



Himalayan Musk Deer

[Source: DTE](#)

The [Central Zoo Authority \(CZA\)](#) reports **no captive Himalayan musk deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*)** in recognized zoos, indicating **no breeding programme** has begun despite the **1982 Himalayan Musk Project**.

Himalayan Musk Deer

- **About:** It is a **deer species** found in **alpine regions above 2,500m** in the [Himalayan region of India](#), as well as in **Nepal, Bhutan, and China**.
- **Physical Description:** **Sandy brown, hare-like deer**. They **lack antlers** and have a **gall bladder**, distinguishing them from other deer.



- **Captive breeding in India:** A **musk deer breeding centre** was established in **Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary** in 1982 with **five deer**, increasing to **28** by 2006, when it closed and the **last deer** was sent to **Darjeeling Zoo**. India currently **lacks founder stock**, the **initial pairs needed to start a breeding programme**.
- **Behavior & Communication:** **Solitary, sedentary, and crepuscular** (active at **dawn and dusk**). They use a **caudal gland** to mark territory and display a **distinctive bounding gait**, capable of **jumping up to 6m** to evade predators.
- **Conservation Status:** **Endangered** on the [IUCN Red List](#). **Poaching for the musk sac** (used in **perfumes and medicine**) drives population decline. Listed in [CITES Appendix I](#).

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