

# Transcaspien urial ... the ultimate ram!



## MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 3.5-5 feet

**Height:** 2.5-3 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 60-140 lbs



Dry mountains



Western Asia

IUCN  
VULNERABLE  
CITES I

~ 6,000 in  
the wild

## Why exhibit Transcaspien urials?

- Amaze visitors with these impressive wild sheep. Males have curling horns (over 2½ feet long!) and luxurious ruffs of long hair on their necks!
- Enhance your “spring baby boom” — this reliable breeder can have up to three lambs at a time! Guests and staff alike will marvel at the activity and playfulness of kids as they grow.
- Weave together the stories of these wild sheep and their domestic descendants: the sheep in your petting zoo! A great way to illustrate the story behind the domestication of livestock.
- Ensure an active exhibit that captures the attention of visitors with this lively, gregarious sheep that mixes well with other species.
- **TAG RECOMMENDATION:** Institutions are encouraged to replace generic European mouflon with this SSP Asian sheep.

## Stewardship Opportunities

Community-based conservation and management program for the mountain ungulates of Tajikistan.  
[www.wildlife-tajikistan.org/](http://www.wildlife-tajikistan.org/)

Argali (Asian wild sheep) Ecology and Conservation  
[www.denverzoo.org/conservation/project02.html](http://www.denverzoo.org/conservation/project02.html)

## Care and Husbandry

**YELLOW SSP:** 19.38 (57) in 5 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

**Species coordinator:** Jon Rolfs, San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
[jrolfs@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:jrolfs@sandiegozoo.org); 760-473-5248

**Social nature:** Herd-living. Usually kept as a breeding group: several females with one male. Multiple males can be housed together either in bachelor groups or with females (not recommended for genetic management).

**Mixed species:** Mixes well with a variety of ungulates, including other caprids, wild cattle, and various deer. Hybridization can occur with other sheep.

**Housing:** A hardy species that does well in both cold winters and hot summers. Barriers must be at least 9 feet high to contain these athletic animals.

**Medical notes:** Few health issues. Hoof trimming depends on substrate and wear (can be performed under physical restraint). Seasonal prophylactic deworming recommended.

**Special requirements:** Urial are excellent jumpers: catch-up facilities should be roofed to prevent escape under duress. Institutions have had success with both drop-floor chutes and hand-catching.

**Keeper resources:** Husbandry requirements are similar to most ungulates.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

<http://www.azaungulates.org/>



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