



Barbary Sheep (Aoudad)

Ammotragus lervia

Description: They are generally uniform brown, and sometimes lighter almost beige. Their coat is dense and of average length with a long fringe of soft and very light-colored hairs on the throat, chest, and front legs. The horns which males and females possess are thick and have numerous fine rings although in older animals these may be worn down. Horns in males can be up to 33 inches in length.

Geographic Range/Habitat: Aoudad live in the mountain regions of the Sahara, and in the rocky arid mountains in isolated pockets throughout northern Africa.

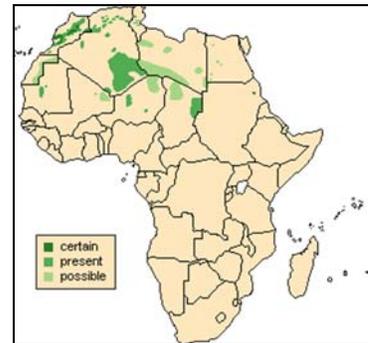
Behavior: They are the only wild sheep indigenous to Africa and the single species of the genus. Controversy once existed as to whether this species were sheep or goats because they possess traits of each. They were imported into the southwest U.S. in the 1950's and now thrive in hilly, rocky terrain. They are generally solitary or live in small groups. Females can give birth twice a year. The newborns are able to negotiate the rocky hills almost immediately. Like most desert animals, the aoudad is most active

in the cooler hours of dawn and dusk, seeking shade and shelter during the day. They are sure-footed and can easily jump a 10-foot fence. Aoudad sheep have an exceptional ability to remain motionless when danger threatens. They receive most of their water from the vegetation they eat. They enjoy a good mud wallow and drink if water is available. The leopard is their main predator. They have a lifespan of 10 years in the wild and 20 years in zoos.



Diet: Grass, plants, and herbs
Zoo Diet: Hay, leafy browse.

Status: Vulnerable



**Amarillo
ZOO**