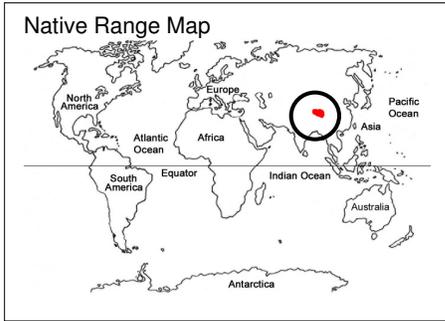


### Native Range Map



## Thorold's White-Lipped Deer

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Subphylum: Vertebrata  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Artiodactyla  
Family: Cervidae  
Genus: *Cervus*  
Species: *albirostris*



Photo courtesy of Karen Marzynski

### Habitat

- **In the Wild:** *Cervus albirostris* is native to Eastern Tibet. Currently it is found in Tibet, from Lhasa eastward into western Sichuan and the eastern two-thirds of Qinghai and into Gansu. It is generally found on high hills and mountains covered with forests, rhododendron, willows, shrubs and/or meadows. It prefers high, open meadows usually above 11,500 feet.
- **Exhibit Location:** Wildlife Trails

### Characteristics

- Body length averages 6.3 feet to 6.6 feet (without the tail); Shoulder height averages 4 feet to 4.3 feet; Weight - Males 400-500 lbs, Females 275-400 lbs.
- In the summer, it has a deep brown coat that is highlighted with white markings. Its underparts, rump, eye-ring, throat, and underside of the chin are creamy white. It has pure-white patches on its upper lips, lower lips, and throat. In the winter, its brown coat is replaced by longer gray-brown hairs which make its markings less obvious. Due to the reversal of the way the hairs lie on its rear torso, it appears that the deer is wearing a saddle. Its hooves are large and solid, which enables the deer to climb well. Only the males have antlers, which may reach 4.2 feet in length and weigh as much as 15 lbs. each. It is very agile for its size, is shy and has acute senses.
- **Lifespan: In the Wild:** 16-18 years; **In Captivity:** 19+ years

### Behaviors

- They live in matriarchal family groups and bachelor herds throughout most of the year. In September, when rut (mating season) begins, most herds become mixed with many members of both sexes and all ages. During rut adult males become highly aggressive toward one another and “roar” loudly. As this deer walks, a clicking sound can be heard from its hooves, which is very similar to a caribou’s (reindeer’s) clicking hooves which help the deer locate the rest of the herd during heavy snowfall.
- **Enrichments at the Zoo:** Big-boomer balls, browse, mister, wallow (a muddy section of the exhibit).

### Reproduction

- Sexual maturity is reached at 1.5 - 2.5 years.
- The gestation period is 220 – 230 days. Usually a single fawn is born each year between late May and early August to a sexually mature female.

### Diet

- **In the Wild:** Mostly grasses.
- **At the Zoo:** Herbivore pellets, alfalfa hay, and lots of pasture grass.

### Conservation Status

- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable (2004)
- In the 1960’s the population declined due to hunting and sale of its antlers and other body parts which are used in Oriental medicines. Today, competition with livestock and hunting for its meat and antlers are the major threats.
- Known predators include humans, snow leopards and wolves.

- To help with conservation efforts, make sure that you buy no products made from any part of *Cervus albirostris*.

### **Did You Know?/Fun Facts**

- *Cervus albirostris* was described by Przewalski in 1883.
- Although discovered by Przewalski, its common name is in honor of Dr. W.G. Thorold, who was second to procure this specimen from Tibet in 1891.

### **Source:**

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