Transcaspian urial ... the ultimate ram!

Why exhibit Transcaspian 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/

IUCN VULNERABLE
CITES I

Measurements
Length: 3.5-5 feet
Height: 2.5-3 feet at shoulder
Weight: 60-140 lbs

Dry mountains
Western Asia

~ 6,000 in the wild

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; 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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