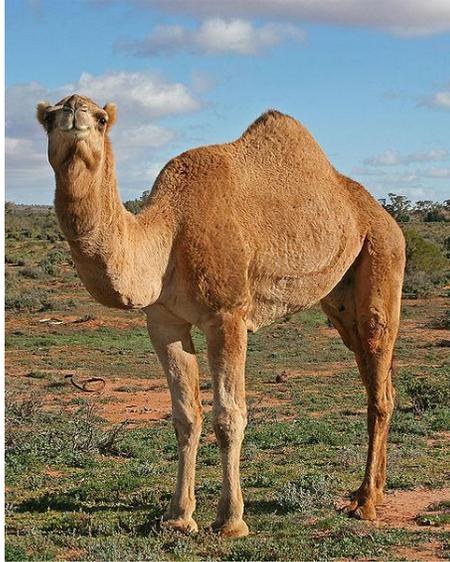


Animal species in this issue

One-humped camel (*Camelus dromedarius*)



Kingdom: Animalia, Phylum: Chordata, Class: Mammalia, Order: Artiodactyla.
Family: Camelidae, Genus: *Camelus*

Camel is an even-toed ungulate within the genus ***Camelus***, bearing distinctive fatty deposits known as humps on its back. There are two species of camels: the dromedary or Arabian camel has a single hump, and the Bactrian camel has two humps. They are native to the dry desert areas of West Asia, and Central and East Asia, respectively. Both species are domesticated to provide milk and meat, and as beasts of burden.

The average life expectancy of a camel is 40 to 50 years. A fully grown adult camel stands 1.85 m at the shoulder and 2.15 m at the hump. The hump rises about 30 inches (76.20 cm) out of its body. Camels can run at up to 65 km/h (40 mph) in short bursts and sustain speeds of up to 40 km/h (25 mph).

Fossil evidence indicates that the ancestors of modern camels evolved in North America during the Palaeogene period, and later spread to most parts of Asia. Humans first domesticated camels before 2000 BC.

Camels are able to withstand changes in body temperature and water content that would kill most other animals. Their temperature ranges from 34 °C at night and up to 41 °C during the day, and only above this threshold will they begin to sweat.

Animal species in this issue

Domestic goat (*Capra aegagrus hircus*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Mammalia & Order: Artiodactyla & Family: Bovidae & Subfamily: Caprinae & Genus: *Capra* & Species: *C.aegagrus* & Subspecies: *C.a.hircus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **domestic goat** (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) is a subspecies of goat domesticated from the wild goat of southwest Asia and Eastern Europe. The goat is a member of the Bovidae family and is closely related to the sheep as both are in the goat-antelope subfamily Caprinae. There are over three hundred distinct breeds of goat.

Female goats are referred to as *does* or *nannies*, intact males as *bucks* or *billies*; their offspring are *kids*. Note that many goat breeders prefer the terms "buck" and "doe" to "billy" and "nanny". Castrated males are *wethers*. Goat meat from younger animals is called *kid* or *cabrito*, and from older animals is sometimes called *chevon*, or in some areas "mutton".

Goats are ruminants. They have a four-chambered stomach. The females have an udder consisting of two teats, in contrast to cattle, which have four teats.

Goats have horizontal slit-shaped pupils, an adaptation which increases peripheral depth perception. Because goats' irises are usually pale, the pupils are much more visible than in animals with horizontal pupils, but very dark irises, such as cattle, deer, most horses and many sheep. Both male and female goats have beards, and many types of goat (most commonly dairy goats, dairy-cross boers, and pygmy goats) may have wattles, one dangling from each side of the neck.

Animal species in this issue

Chicken (*Gallus gallus domesticus*)



Kingdom: Animalia & Phylum: Chordata & Class: Aves & Order: Galliformes & Family: Phasianidae & Genus: *Gallus* & Species: *Gallus gallus* & Subspecies: domesticus (Linnaeus, 1758)

The **chicken** (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) is a domesticated fowl, a subspecies of the Red Junglefowl. As one of the most common and widespread domestic animals, and with a population of more than 24 billion in 2003, there are more chickens in the world than any other species of bird. Humans keep chickens primarily as a source of food, consuming both their meat and their eggs.

Chickens are omnivores. In the wild, they often scratch at the soil to search for seeds, insects and even larger animals such as lizards or young mice. Chickens may live for five to ten years, depending on the breed. In commercial intensive farming, a meat chicken generally lives six weeks before slaughter. A free range or organic meat chicken will usually be slaughtered at about 14 weeks. Hens of special laying breeds may produce as many as 300 eggs a year. After 12 months, the hen's egg-laying ability starts to decline, and commercial laying hens are then slaughtered and used in processed foods, or sold as "soup hens". The world's oldest chicken, a hen, died of heart failure at the age of 16 according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Domestic chickens are not capable of long distance flight, although lighter birds are generally capable of flying for short distances, such as over fences or into trees (where they would naturally roost). Chickens may occasionally fly briefly to explore their surroundings, but generally do so only to flee perceived danger.