



MAMMALS <http://www.peoriazoo.org/mammals.html>

Dromedary Camel

Camelus dromedarius

Peoria Zoo Exhibit

Habitat: Desert dwelling

Range: Domesticated

Activity Cycle: Diurnal-active during the day

Size: Males are usually larger than females, reaching a height of 10 feet. The weight ranges from 1000-1500 pounds, with males being heavier.

Social Structure: Most camels are domesticated and can live in groups, though you can find feral groups in Australia and the Middle East. Feral herds of females and young led by an adult male. Other males are solitary or in bachelor groups.

Distinguishing Features: The single hump on their back makes them easily recognizable. They have many adaptations for living in the desert, like long eyelashes to keep out the sand, large feet to not sink when they are walking in the sand, calluses on their knees and stomach to protect from the hot sand, and nostrils that can close to keep sand out. They also have shaggy brown hair.

Diet: Leaves and grasses mainly, but almost any vegetation they can find

Life Span: 30-40 years

Did you know?

The hump of a camel stores up to 80 pounds of fat, which they can break down into water and energy when nothing else is available.