

Himalayan Tahr

By Harrison Backer



Tahr have short, robust leg bones and a powerful chest that makes it easy for them to navigate the steep terrain and escape predators on the mountain side.

Tahr are not well known for fighting one another but will do so during the rut .

General Characteristics:

- Body Length: 90-140 cm
- Shoulder Height: 65-100 cm
- Tail Length: 9-12 cm
- Weight: 36-90 kg/ 79-189 lbs.

Reproduction:

Gestation Period: 7 months

- Young per Birth: 1-2
 - Weaning: around 6 months
- Sexual Maturity: 2-3 years

- Life Span: about 10 years in the wild

Their feet have soft pads in the middle with hard edges. This allows their feet to grip on flatter surfaces but edge with the harder portion for steep terrain. Another trait they have is hard callous pads on their sternums and knees that serve as padding while climbing.



Himalayan tahr forage on high elevation grasses and lichen in both the winter and summer months. Tahr feed on grasses, sedges, herbs, ferns, and mosses.

It is very rare for a female to have more than one kid per birth with twins being abnormal. Likely due to the harsh environment and the number of resources needed just to successfully raise one kid.



Distribution

Himalayan Tahr once had a continuous distribution throughout Nepal, due to human urbanization however, this range had been greatly reduced. Populations have been introduced in New Zealand and in mountain ranges throughout the southwest United States in California and New Mexico. Tahr live in rugged mountain country and montane woodlands in temperate to subalpine forest just under the tree line.



Like other ungulates, males will curl their lip to catch the pheromones of a female. Also known as the Flehmen response to activate the vomeronasal organ.



Himalayan Tahr have the heaviest and longest coat of the three species of tahr. Males will have a thick mane that can grow down to their knees and longer hair that grows from the sides of the rump. Females do not possess a mane as distinct as the males and have shorter hair overall on their body.