



MINNESOTA ZOO

NORTHERN TRAIL

Minnesota is renowned for its long, cold winters—perfect for the residents of our Northern Trail. Majestic Amur tigers, woodland caribou, or the stately moose are a few you'll encounter along the 3/4-mile walk.

Find more detailed facts on each of these animals as well as of the whole Zoo's animal collection at mnzoo.org/animals.



The largest of all cats and one of six remaining tiger subspecies, the **Amur tiger** is a top predator of far eastern Asia. With thick fur, and padded paws, this northern cat is well protected against the bone-chilling cold and icy winds of winter.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *LIKE NO OTHER!* Unique like our fingerprints, no two tigers have the same stripe pattern. The skin as well as the fur shows the animal's unique striping pattern.



LEGGY! Large, long-legged and lumpy, **moose** wander woods and waterways gobbling grasses and other plants to nourish their big bodies. Unlike other deer that travel in herds, these animals most often live alone or in small family groups.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *A set of moose antlers can weigh up to 85 pounds and measure more than 5 feet from tip to tip. Moose have no top front teeth. They grab their food with their upper lip.*



Caribou thrive in the far north. How do they deal with the cold, ice, and deep snow? Their thick winter coat has long guard hairs and dense, curly fur underneath. Their feet grow special insulation and form hard surfaces for warmth and traction on ice and snow. In summer, their heavy coat is replaced by lighter fur.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *CLICKER!* These animals have a tendon that clicks when they walk. They use the sound to keep track of each other.



Dholes (sometimes called Asian Wild Dogs) are intelligent predators that live and work together in packs that range from 5-12 members. This allows them to compete with much larger predators for prey.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *TEAM PLAYER!* Asian wild dogs hunt cooperatively, which allows them to bring down prey up to ten times their size. The Asian wild dog attacks prey by biting onto its nose, allowing others in the pack to attack from all sides.



With wide hooves, hefty horns, weatherproof undercoats, and water-shedding long hair dangling nearly to the ground, **musk oxen** can take whatever the tundra has to offer, from frigid temperatures to roaming packs of ravenous wolves.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *SUPER WARM!* The musk oxen's soft, warm underfur, called qiviut (pronounced KIV-ee-it), is thought to be the warmest natural fiber. It is highly valued for knitting hats, sweaters, and other cold-weather clothing.



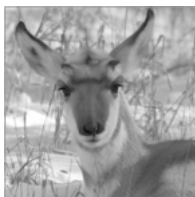
ADAPTABLE! **Bactrian camels** are among the few animals native to the Gobi desert, where wildly fluctuating temperatures, scarce supplies of food and water, and rugged terrain create a challenging environment. Pads on their knees protect their skin while they kneel on the rocky ground. Long eyelashes and closeable nostrils protect their eyes and lungs from blowing sand.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *Bactrian camels are called "ships of the desert" because when they walk, they move front and back legs on the same side of the body at the same time, creating a rolling motion like a ship at sea.*



WILD AT LAST! The domestic horse's closest wild relative, the **Asian wild horse** was last seen in the wild in 1969. The Minnesota Zoo and other organizations around the world have cooperated to breed zoo animals and reintroduce their offspring to their native lands. Today more than 300 Asian wild horses again roam the steppes of China, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *Unlike domestic horses, Asian wild horses shed their mane and tail once a year.*



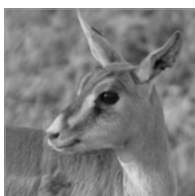
Minnesota's bone-chilling winters and hot summers are nothing for the **pronghorn**. This animal's outer hair, which can be raised or lowered to ventilate the body or seal it off from the cold, allows it to tolerate temperatures from well below zero degrees to 100 F.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *SWOOSH!* With a top speed of 55 mph, the pronghorn is the second-swiftest animal in the world. Only the cheetah is faster.



COMMUNITY STRONG! Active and extremely social, **black-tailed prairie dogs** live in complex communities. They are an important part of the prairie ecosystem. They help keep the soil healthy by loosening it with their digging. They provide a source of food for other animals, including eagles, ferrets, and coyotes.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *The barking sound prairie dogs make when communicating with each other earned them their name. Scientists have identified at least 11 calls, each with a distinct meaning.*



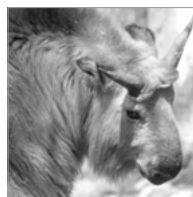
Far-ranging and versatile, tiny **goitered gazelles** thrive under a wide variety of conditions, from hot summer sun to blustery winter snows. Their sandy coloration and swift feet help protect them from predators as they travel in search of plants to eat.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *SMALL STATUE, BIG EATER!* Goitered gazelles eat about 30% of their body weight in herbs and grasses each day. They get most of the water they need from their food



PRAIRIE ICONS! Massive and thick-coated, **American bison** were once the icons of North America's Great Plains. They are the largest land animals on the continent. They were also once the most abundant, with an estimated 30 to 60 million before European settlement.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *The bison's hump is a set of powerful muscles that hold up and control the movement of its 50- to 75-pound head. In the winter it is used as a snow plow.*



GOLDEN FLEECE! Native to the Himalayan mountains of Asia, goat-like **takin** have sturdy hooves and strong legs that help them keep their footing on rugged ground. Their thick wool keeps them warm in winter months. It is believed to be the golden fleece once sought out after.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *When takin are alarmed they cough to alert others.*



These semi-terrestrial monkeys use their physical strength, long canine teeth, and well-ordered social structure to stay safe from predators while spending time on the ground. With fur that grows thicker as temperatures drop, they are well-suited for cool climates and can be found farther north than any other non-human primate.

«**DID YOU KNOW?** *SAVER!* Snow monkeys have special cheek pouches. While foraging, they stash extra food in their pouches and chew it later.

«FIND MORE DETAILED FACTS

on each of these animals and all of the Zoo's animal collection at mnzoo.org/animals

All animals may not be visible every day due to animal care needs.