



Axis deer

Axis axis

Geographical Range: Axis deer are found in India, Nepal, Sikkim and Sri Lanka.

Habitat: Axis deer frequent grasslands and open forest, seldom going into heavy jungles.

Exhibit Location: The axis deer are part of the Indian rhinoceros exhibit, which is located near the giraffe house.

Physical Characteristics: The axis deer is between 1 ½ and 3 ft. tall at the shoulders, and weighs between 55 and 100 lbs. The hair is coarse and longest on the flanks. Coloration varies among species, although the general color is a bright rufus-fawn or yellowish-brown to brownish. The upperparts are beautifully marked with small white-spots. They have a dark dorsal stripe, white underparts, and a whitish tail undersurface. The body is slender, graceful, and of medium build. The tail is relatively long and slender. The males, or stags, carry three – tined antlers.

Diet: In the wild, Axis deer are grazers that occasionally browse. They are fond of wild fruits and flowers. At the Zoo they receive ruminant chow, Timothy hay, and omalene (corn, molasses, rolled oats, and alfalfa meal).

Did you know?

- Axis deer are good swimmers, which can help them escape from their natural enemies like leopards, wild dogs, and pythons.
- India's most common deer, their natural enemies not only prevent excessive increases in numbers but also keep the herds on the move, thus no part of the habitat is overgrazed.

Status: Numbers are stable at this time.