

Persian Onager

Scientific Name: *Equus hemionus onager*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Perissodactyla

Family: Equidae



The Persian Onager has a weight range of 440 to 575 pounds and height is approximately 50" at the shoulder. Legs and belly are usually light beige or tan with darker markings on the neck and sides. There is a dark brown stripe along the back. They have a short (2" to 3") mane, and have tails with a small tuft of hair at the end.

Range

Mongolia to Saudi Arabia and as far north as southern Russia and Kazakhstan. Northwestern India, Tibet, and Iran.

Habitat

Mountain steppes, semi-desert or desert plains with hot days and cool nights

Gestation

11 months

Litter

1

Behavior

Onagers are most active at dawn and dusk. They get most of their water from food but live near water if possible. A territorial system is common with males guarding prime territories and females moving among guarded territories depending on habitat and male preference. Immature males sometimes form all male groups.

Reproduction

Reproduction is seasonal with births between April and September in North America. Males and females reach sexual maturity at about 2 years. Males do not usually breed until about 4 years of age.

Wild Diet

Mainly grasses. In the dry season, they break woody plants with their hooves for succulent portions and seed pods. They also may dig up to 2 feet deep for water