

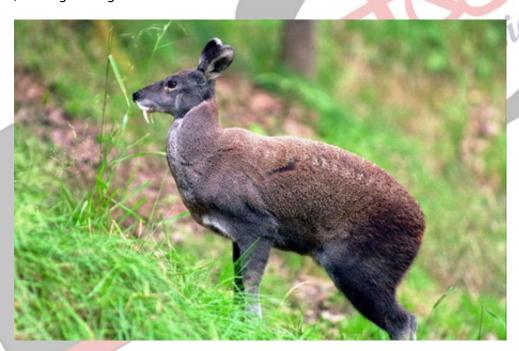
Himalayan Musk Deer

Source: DTE

The <u>Central Zoo Authority (CZA)</u> 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 <u>Himalayan region</u> 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 <u>IUCN Red List</u>. Poaching for the musk sac (used in perfumes and medicine) drives population decline. Listed in <u>CITES</u> Appendix I.

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