

UNGULATE STATUS IN THE WILD AND IN CAPTIVITY

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This comprehensive survey was designed with special reference to the import of ungulates and their exhibition in Britain. However, the data collected has much wider general interest.

This paper was prepared as the result of a discussion between the author and veterinary staff at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, at Tolworth, UK, regarding the status of captive ungulate populations in Britain and the future theoretical needs for these species for research, exhibition, and as a contribution to their captive propagation. Ungulates are currently the most difficult animals to import into Britain, both for logistical and animal health reasons. At the same time the wild populations of these two Orders are probably under more pressure as a result of man's activities than any other mammals.

The continued survival of some species will probably depend on captive breeding, as it has in a number of cases already, and animals of this group constitute an important part of a balanced zoological collection and provide valuable material for comparative research. At the same time a number of species may well become important sources of human food in the Third World, particularly where conventional agriculture is impractical and much of their basic biology will be learnt through the work of responsible zoological collections.

The main section of this paper is in the form of tables for simplification, and because of this some of the statements made are generalisations. The numerical information is as up to date as possible, and is based primarily on that in the International Zoo Yearbook and on the author's personal knowledge of the situation in Britain. The list of species with their scientific names

is taken from the Zoological Society of London's vertebrate list and the FAO world mammal list for computerised pathology records together with a few additions by the author which were omitted in these two publications. The body weights are based primarily on post-mortem data from the Zoological Society of London with an "educated guess" for those species not commonly exhibited. An explanation of the code for a species' status in the wild is given in the notes.

The "handling" category is included to show which species could be handled without any special measures, and perhaps more importantly, which might be difficult to handle either because of their fragility or their adverse reaction to drugs. The importation categories have been added to provide information on which species do not need to be brought into Britain because of the numbers that have been bred, those where only limited numbers are required and those which might be considered useful to fill the zoological gaps. The tables also make it clear that a number of species are not suitable for the vast majority of animal collections in Britain because of their rarity, specialist requirements, or both.

NOTES ON THE TABLES

Area of origin

This is not given in great detail but should enable the authorities to decide on their attitude to quarantine and testing requirements.

Body weight

This information has been put in to enable those who are less familiar with these animals to gain some idea of the size of animal involved. This gives some idea of the practicalities of transporting it and of the size and strength of accommodation the animal will require. The weight range given is for adult animals and covers both males and females. Adult male ungulates are almost always larger than females although in the Perissodactyla the difference is often marginal.

Status in the wild

It is difficult to be accurate with this type of information because very little is known about many species. Where there is some doubt the tendency has been to take the pessimistic view as most wild populations of large mammals are declining.

Ext = Extinct in the wild. E = Endangered. Un = Threatened or uncertain. NIR = No immediate risk. C = Common.

Species	Scientific name	Origin	Weight (kg)	Status in wild	Approx no. world zoos	Approx no. Brit. zoos	Import category	Captive management	Handling	Comments
TAPIRIDAE (1)										
Lowland tapir	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>	S. America	150-200	NIR	200	20	2	1	3	
Mountain or woolly tapir	<i>Tapirus pinchaque</i>	S. America	150-200	E	10	0	2	1	3	
Baird's or C. American tapir	<i>Tapirus bairdi</i>	C. America	150-200	E	20	0	2	1	3	
Malayan tapir	<i>Tapirus indicus</i>	Malaya, Sumatra	200-250	Un	130	8	2	1	3	
RHINOCEROTIDAE (2)										
Indian rhino	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>	N. India, Nepal	1700-2000	E	70	2	2	2	3	
Javan rhino	<i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i>	Java, ? Mainland S.E. Asia	1500-1700	E	0	0	2	1	3	
Sumatran rhino	<i>Didermoceros sumatrensis</i>	S.E. Mainland Asia, Sumatra	1000-1200	E	0	0	2	1	3	
White rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Zaire Sudan,								
	Northern Form		1700-2000	Un	20	1	2	2	3	
	Southern Form	S. Africa	1700-2000	NIR	400	45	3	2	3	
Black rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Africa	1400-1600	Un	200	12	2	2	3	
EQUIDAE (3)										
Domestic horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>	Worldwide	200-1000	—	?	?	5	3	4	
Przewalski horse	<i>Equus przewalski</i>	Mongolia	350-500	?Ext	400	50	2/4	2	3	All stocks in captivity
Common zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>	Africa	250-350	C	1000+	120	3	2	3	Several distinct races
Grey's zebra										
Grey's zebra	<i>Equus grevyi</i>	E. Africa	350-450	Un	400	45	2	2	3	
Mountain zebra	<i>Equus zebra</i>	S. Africa	300-350	Un	200	12	2	2	3	
Asiatic ass	<i>Equus hemionus</i>	Iran, C. Asia	200-250	Un	500	20	1/3	2	3	
(Kulan & Onager)		India, Mongolia	200-250	E	10	0	2	2	3	
Kiang	<i>Equus kiang</i>	Tibet	200-250	Un	25	0	2	2	3	
African ass	<i>Equus asinus</i>	Somalia, Ethiopia	200-250	E	25	0	2	2	3	
Somali		?E. Sahara	150-200	?Ext	20	0	2	2	3	Some doubt as to whether these animals are not simply feral donkeys.
Nubian										
SUIDAE (4)										
Bush pig	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	Africa, Madagascar	50-130	NIR	20	0	3	2	3	
Wild boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Europe, N. Africa, Asia	100-200	C	1000+	60	4	3	3	
Pygmy hog	<i>Sus salvanius</i>	Eastern Himalayan foothills	15-20	E	8	0	2	1	3	
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	Africa	50-80	C	50	2	3	2	3	
Giant forest hog	<i>Hylchoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Africa	150-250	Un	2	2	2	1	3	
Babirusa	<i>Babyrusa babyrussa</i>	Celebes	100-150	E	40	0	2	2	3	
TAYASSUIDAE (4)										
Collared peccary	<i>Tayassu tajacu</i>	C. & S. America	20-30	C	500	40	4	3	3	
White-lipped peccary	<i>Tayassu albirostris</i>	C. & S. America	20-30	C	100	0	3	3	3	