*

Native Range: North Africa –Algeria, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan

Estimated Wild Population: 10,000–20,000 (native); large feral population

Description: The aoudad, also known as Barbary sheep, is a hardy ungulate native to arid, mountainous terrain. Its sandy coat, curved horns, and shaggy throat fringe offer both camouflage and protection. Aoudads are diurnal and extremely agile, capable of scaling cliffs and leaping up to 6 feet. They survive without direct water sources by extracting moisture from desert plants. Small herds are typical, and older males may live solitary lives.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut occurs in fall to early winter
- Speed: Up to 30 mph
- Lifespan: 10–15 years

Fun Fact: Aoudads use scent glands near their eyes to mark rocks and communicate territory.



[AXIS DEER]

Scientific Name: *Axis axis*

Native Range: India, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Estimated Global Population: 300,000 native; 100,000+ in Texas

Description: Axis deer, or chital, are known for their permanent white spots and graceful appearance. Males grow three-tined antlers and are active year-round breeders. Highly social, they form herds of 10–50 and are most active at dawn and dusk. Their diet consists of grasses, leaves, and fruits. Excellent hearing and loud alarm calls help protect them from predators.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular (active during twilight hours – dawn and dusk)
- Mating Behavior: Year-round breeding
- Speed: Up to 40 mph
- Lifespan: 9–13 years

Fun Fact: Axis deer often graze near langur monkeys, who provide mutual predator alerts.



AMERICAN BISON

Scientific Name: *Bison bison*

Native Range: North America — historically from Alaska to northern Mexico, now primarily in the U.S. and Canada

Estimated Wild Population: ~37,000 wild bison in conservation herds; ~500,000 in managed private herds

Description: The American bison is the largest land mammal in North America, with bulls weighing up to 2,000 pounds and standing over 6 feet tall at the shoulder. Distinguished by a massive shoulder hump, thick shaggy forequarters, and short curved horns, bison are a symbol of American wilderness and resilience. Once numbering in the tens of millions, they were nearly driven to extinction in the 1800s due to overhunting and habitat loss.

Bison are diurnal grazers, moving in herds and feeding primarily on grasses, sedges, and herbs. They are surprisingly agile for their size—capable of running at speeds over 35 mph and jumping over fences or obstacles up to 6 feet tall. During the breeding season, known as the rut, dominant bulls bellow and engage in head-to-head clashes to win access to females.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut occurs from July to September
- Speed: Up to 35–40 mph
- Lifespan: 15–20 years in the wild; up to 25 years in managed herds

Fun Fact: Despite their immense size and power, bison are excellent swimmers and will cross rivers in search of better grazing or safety from predators.



BLACKBUCK ANTELOPE

Scientific Name: *Antelope cervicapra*

Native Range: India, Nepal, Pakistan

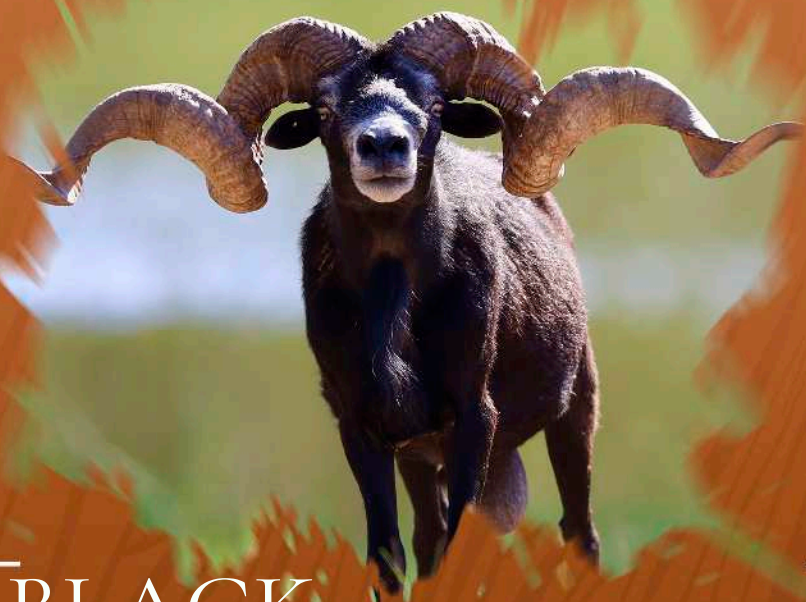
Estimated Global Population: ~50,000 wild; ~35,000+ in Texas

Description: The blackbuck is a swift, elegant antelope known for its spiraled horns and vivid color contrast—males are dark brown to black with white underparts, while females are tan. Males defend leks during breeding, attracting females with display and scent-marking. Females visit the lek, observe the males, and choose a mate based on the display. Blackbuck are diurnal and live in open grasslands, relying on speed and vision to evade predators.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; lekking behavior
- Speed: Up to 50 mph
- Lifespan: 10–15 years

Fun Fact: Blackbuck are revered in Hinduism and once enjoyed royal protection.



BLACK HAWAIIAN SHEEP

Scientific Name: *Ovis aries* (hybrid breed)

Native Range: Developed in Texas; domestic ancestry

Estimated Global Population: Unknown; mainly found on ranches

Description: Black Hawaiian sheep are a domestic hybrid bred for their bold appearance and survivability. Their thick, jet-black wool and large curled horns make them visually striking. Though domestic in origin, they retain wild-like instincts and are social herd animals. Rams engage in ritual head-butting during the rut.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Seasonal breeders; rut in fall
- Speed: Up to 25 mph
- Lifespan: 10–12 years

Fun Fact: Despite the name, they have no Hawaiian lineage—this breed was developed in Texas.



BLESBOK

Scientific Name: *Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*

Native Range: South Africa (Highveld grasslands)

Estimated Global Population: ~250,000 (mostly on private reserves)

Description: Blesbok are recognizable by the white blaze down their face and glossy reddish coats. They live in open plains, grazing exclusively on grass. Herds consist of females and young, while males defend small territories during breeding season. Their curved horns and structured social order reflect their antelope lineage.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; territorial during rut
- Speed: 40–43 mph
- Lifespan: 10–15 years

Fun Fact: Nearly extinct in the 1800s, the species rebounded thanks to ranch conservation.



DROMEDARY CAMEL

Scientific Name: *Camelus dromedarius*

Native Range: Middle East, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa

Estimated Global Population: 13 million

Description: The dromedary camel is a one-humped desert specialist, built for survival in some of Earth's harshest environments. It stores fat in its hump for energy, not water. Its nostrils can close, and it has triple eyelids to protect against blowing sand. Dromedaries can go over a week without water and lose up to 25% of their body weight without ill effect.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal (rests during midday heat)
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant males control harems
- Speed: Up to 40 mph (short bursts); 25 mph sustained
- Lifespan: 40–50 years

Fun Fact: A thirsty camel can drink 30 gallons of water in just 10 minutes.



[CORSICAN SHEEP]

Scientific Name: *Ovis aries* (hybrid breed)

Native Range: Developed in Texas; domestic origins

Estimated Global Population: Unknown

Description: Corsican sheep are Texas-born hybrids bred from mouflon and domestic sheep. With reddish coats, white markings, and curled horns, they're a popular exotic trophy species. Though not wild, they retain strong instincts and excel in rough terrain. Rams clash horns during breeding season, often with dramatic displays.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Seasonal; dominance established via head-butting
- Speed: 25–30 mph
- Lifespan: 10–12 years

Fun Fact: The Corsican name is a misnomer—this hybrid has no link to Corsica.



DAMA GAZELLE

Scientific Name: *Nanger dama*

Native Range: Sahel and southern Sahara Desert (Mali, Niger, Chad)

Estimated Wild Population: Fewer than 500

Description: The dama gazelle is among the rarest antelopes on Earth. It is tall, with long legs and a white body contrasted by a reddish neck and upper back. It thrives in desert margins and feeds on leaves, fruits, and acacia pods. Dama gazelles are mostly diurnal, moving during the cooler hours of the day to avoid extreme heat.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; seasonal rut followed by small nursery groups
- Speed: Up to 50 mph
- Lifespan: 12–15 years

Fun Fact: This critically endangered species has found sanctuary on ranches like Kerterman Ranch, where responsible breeding supports global conservation.



[DONKEY]

Scientific Name: *Equus africanus asinus*

Native Range: Originally domesticated in northeast Africa from the African wild ass (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia)

Estimated Global Population: 44 million worldwide

Description: Donkeys are among the oldest domesticated animals, valued for their intelligence, endurance, and sure-footedness. They possess large ears for enhanced hearing and thermoregulation, and their bray can carry up to three miles. While often thought of as stubborn, donkeys are in fact cautious and highly perceptive, with strong memories and an instinct for self-preservation.

Donkeys are social animals and thrive in pairs or herds. They graze on grasses and shrubs, are primarily diurnal, and have a strong tolerance for heat and drought.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Seasonally polyestrous; one foal per gestation (11–14 months)
- Speed: Up to 15–20 mph (short bursts)
- Lifespan: 25–40 years

Fun Fact: Donkeys can recognize individuals—animal or human—they haven't seen in over 20 years.



ELAND (COMMON)

Scientific Name: *Taurotragus oryx*

Native Range: Southern and eastern Africa — including Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya, and South Africa

Estimated Wild Population: 136,000

Description: The common eland is the world's largest antelope, with bulls weighing up to 2,000 pounds. Despite their size, eland are graceful and can leap 8 feet from a standstill. They have spiral horns, loose dewlap skin under the neck, and a tan coat with vertical white stripes.

Eland are slow-moving and mostly diurnal, feeding on grasses, fruits, and tree foliage. Both sexes grow horns, though bulls' are heavier. Mature males emit loud tendon "clicks" while walking, likely used as a dominance cue.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; males engage in sparring rituals during rut
- Speed: Up to 25 mph
- Lifespan: 15–20 years

Fun Fact: Eland milk has nearly triple the fat content of cow's milk and was prized in ancient times.



ELK

Scientific Name: *Cervus canadensis*

Native Range: North America (Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest, Appalachians) and East Asia

Estimated Wild Population: 1 million in North America

Description: Elk are one of the largest deer species in the world. Mature bulls grow massive antlers annually—sometimes weighing over 40 pounds. During the rut in autumn, bulls “bugle,” a high-pitched vocalization used to attract females and warn rivals.

Elk are herbivorous grazers, feeding on grasses, forbs, and bark. They migrate between valleys and higher elevations depending on the season. They live in female-led herds outside the breeding season and can travel up to 30 miles per day.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk)
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; bulls guard harems during the rut
- Speed: 35–40 mph
- Lifespan: 12–15 years in the wild

Fun Fact: Elk antlers are one of the fastest-growing tissues in the animal kingdom, gaining up to an inch per day in velvet.



[EMU]

Scientific Name: *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

Native Range: Australia – open plains, forests, and savannas

Estimated Wild Population: Over 600,000

Description: The emu is the world's second-largest bird by height and a flightless icon of the Australian outback. Standing up to 6 feet tall, emus have powerful legs, coarse feathers, and an exceptional running ability. They are omnivores and feed on seeds, insects, and vegetation.

Emus are diurnal and solitary for much of the year. During mating season, females compete for mates, but it's the males who incubate eggs and care for chicks.

Behavioral Traits:

Activity Cycle: Diurnal

Mating Behavior: Role reversal; males incubate eggs and raise chicks

Speed: Up to 30–35 mph

Lifespan: 10–20 years

Fun Fact: Emus have a second eyelid that acts like a windshield wiper to protect their eyes from dust.



FALLOW DEER

Scientific Name: *Dama dama*

Native Range: Native to the eastern Mediterranean; introduced widely in Europe, North America, and Australia

Estimated Global Population: 1 million

Description: Fallow deer are known for their spotted coats, palmate antlers (resembling a moose's), and their ability to adapt to various climates. Their coat can range from light chestnut to nearly black, often with distinctive white spots and a dark dorsal stripe.

They are crepuscular and prefer mixed woodlands with adjacent meadows. Bucks grow antlers annually and engage in intense "rutting battles" during fall, accompanied by groaning vocalizations.

Behavioral Traits:

Activity Cycle: Crepuscular

Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut occurs in autumn

Speed: Up to 30 mph

Lifespan: 12–16 years

Fun Fact: Fallow deer were introduced to England by the Romans and later became a symbol of nobility in medieval Europe.



[GEMSBOK]

Scientific Name: *Oryx gazella*

Native Range: Arid regions of southern Africa—Namibia, Botswana, South Africa

Estimated Wild Population: 373,000

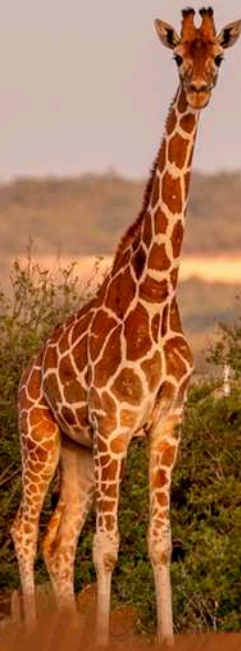
Description: The gemsbok is a large, desert-adapted antelope with striking black-and-white facial markings and long, spear-like horns that can exceed 40 inches. Males and females both bear horns, which they use for defense and dominance disputes. Their pale gray bodies reflect heat, and their narrow, muscular frames allow efficient movement across arid terrain.

Gemsbok are primarily diurnal but may shift to nocturnal habits in extreme heat. They feed on tough desert grasses and tubers and can survive without drinking water for long periods, extracting moisture from plants and dew.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal; sometimes nocturnal in extreme heat
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant males defend access to females
- Speed: Up to 35–40 mph
- Lifespan: 18–20 years

Fun Fact: Gemsbok have specialized nasal passages that cool blood flowing to the brain, allowing them to survive in desert heat over 110°F.



GIRAFFE

Scientific Name: *Giraffa camelopardalis*

Native Range: Sub-Saharan Africa — savannas, woodlands, and grasslands

Estimated Wild Population: 117,000 (combined across all subspecies)

Description: The giraffe is the world's tallest land animal, with adult males reaching 18 feet in height. Their long necks and legs allow access to treetop foliage, primarily acacia leaves. Despite their size, giraffes are graceful walkers and powerful runners. Their patchy coats serve as camouflage and thermoregulation, with unique patterns per individual.

Giraffes are diurnal and live in loose, social groups. Males engage in “necking” battles for dominance. Calves are born after a 15-month gestation and stand within an hour of birth.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant bulls court females in estrus
- Speed: Up to 35 mph
- Lifespan: 20–25 years

Fun Fact: Giraffes have the same number of neck vertebrae as humans—just much longer.



GRANT'S GAZELLE

Scientific Name: *Nanger granti*

Native Range: East Africa — Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan

Estimated Wild Population: 140,000

Description: Grant's gazelle is a medium-sized antelope known for its graceful stature, white rump, and elegant lyre-shaped horns. Males are territorial and defend zones rich in grasses and herbs. They prefer semi-arid plains and avoid densely forested areas.

They are mainly diurnal and gather in mixed-sex herds outside of breeding season. Females give birth to a single fawn after a 7-month gestation. The young hide in tall grass for several weeks before joining the herd.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant males defend female access in territories
- Speed: Up to 50 mph
- Lifespan: 12–15 years

Fun Fact: Unlike many gazelle species, Grant's gazelles can subsist on minimal water intake—often going weeks without drinking.



[IMPALA]

Scientific Name: *Aepyceros melampus*

Native Range: Southern and eastern Africa — woodlands, grasslands, and savanna edges

Estimated Wild Population: 2 million

Description: The impala is a slender, mid-sized antelope with a reddish coat and characteristic black vertical stripes on the hindquarters. Only males grow ringed, lyre-shaped horns, which can reach up to 36 inches. Impalas are extremely agile, capable of leaping over 10 feet high and 30 feet in distance.

They are crepuscular and form large herds for protection. During the rut, males become highly vocal and territorial, often herding females into tight groups while defending against rivals.

Behavioral Traits:

Activity Cycle: Crepuscular

Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut occurs late spring

Speed: Up to 55 mph (with bursts of rapid direction changes)

Lifespan: 12–15 years

Fun Fact: Impalas can leap horizontally the length of a pickup truck to evade predators.



RED KANGAROO

Scientific Name: *Macropus rufus*

Native Range: Central and western Australia — deserts and scrublands

Estimated Wild Population: 11 million (fluctuates widely with rainfall)

Description: The red kangaroo is the largest marsupial in the world. Males can reach over 6 feet tall and are known for their powerful hind legs and massive tails used for balance. Their distinctive hopping gait allows efficient travel across vast arid regions, covering up to 25 feet in a single bound.

Red kangaroos are crepuscular and nocturnal, avoiding peak daytime heat. Males engage in “boxing” matches during mating season to establish dominance. Females give birth to tiny, underdeveloped joeys that continue to grow in the pouch for several months.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Nocturnal/Crepuscular
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; males fight for dominance
- Speed: Up to 40 mph (bounding)
- Lifespan: 15–22 years

Fun Fact: Red kangaroos can survive on almost no free-standing water, relying entirely on moisture from vegetation.



KUDU (GREATER)

Scientific Name: *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

Native Range: Eastern and southern Africa — savannas, woodlands, and scrublands

Estimated Wild Population: 482,000

Description: The greater kudu is one of Africa's most iconic antelope species, renowned for its long, spiral horns (found only in males), tall stature, and striking white stripes down the flanks. With large ears and a muted gray-brown coat, the kudu is built for camouflage and stealth in wooded environments.

Primarily crepuscular, kudu are browsers, feeding on leaves, shoots, and fruits. Males often remain solitary or in bachelor groups, while females and young form small herds. The mating season features low-frequency vocalizations and sparring between bulls.

Behavioral Traits:

Activity Cycle: Crepuscular

Mating Behavior: Polygynous; mating season varies by region

Speed: Up to 60 mph in short bursts

Lifespan: 7–10 years in the wild; up to 23 years in captivity

Fun Fact: A kudu's horns can make up to 2.5 full corkscrew turns and grow as long as 72 inches.



[LONGHORN]

Scientific Name: *Bos taurus* (Texas Longhorn breed)

Native Range: Developed in North America; descended from Iberian cattle introduced to the Americas

Estimated Global Population: 250,000 registered worldwide

Description: Texas Longhorns are a heritage cattle breed known for their sweeping, laterally curved horns, which can span over 7 feet. They are exceptionally hardy, with strong resistance to disease and a high tolerance for heat and drought. Their coat coloration is highly variable—ranging from solid to speckled or spotted.

Longhorns are social herd animals and graze on grasses and shrubs. They are typically docile but protective of calves. Their genetic diversity contributes to excellent survivability, making them a symbol of Western resilience.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polyestrous; breeding can occur year-round
- Speed: Up to 25 mph
- Lifespan: 15–20 years

Fun Fact: Longhorns were central to the rise of the American cattle industry and are celebrated for their role in frontier history.



MOUFLON (EUROPEAN)

Scientific Name: *Ovis orientalis musimon*

Native Range: Mediterranean islands (Corsica, Sardinia); introduced across Europe and parts of North America

Estimated Global Population: ~100,000

Description: The European mouflon is one of the ancestors of modern domestic sheep, with a compact frame, reddish-brown coat, and distinctive white saddle patch. Rams grow thick, tightly coiled horns used in dramatic clashes during the autumn rut.

Mouflon inhabit rocky hillsides, forest edges, and alpine meadows. They are crepuscular and primarily graze, though they may browse in lean seasons. Rams form bachelor groups outside of breeding season, while ewes live in matriarchal herds.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular
- Mating Behavior: Seasonal breeders; rut in autumn
- Speed: Up to 30 mph; highly agile in rocky terrain
- Lifespan: 10–12 years

Fun Fact: Mouflon are one of the only wild sheep species with a documented link to early domesticated livestock.



NILGAI

(BLUE BULL)

Scientific Name: *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

Native Range: India, Nepal, and Pakistan

Estimated Wild Population: ~100,000 in India; ~15,000 feral in Texas

Description: The nilgai is the largest Asian antelope, often called the "blue bull" due to the bluish-gray coloring of adult males. Females are tawny brown and hornless, while males have short, conical horns. Their long necks and sturdy legs give them a horse-like profile, and they are highly alert and elusive. Nilgai are diurnal, often active in the early morning and late afternoon. They are grazers and browsers and prefer open plains or lightly wooded areas. In Texas, nilgai have adapted well and formed large, free-ranging populations on private land.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut occurs late winter through early spring
- Speed: Up to 30–35 mph
- Lifespan: 12–21 years

Fun Fact: Nilgai are excellent jumpers and swimmers, which aids their survival across both native and introduced habitats.



NUBIAN IBEX

Scientific Name: *Capra nubiana*

Native Range: Arid mountain ranges of northeastern Africa and the Middle East — Egypt, Israel, Sudan, Saudi Arabia

Estimated Wild Population: ~4,500

Description: The Nubian ibex is a desert-dwelling goat species adapted to steep cliffs and rocky escarpments. Males sport magnificent backward-curving horns with deep ridges, while females have shorter, thinner horns. Their pale tan coats help them blend into their arid surroundings, while white underbellies and dark leg stripes offer visual contrast.

They are diurnal and extremely agile, able to climb vertical surfaces with ease to escape predators. Males are solitary or form bachelor groups, while females and young remain in small herds.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Seasonal; males fight for access to females during the rut
- Speed: Up to 25 mph over rough terrain
- Lifespan: 10–15 years

Fun Fact: Nubian ibex can descend nearly vertical cliff faces using their sharp, rubbery hooves for grip—often escaping predators that cannot follow.



[NYALA]

Scientific Name: *Tragelaphus angasii*

Native Range: Southeastern Africa — Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and northeastern South Africa

Estimated Wild Population: 100,000

Description: The nyala is a spiral-horned antelope with a striking sexual dimorphism. Males are larger with dark slate-gray coats, spiral horns, and a shaggy dorsal crest; females are reddish-brown and lack horns. Both sexes feature prominent white facial markings and vertical side stripes.

Nyala are shy, diurnal browsers that prefer dense thickets near water. Males are solitary or in loose bachelor groups, while females live in small maternal herds.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal/Crepuscular
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; males display lateral posturing and horn displays
- Speed: Up to 30 mph
- Lifespan: 12–16 years

Fun Fact: Nyala rely heavily on cover and are rarely seen in open grasslands, preferring thick brush and riparian zones.



[OSTRICH]

Scientific Name: *Struthio camelus*

Native Range: Open savannas and arid plains of sub-Saharan Africa

Estimated Wild Population: 150,000 (wild); millions in farming operations globally

Description: The ostrich is the world's largest and heaviest bird, capable of reaching 9 feet in height and weighing over 300 pounds. Though flightless, it has powerful legs adapted for sprinting and self-defense—one kick can deter even large predators. Ostriches are diurnal and live in nomadic herds. Males dig communal nests and court females with elaborate feather displays and booming calls.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant males incubate communal nests
- Speed: Up to 45 mph (sustained), 60 mph in short bursts
- Lifespan: 30–40 years

Fun Fact: Ostrich eyes are larger than their brains and measure almost 2 inches in diameter—the largest of any land animal.



RED LECHWE

Scientific Name: *Kobus leche*

Native Range: Wetlands and floodplains of Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Angola

Estimated Wild Population: 95,000

Description: The red lechwe is a semi-aquatic antelope with a deep chestnut coat and long hind legs adapted for bounding through water. Males have lyre-shaped horns and form bachelor herds or challenge each other during rut. They are diurnal and graze on marsh grasses, often wading belly-deep into water to avoid predators. They are excellent swimmers and thrive in seasonal floodplains.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; males defend harem territories in flooded areas
- Speed: Up to 40 mph (even through waterlogged terrain)
- Lifespan: 10–12 years

Fun Fact: Their hooves are elongated and splayed to prevent sinking in soft marshy ground.



SABLE ANTELOPE

Scientific Name: *Hippotragus niger*

Native Range: Woodland savannas of southern Africa — Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe

Estimated Wild Population: 70,000

Description: The sable antelope is a regal species known for its glossy black coat (in males), white facial markings, and sweeping backward-curving horns. Females are chestnut-colored, and both sexes are robust and muscular. They are diurnal and live in structured matriarchal herds led by dominant females. Bulls are territorial and fight fiercely with their horns during the rut.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; bulls control female groups
- Speed: Up to 35 mph
- Lifespan: 15–20 years

Fun Fact: Sables are known to face predators head-on, using their horns to lethal effect—lions have been killed in confrontations.



SCIMITAR HORNED ORYX

Scientific Name: *Oryx dammah*

Native Range: Formerly North Africa — now extinct in the wild; reintroduced in Chad and Tunisia

Estimated Wild Population: 500 reintroduced; 11,000 in captivity

Description: The scimitar-horned oryx is a desert antelope with snow-white fur, reddish neck and chest patches, and iconic backward-curving horns. Built for extreme heat, it can survive months without drinking, relying on moisture from vegetation.

Herds are nomadic, moving across arid plains in search of sparse food. They are diurnal and extremely heat tolerant.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant males defend breeding groups
- Speed: Up to 35–40 mph
- Lifespan: 15–20 years

Fun Fact: This species went extinct in the wild by the 1990s but is making a comeback thanks to private ranches and breeding programs.



[SITATUNGA]

Scientific Name: *Tragelaphus spekii*

Native Range: Central Africa's swamps, marshes, and riparian forests

Estimated Wild Population: 170,000

Description: The sitatunga is a semi-aquatic antelope with a shaggy, water-repellent coat and splayed hooves suited for marshy terrain. Males have spiraled horns and darker coats, while females are smaller and reddish.

They are most active at dawn and dusk and spend much of their time in tall reeds and wetlands. Sitatunga swim with ease and often submerge to evade predators.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular/Nocturnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; loose social structure with solitary males
- Speed: Up to 25 mph (best suited for wet terrain)
- Lifespan: 12–16 years

Fun Fact: Their scent glands secrete a musky odor, which they use to mark their swampy territories.



[SPRINGBOK]

Scientific Name: *Antidorcas marsupialis*

Native Range: Southern Africa — Namibia, Botswana, South Africa

Estimated Wild Population: 2.5 million

Description: The springbok is a graceful antelope famed for its “pronking” behavior—leaping high into the air with all four legs stiff to display vigor and health. Its tan and white coat, face blaze, and curved horns give it a clean, athletic look. Springbok are active during cooler times of day and live in large herds. They are adapted to arid regions and require little water.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant males guard harems
- Speed: Up to 55 mph
- Lifespan: 7–10 years

Fun Fact: Springbok can leap over 13 feet in the air in a single pronk, often just to show off.



TEXAS DALL SHEEP

Scientific Name: *Ovis aries* (hybrid breed)

Native Range: Developed in Texas; domestic ancestry

Estimated Global Population: Unknown

Description: Texas Dall sheep are a white, curly-horned hybrid developed for their dramatic appearance. They are bred from mouflon, Corsican, and other domestic sheep lines to create a striking trophy species with ivory coats and broad horns. They are social, diurnal grazers, favoring open grassland and rocky outcrops. Rams engage in horn clashes during mating season.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut occurs in fall
- Speed: Up to 25 mph
- Lifespan: 10–12 years

Fun Fact: Though called “Dall,” they are not related to the wild Dall sheep of Alaska—the name is purely visual.



TRANSCASPIAN URIAL

Scientific Name: *Ovis vignei arkal*

Native Range: Central Asia — Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, northern Iran

Estimated Wild Population: 20,000

Description: The Transcaspien urial is a rare wild sheep species with reddish coats and large, curling horns. Adapted to rocky deserts and rolling steppes, urials are nimble and elusive, navigating terrain with ease. They live in small bachelor groups and ewe herds. Mating occurs in late fall, with fierce head-butting contests among rams.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; rut in late autumn
- Speed: Up to 30 mph
- Lifespan: 10–15 years

Fun Fact: Urial horns are prized for their dramatic length and tight curls, often growing over 35 inches.



WHITETAIL DEER

Scientific Name: *Odocoileus virginianus*

Native Range: North, Central, and South America

Estimated U.S. Population: 30 million

Description: The whitetail deer is North America's most common game species. Recognizable by the white underside of its tail, which it raises when alarmed, this agile browser thrives in forests, fields, and suburban edges. Males grow antlers annually and spar for dominance during the fall rut. They are crepuscular and have excellent senses of smell and hearing.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Crepuscular
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; peak breeding in late fall
- Speed: Up to 35–40 mph
- Lifespan: 6–14 years

Fun Fact: Whitetails can leap to feet high and swim across rivers and lakes when necessary.



WILDEBEEST (BLUE)

Scientific Name: *Connochaetes taurinus*

Native Range: Southern and eastern Africa — open plains and savannas

Estimated Wild Population: 1.5 million

Description: The blue wildebeest is a robust, gregarious grazer known for its annual mass migration across East Africa. With curved horns, a shaggy beard, and slate-gray coat, it is both awkward-looking and athletic.

Wildebeest are diurnal, travel in enormous herds, and synchronize calving to overwhelm predators. Their migrations follow seasonal rainfall and grass growth.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; males establish temporary breeding territories
- Speed: Up to 50 mph
- Lifespan: 20–25 years

Fun Fact: Wildebeest migrations are visible from space and are among the greatest land migrations on Earth.



ZEBRA (GRANT'S)

Scientific Name: *Equus quagga boehmi*

Native Range: East Africa — Kenya, Tanzania, southern Ethiopia

Estimated Wild Population: 300,000

Description: Grant's zebra is the most common and widely distributed zebra subspecies. With bold black-and-white stripes extending onto the belly and legs, each zebra's pattern is unique—like a fingerprint. Zebras are social, grazing herbivores that live in harem groups.

They are diurnal and rely on vision and vocalizations for communication. New-born foals memorize their mother's scent and stripe pattern within hours.

Behavioral Traits:

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Mating Behavior: Polygynous; dominant stallions guard harems
- Speed: Up to 40–45 mph
- Lifespan: 20–25 years

Fun Fact: Zebras often form symbiotic groups with wildebeest, combining senses and grazing habits for predator protection.

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