



## Pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*

**Description:** Slender, graceful, deer-like body. It has large, protruding eyes and a white or buff, 4-inch tail. The upper body and outside of the legs are tan to brown. The cheeks, lower jaw, chest, belly, inner legs and rump are usually white. Their horns are hollow sheaths over a bony core. They shed the outer layer of their horn every year. Pronghorn are not a true antelope. Males weigh 90 – 140 lbs. Females weigh 75 –105 lbs. It stands about 3-½ ft. at the shoulder.

**Range:** Throughout all 4 deserts of the American southwest, from Saskatchewan, Canada south to Mexico.

**Habitat:** Grasslands, brush lands, bunch grass and sagebrush areas of open plains and deserts.

**Life Span:** In the wild 9 – 10 years, and 12 years in captivity.

**Natural Diet:** Forbs, shrubs, grasses, juniper and sometimes cacti and domestic crops.

**Zoo Diet:** Deer pellets, Alfalfa

**Behavior:** Lives alone or in small bands in summer and forming large herds in winter. Pronghorns survive a temperature range of 130 in the deserts to 50 below zero. Pronghorn can detect movement up to 4 miles away. Pronghorns are very high-strung and are active night and day.

**Reproduction:** The young, Fawns, are born in May or June. The does usually produce twin fawns after a gestation period of about 250 days. Only about 40 percent of the fawns born in June live until mid-July.

**Conservation Status:** Least concern

