

# Camelids – part 1

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# Camelids

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Mammalia
- Order: Artiodactyla
- Sub-order: Tylopoda (versus Sub- order: Ruminantia)  
pad-footed, even-toed, hoofed mammals
- Family: Camelidae

# What are camelids?

- Camels
  - *Camelus dromedarius* (single hump) - Dromedary
  - *Camelus bactrianus* (double hump) - Bactrian
- Llamas (*Lama glama*)
- Guanaco (*Lama guanacoe*)
- Vicuna (*Vicugna vicugna*)
- Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)

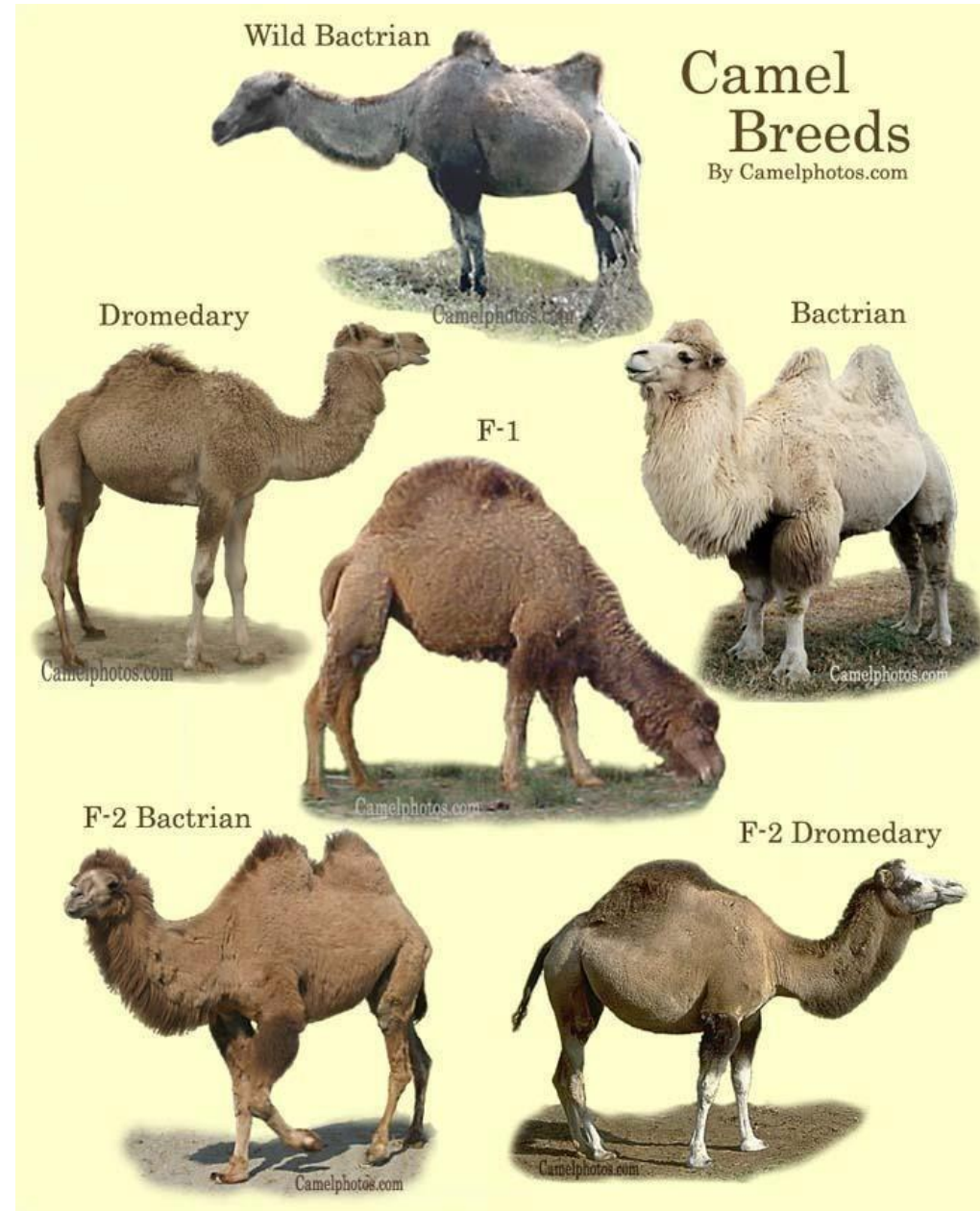
} South American

*Can't remember which sort of camel has one hump and which has two?*

*Using capital letters for Bactrian and Dromedary – put them on their side*



- Dromedary – originally Africa



- Bactrian – east Asia (Mongolia)

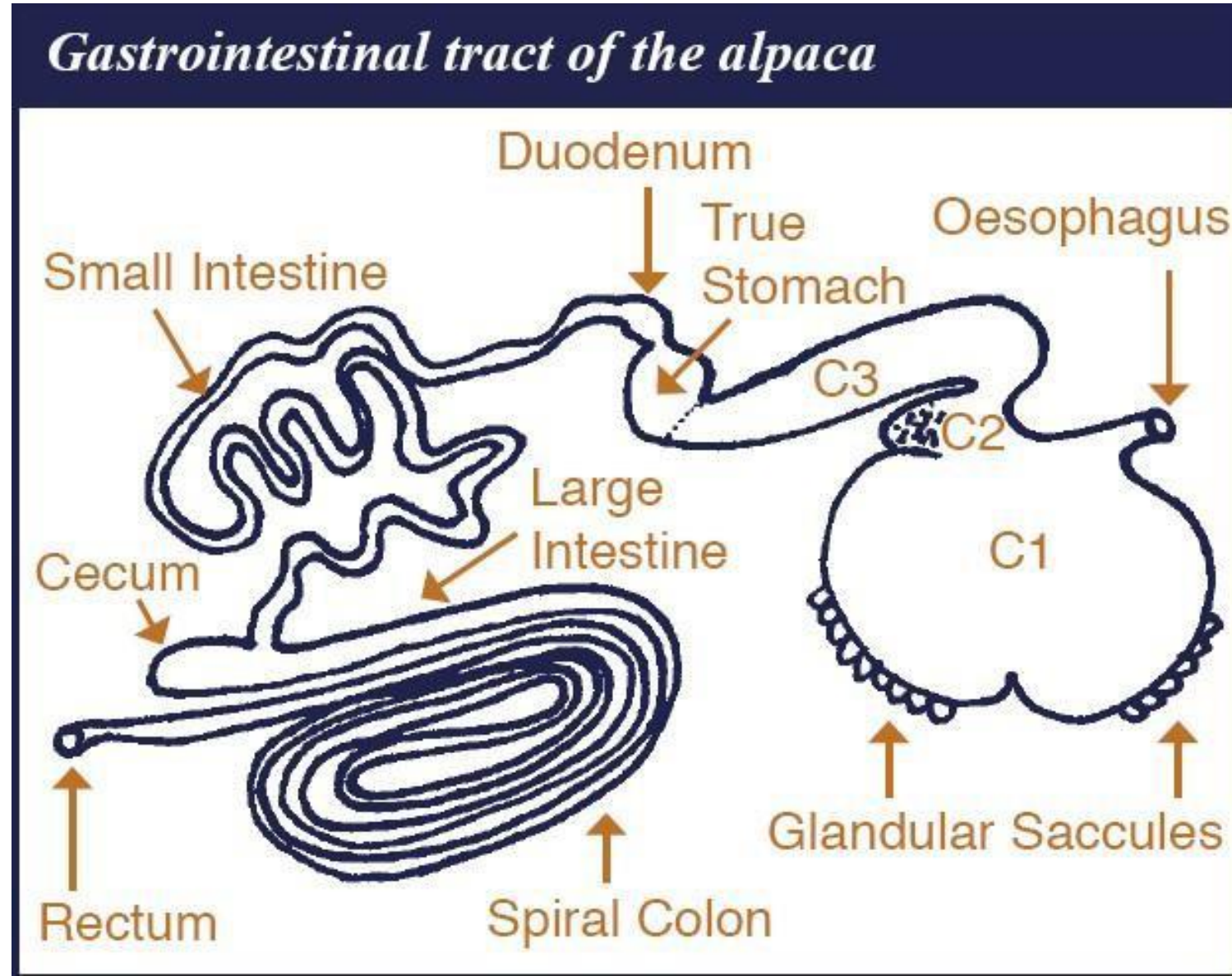


# Camel facts

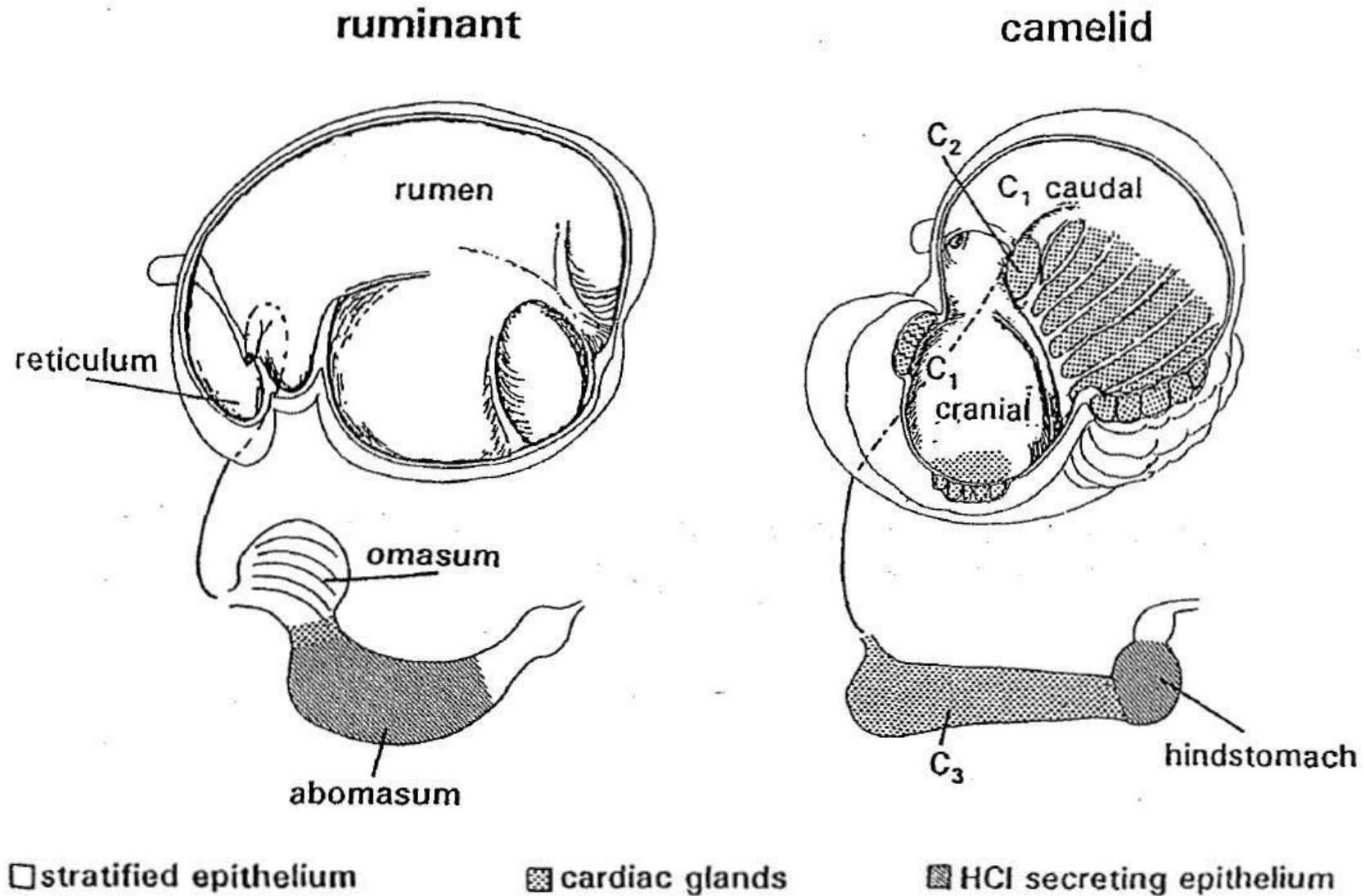
- Lifespan: 30-50 years
- Weight
  - Male 800-1000 kilograms
  - Female 600-800 kilograms
- Height – 1.85 metres (at shoulder)
- Carrying capability: up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  bodyweight, 6 hrs/day
- Speed – normal walking speed 5 km/h
  - Racing speed: 25 km/h (Thoroughbred racing speed = 60 km/h)
- Normally drink 20-30 litres per day (can drink three times this if dehydrated) – similar consumption to a cow



# Camelid GI anatomy



# Camelid GI anatomy





# Camelid GI anatomy

- Upper lip is “split” by labial cleft
- Lips do grabbing rather than tongue
- Similar eructation method to ruminants  
(bicarbonate as buffer)
- Fungi, bacteria, protozoa in C1, C2
- Glandular area in C1 –  
absorption, secretions



# Camels in Australia

- First camel imported to Australia in 1840
- First camel stud established in 1865 (SA)
- Imports continued until 1907 (probably 10-12,000 camels were shipped to Australia)
- Most camels released in 1920's as motorised transportation became popular (more comfy and faster than a camel!)
- In 2008, feral camel population estimated to be >1million – prompted **Australian Feral camel Management Project**



<https://www.outback-australia-travel-secrets.com/camels-australia.html>

# Australian Feral Camel Management Project

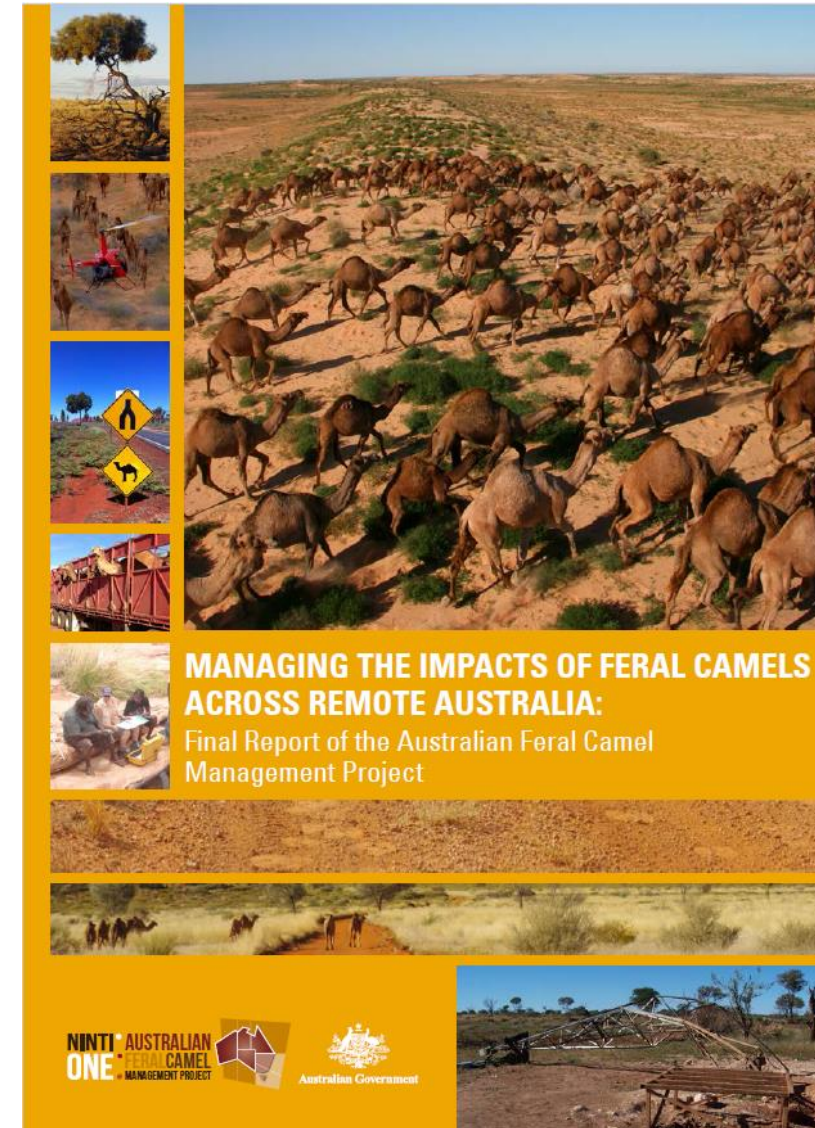
## Feral camel management

- Problems with feral camels
  - Flora and fauna destruction
  - Water contamination
  - Camel welfare in drought

## ACMF project

- Removed approx. 160,000 feral camels

2020 cull in S. Australia during heat, drought



# Camels in Australia

ABC RURAL

## **Thousands of camels culled in APY Lands despite opposition from animal rights activists, camel meat industry**

ABC Rural / By Jack Price

Posted Sat 18 Jan 2020 at 8:06am







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