

# MANCHURIAN WAPITI

*Cervus xanthopygus*

Milne Edwards, 1867



## CLASSIFICATION

**Class:** Mammalia

**Order:** Cetartiodactyla

**Family:** Cervidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



**LEAST CONCERN (as *C. canadensis*)**

**Identification :** Adults can grow to a body length of 2.40 m for a weight of 350 kg and a shoulder height of 150 cm. Fur color is creamy-fawn in winter, light beige in summer with dark dorsal line. Yellowish rump patch bordered by a black line. Very short tail.

**Range:** The species occurs in north-east Asia, from south-west Siberia to Ussuriland and Manchuria in north-east China.

**Habitat :** Boreal forests and woodlands, up to 3300 meters but usually lower.

**Behavior:** Mostly active by day, gregarious. Feeds mostly on grasses but also takes twigs and leaves. Montane populations move down to valleys during winter.

**Status in the wild:** The species hasn't been assessed by itself. It could be vulnerable to habitat loss (logging) and hunting locally so it might warrant threatened status.

**In captivity:** The species is now extremely rare in captivity and probably only kept in one or two Chinese zoos (and maybe a collection in Russia although this is unlikely). Bred occasionally in Shanghai Zoo. Not kept in European zoos since 2009.