



# YAK

*Bos grunniens*

## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

The yak can have a shoulder height of up to 6.6 feet and a body length of up to 11 feet.

### WEIGHT

Yaks will weigh between 670 and 1800 pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

The yak is a grazer, with a diet composed mainly of various low-lying grasses and grass-like plants.

### HABITAT

Yaks can be found in alpine meadows, alpine steppes, and desert steppes. All of these habitats contain a large amount of grass.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The native range of the yak is limited to the Tibetan plateau.

### FUN FACT

yaks possess large lungs, a high red blood cell count, and higher concentration of hemoglobin than most other bovids. All of these factors allow the yak to live and thrive in higher elevations that would give other, non-acclimated animals elevation sickness



Wild yaks spend most of their time grazing, sometimes moving to and from various areas depending on the season. Females and males live separately for most of the year. Male bulls usually band together in groups of 10 to 12, while females and young can comprise a much larger group of as many as 200 individuals. The yak has been widely domesticated in its native range, where it is used as a beast of burden, a source of milk, and a source of fur to make clothing and blankets. In addition, the dung is used as fuel in those areas that lack firewood.

