



Chinese Goral

Naemorhedus griseus

Range: Chinese gorals can be found through much of southern, south-eastern and central China.

Habitat: They live in steep areas and plateaus in mountainous areas.

Diet: Gorals are predominantly browsers, but in summer, they graze on grasses. In fall and winter, they eat leaves and twigs of trees or shrubs and nuts, including acorns.

Lifespan: In the wild, gorals can live to be around 15 years old. In captivity they can live up to around 17 years old.

Description: Chinese gorals have short, sharp, and curved backward-pointing horns. The conical horns are marked by small, irregular ridges, and the medium long ears have pointed tips. They have short, woolly undercoats and long, coarse, rather erect guard hairs. Coloration of upper parts varies over their range and by species from light gray to dark brown or reddish brown, with prominent white throat and chest patches and paler lower parts. There is a black stripe on the foreleg and a dark stripe down the middle of the back. Their stout, long legs are well adapted to climbing and jumping. They have interdigital (scent glands between hooves) glands, but preorbital glands (scent glands close to the eye) are rudimentary or absent. The obsolescent suborbital gland position is marked by a patch of nearly naked skin. There is a terminal tuft on the tail.

Breeding: Gorals become sexually mature during their second year. One or occasionally two kids are born in May or June after a gestation period of 215 days. Kids stand after only one hour and follow their mothers from the second day. They suckle until late fall and stay with their mothers until the following spring.

Behavior/Adaptations: Chinese gorals live in herds of two to twelve individuals, although older males occasionally live alone.

Predators: Eurasian lynx, snow leopard, tiger, wolves, and humans

Conservation: They are near threatened and are greatly affected by over-hunting by humans.

The Zoo's Chinese Goral: Mac is a male Chinese goral born on 6/1/2008.

Interesting Facts:

- Chinese gorals are half way between true antelopes and true sheep and goats.
- Both males and females have horns.
- Chinese gorals are agile climbers and spend much of their time on rocky slopes of mountains. They have even been sighted as high as 13,500 feet in the Himalayan Mountains.

Information taken from the following sources:

<http://www.zoo.org/page.aspx?pid=1870#.UoZTA3CsiCc>

<http://www.stlzoo.org/animals/abouttheanimals/mammals/hoofedmammals/centralchinesegoral/>

<http://www.lazoo.org/animals/mammals/chinese-goral/>