

Markhor

Stephenson Natural History Museum, Department of Zoology

The National animal of Pakistan is **Markhor**. Its scientific name is **Capra falconeri** (a noun which literally means “large Himalayan goat with large curled horns). In Pashto it is known as (مرغومی) **margumi** and in Persian language Markhor. It is a large species of wild goat mostly found in central Pakistan (Gilgit Baltistan, Hunza Nagar Valleys and Kashmir regions) northeastern, Afghanistan, northern and Kashmir State in northern India, southern Tajikistan, southern Uzbekistan and in the Himalayas.

Size

This animal have an approximate length of 140 to 190 cm and having the weight gaining capability of 35 to 100 Kg. Its shoulder tallness can be from 65 to 115 cm.

Horns

The Male Markhor has longer horns as compared to female. The length of male Markhor horns can be up to 158 to 160 cm whereas 25 cm in female Markhor.

Feeding Habits

Markhor eat grass and leaves as they are general grazers like other wild goats.



Facts about Markhor

- **Markhor** is the native and most **popular animal of Pakistan**.
- It is the **symbol of Pakistan intelligence agency ISI** (inter-services intelligence).
- The Word “**Markhor**” derived from Mar means “**snake**” in Persian language also in some literature it counted as horns (because his horns look like coiled snake) ‘**Khor**’ means **kill the snake**.
- It is active early in the morning and late in the afternoon.
- Males mostly live lonely, while females and their young ones live in the form of groups approximately 9 animals in single group.
- Its life time ranging from **10 to 13 years** in the wild.
- This animal is considered endangered approximately **2,500** left in the wild due to over hunting and habitat loss.