

BISON

Lifespan: : 15 to 20 years in the wild (up to 25 years in captivity).

Weight: 400 to 1,000 kg (males are significantly larger and heavier than females).

Body Measures: 2 to 3.5 meters in length with a shoulder height up to 1.9 meters.

Body temperature: Between 101.0°F and 102.5°F (38.3°C to 39.2°C).

TAXONOMY & ANATOMY

As the largest land mammal in North America, this massive bovid features a long shaggy coat, oversized shoulder hump, and a powerful muscular neck. Adult males display striking blackish-brown winter coats with thick head plumage, while females possess slightly lighter brown coats. It is a prominent horned animal possessing curved, sharp horns on each side of its head, used as a formidable weapon.

SC. CLASSIFICATION

This massive horned mammal belongs to the **Mammalia** class, falls under the **Artiodactyla** order, and is a member of the **Bovidae** family (scientific name: ***Bison bison***).

HABITAT

This highly resilient mammal thrives across the arid and semi-arid savannas, open grasslands, and forest regions of North America and parts of Europe. It prefers flat, open environments where its towering height allows it to spot potential predators from vast distances. It avoids thick brush and dense swamp areas that would restrict its running speed.

DIET

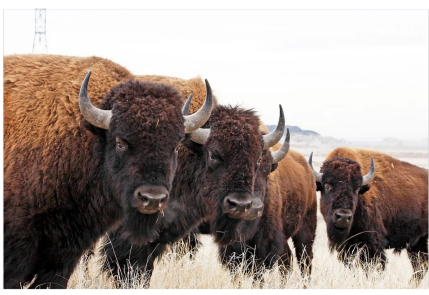
The species operates primarily as a diurnal herbivore, feeding on various grasses, sedges, succulent shrubs, twigs, and wild berries. To aid in digesting tough fibrous vegetation, it possesses a complex four-chambered stomach that ferments and grinds food inside its digestive system. It will also occasionally consume tree bark and lichens when green vegetation is scarce.



INTRODUCTION

The bison reigns as the undisputed giant and heavy champion of the North American and European plains. Incapable of climbing but gifted with the ability to outrun a horse in short bursts, this majestic nomad of the open wilderness combines ancient evolutionary traits with bizarre survival adaptations, fascinating researchers with its incredible strength, vision, and resilience in Earth's harshest open environments.





ETHOLOGY AND TEMPERAMENT

This social mammal lives in nomadic groups consisting of a dominant male, a chief female, and several secondary cows. It displays a cautious but highly defensive temperament, preferring to run at incredible speeds when threatened but capable of delivering fatal charges to predators like wolves if cornered. They spend their days foraging together, using highly coordinated group vigilance to keep the flock safe.

FUN FACT

The massive hump of this creature is packed with pure muscle rather than fat, measuring over half a meter high to support its massive head when plowing through winter snow. Additionally, the old myth that they are slow and clumsy is false; they merely lie flat on the ground to rest but can run at speeds up to sixty kilometers per hour and leap over high fences when escaping danger.

BREEDING SEASON

Reproduction occurs mostly during the dry summer months or early autumn when territory boundaries are fiercely established by mature males. The dominant bull battles rivals to court females, who endure a gestation period of approximately 270 to 285 days (about 9 months). Females give birth to a single, reddish-brown calf weighing 15 to 25 kg; twin births are exceptionally rare, occurring in less than one percent of pregnancies. The mother protects the calf with a fierce maternal instinct, while the protective herd takes over the general defense until the calf is fully weaned after several months.

