



# EUROPEAN MOUFLON

*Ovis gmelini musimon*



This species is the descendent of feral sheep. It evolved as free-ranging populations in Sardinia and Corsica. It has since been introduced into central Europe. The European mouflon lives in small or medium-large sized herds. In the summer, rams are solitary or are found in small groups apart from the ewes. For most of the year, the European mouflon is sedentary and travels no further than what is necessary for grazing. The herd instinct is very strongly developed, and the herd tends to remain in one area.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

The European mouflon has an average length of 4 feet and an average height of 2.5 feet.

### WEIGHT

European mouflon will weigh between 55 and 120 pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

The European mouflon is a grazer that prefers a grass/clover or grass/alfalfa mix.

### HABITAT

The European mouflon lives in lightly wooded areas with plenty of under-growth on the middle slopes of mountains.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The European mouflon is found in central Europe and on the islands of Sardinia and Corsica, where the sole natural populations still persist.

### FUN FACT

The taxonomic placement of this species is under debate. Since it is descended from the domestic sheep, it probably should be given the scientific name of *Ovis aries*. Others place it with the argali (*Ovis ammon*), a species that is found in mountainous areas of central Asia.