



# RED SHEEP (URIAL)

*Ovis vignei*



Overall, the red sheep has a coat that is red-dish-brown. There is a distinct white rump patch below the base of the tail and along the back of the hind quarters. Red sheep have a black-and-white saddle patch. Males have a black neck ruff that is restricted to the front of the neck. Red sheep are mainly diurnal, and they spend most of their day foraging. Red sheep are gregarious and form herds of related individuals. Herds usually are comprised of females, lambs, and juveniles. Adult rams form separate all-male groups. Herds have a social structure in which dominance is based on body size. Dominance relationships are especially evident in ram herds, where dominance is largely based on horn size - the larger the horns, the higher the dominance rank.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

Red sheep can reach heights of up to 3 feet at the shoulder.

### WEIGHT

Red sheep may weigh up to 200 pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

Red sheep are herbivorous, and they feed on a variety of grasses and shrubs.

### HABITAT

Red sheep live mostly in open rough terrain at medium or high altitudes, where they inhabit rocky hill country, lowland and highland steppes, and rocky semi-deserts, as well as grass covered slopes and alpine meadows.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Red sheep are found from southwestern Kazakhstan through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Kashmir region of India.

### FUN FACT

The red sheep is also known as the Urial, Shapo, or Arkhar in various parts of its range.