

Snow-White Dromedary

Classification:

Dromedary Camels are single humped measuring up to 10 feet tall, with a shoulder height of 6-7 feet. They can weigh between 1000-1500 pounds. Their slender legs ending in two toes support their larger upper body with an elongated neck and head. The upper lip is deeply cleft and eyes are heavily lashed. Their ears are haired and nostrils are slit-like. They can be fawn or beige in colour and are relatively smaller than their cousins the 2 hump Bactrian Camels.

Habitat:

They are desert animals and have numerous adaptations for life in an arid habitat. They have webbed feet (to prevent sinking in the sand); they can close their nostrils and they have a double row of eyelashes to keep out the sand. They can endure long periods without drinking - up to 17 days. When they do drink, they can take up to 136 liters (30 gallons) at a time. By producing dry faeces and little urine, they can conserve water. Their body temperature can rise 6-8 degree Celsius before sweating. Snow-White Dromedary camels are also native to Arabia.

Breeding:

Gestation is 390-410 days. There is usually a single birth and the young is able to move about freely by the end of the first day. The female camel has 2 teats and will nurse her offspring for more than one year. Full maturity is reached at 5 years. Breeding occurs in winter and overlaps with the rainy season; both vary in respect to the camel's geographic range. The onset of the breeding season is believed to be cued by nutritional status of the camel and the day length. The gestation period typically lasts for a period of 15 months, followed by the birth of a single calf.

Diet:

Dromedaries feed on a variety of wild plants that many other animals avoid, such as dry vegetation, thorns and salty plants. They also sometimes scavenge on bones and dried-out carcasses. The snow-white dromedary also eats' Grass, fruits, vegetables, grain and hay.

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