



<http://cdn.zoopicture.ru/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/6a010535647bf3970b0133ef20acc697>

[Ob.jpg](#)

PRZWALSKI'S HORSE

An Endangered Horse

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http://library.sandiegozoo.org/factsheets/przewalski_horse/images/phorse.jpg

Introduction

A stallion rears up. You hear a whine followed by a growl. Finally, you see the source of the noise. It's a Przewalski's Horse stallion faced off against a wolf. The stallion lashes out with his front hoof, hitting the wolf square in the head. The wolf retreats. A baby is born to help the population rise. A poacher comes to their land and takes a horse with him when he leaves. Life is very hard for the Przewalski's Horse in the wild. Their population is only three! In a couple of years will they be any more? Do you know what cruel selfish things people hunt them for? Is there any possible way that you or I can help? They desperately need your help and if we don't act now it will be too late.

Names

The Przewalski's Horse has many different and unusual names. The scientific name for the Przewalski's Horse is *Equus Przewalskii*. The Przewalski's Horse lives in Mongolia. In the Mongolian language, a herd is called a "Takhi" (tok-ee) and a single horse is called a "Takh". They were named after a man who was one of the first men to ever see them. His name was Nikolai Przewalski. Everything has a special name, including the Przewalski's Horse.



Description

The Przewalski's Horse looks in some ways like domesticated horses all around the world. Their coats are tan or reddish brown. Their muzzles* and bellies are a creamy white color. On some of the horses, a dark stripe runs down their back and the back of their legs. The horse's neck is short but thick. All of their mane is short and bushy, and because of that, it sticks straight

<http://advocacy.britannica.com/blog/advocacy/wp-content/uploads/>

[prz.jpg](#) In this picture you can really see it's features.

up. The mane is almost always a dark color. Their tail size can vary, but

they are usually always dark. Some of their closely related species are the zebra and the donkey. The horses are usually 48-50 inches tall or 12-14 hands. At that height, they weigh 700 pounds as a full grown adult. Their two most prominent features are their face and mane. All horses look different depending on their breed they look unique and different.

Habitat

Many people think that the Przewalski's Horse's have everything it needs for survival, but in fact they do not.

Like all animals, they need food, water, safe places to live, and protection from predators. All horses

(including the Przewalski's Horse) grow thick coats in the

winter to keep warm, and lose their thick coats in the sum-

mer to keep cool. They can survive in any temperatures.

Wild horses usually don't have or need shelters. The food

the Przewalski's horse eats is grass, and hay. If they are in

zoos, then they will eat grain as well, though grain might be

hard to find in the wild. A place that gives them

almost everything they need to survive is called

the home range. They live in places where there

is a lot of vegetation, and sometimes near shrub lands. This habitat can only be found in certain places in the

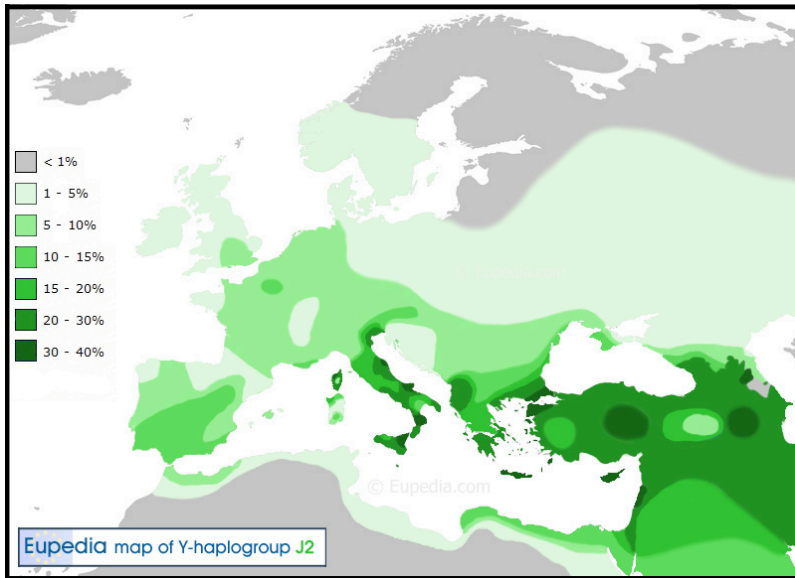
world.



<http://www.bluepeak.net/mongolia/assets/photos/gers-steppe.jpg> These are the Mongolian steppes.

Range and Population

The land that the horses live on is slowly disappearing and so are they. In the wild, the Przewalski's Horses live mostly in Asia, in the country of Mongolia. Some Horses live in the Altai Mountains in Mongolia. There are



<http://www.eupedia.com/images/content/Haplogroup-J2.jpg>

This is the population map of the Przewalski's Horse.

Przewalski's Horses in other places, but mostly in zoos. In the wild, these horses are extremely close to extinction. In 2011, there were only 300 left in the wild! Now there are only three left in the wild. The population has decreased by overhunting and predators killing too many of them, though there are some horses in zoos. Wildlife rescuers release them into the wild from zoos, but only three have been born and survived in the wild. In the 1900s, there were only nine in zoos. But then people captured more and then there were thirty one.

Threats

The main threat for most endangered animals is habitat loss. For the Przewalski's Horse that is true, but there are many other reasons.

Habitat degradation* is a really big reason.

Also water can be hard to find depending on where the horse is. These horses have many predators, such as wolves, and poachers.

Competition with the domestic livestock, (they

are being killed because they are on farmers land) such as sheep, cows, and domestic horses is another reason. As you can see, there are many threats facing the Przewalski's Horse.



The wolf is one of the horse's predators.

http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/photos/000/005/cache/grey-wolf_565_600x450.jp

Life Cycle And Mating

The Przewalski's Horse's have a unique life cycle, but they mate in the same way as all four - legged animals. A female Przewalski's Horse has a baby after about eleven months. Most Przewalski's Horses live to be about twenty years old . The oldest Przewalski's Horse ever recorded was a mare, and she was thirty four. For a stallion to gets a mare* to mate with him, he



http://farm6.staticflickr.com/5220/5423141055_f1of78925f_z.jpg

Horses mating

needs to impress her. He may fight rivals, and the winner of the fight usually gets to mate with the female. The loser will go fight another stallion to get a different female. To impress a female, males will rear, buck, and run around. They will do almost anything to impress her. To mate, a stallion puts his front hooves on the female's back and his back hooves on the ground. The female stands still and carries the weight. As soon as the baby is weaned (at six months) from its mother, then the mother can have another baby. I hope that their fast reproduction and life cycle will help raise their population.

Valued For

Przewalski's Horses are hunted for many sad and unfair reasons. A long time ago, Europeans wanted them as domestic horses all over Europe and traveled to Asia to get them.

They captured baby Przewalski's to be raised by people. On the return trip back to Europe, most of them died and didn't grow up and help the

population rise. Mongolians often hunt them for their hide and

hair. They use the hair to make coats and rugs. Strangely

enough, hunters hunt them for their skulls. Which may be valued as trophies. We need to act now if we are

going to save them. Fortunately there are many things that we can do to help.



http://www.folkcuba.com/stores/bot_images_c/nh13_horse_skull_480.jpg

A horse skull.

Solutions

Although the population of the Przewalski's Horse is very low, there are things that people are doing to help. Captive breeding in zoos, followed by releasing them into the wild is one solution. Once the babies are old and strong enough, healthy, and prepared for the wild, they will be



http://farm5.static.flickr.com/4018/4605346814_b572079f5a.jpg

released in hopes that they will survive. Legally you are not al-

This horse is in a zoo.

lowed to hunt them any more, but careless poachers might (or do). There are some things that you and I can do to help too! You can donate money to help. When you grow up, you can become a wildlife rescuer. There are many things you and I could do to

Fun facts

Did you know that there are many fun facts about the Przewalski's Horse? The Przewalski's Horse is the only surviving wild horse that has not been domesticated! Most of these horses live in zoos. This breed of horse is

categorized under pony. There are two bands

(groups) of wild horses when it comes to herds.

A breeding band has one stallion, several mares,

and their babies. The babies stay with that herd

for three to four years. A bachelor band has

only males. Did you know any of these facts?



http://www.equinestudies.org/knowledge_base_intro/przewalski_horse_herd2.jpg

Herd of Przewalski's Horses

Conclusion

Many, many years ago the Przewalski's Horses would wake up to the sun peeking through the Altai Mountains, wanting to only eat, play, and sleep, and just do nothing! But that was then this is now.

Years and years later any thought of that has been destroyed and by our own race! We can change that. We can make a difference and make life for them the way it should be.



<http://www.villa-les-roches.com/English/Activities/Photos%20Activites/Przewalski%20Horses.jpg>

_These horses are playing.

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