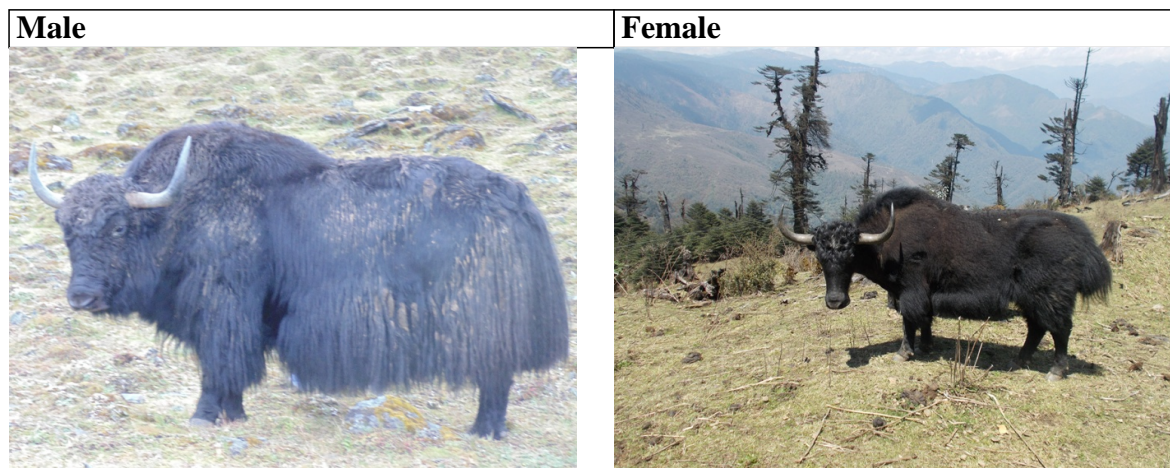


## Breed Descriptor of Arunachali (Yak)



Breeding Tract			
State: Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang		
	West Kameng		
Location			
Longitude (deg.)	90.15 - 92.40		
Latitude (deg.)	26.54 - 28.01		
General Information			
Synonyms	-		
Origin	Indigenous.Domestic yak (Poephagus gruninens) of Arunachal Pradesh has probably been originated from its wild counterpart (Poephagus mutus) long back over the centuries		
Major utility	Milk, meat, hair & fibre, transportation and manure		
Comments on utility	Majority population in West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal is Monpa community. Yak has been closely involved with the culture, religion and social life of the Monpa people.It is treated as an asset of the rural economy. Traditionally, the down and the coarse fibers are mixed together to make different utility items of farmers household.		
Comments on breeding tract	Yak are usually found at elevations 3,000-6,000 meter above MSL and sustained up to temperature of - 40°C to 10°C. Approximate native tract of distribution area of Yak is 5,000 sqkm covering two community development blocks of West Kameng district and all six administrative blocks of Tawang District. Majority of soil in West Kameng and Tawang district is alluvial and residual soils type. The common names of major soils are red, sandy and loamdeep soils which can also called as acidic soil, sandy and alkaline soil. In West Kameng the topography of the district is mostly mountainous.		
Adaptability to environment	Well adopted to extreme cold of high altitude and hypoxic condition		
Population			
	Year	Population	Other information

	2012	14061	Source: 19th Livestock Census
<b>Management</b>			
Management system	Extensive		
Mobility	Transhumant		
Feeding of adults	Grazing and Fodder		
Comments on Management	<p>Reared on a pastoral system at 3,000 - 6,000 m above MSL on alpine pastures and grasslands. Yak rearers also called Brokpa migrate their herds during summer season, along the mountain ridges away from their homestead for grazing. One attendant stays all along at the pasture land for full time attending the herds as well as milking and preparing butter, ghee and churpi (fermented butter) for home consumption as well as commercial purpose. In winter season when heavy snowfall occurs, the entire herd is brought back to nearby their homestead. Yak rearers also called Brokpa migrate their herds during summer season, along the mountain ridges away from their homestead for grazing. One attendant stays all along at the pasture land for full time attending the herds as well as milking and preparing butter, ghee and churpi (fermented butter) for home consumption as well as commercial purpose. In winter season when heavy snowfall occurs, the entire herd is brought back to nearby their homestead. Maize grain, rice polish, paddy straw, flour, salt, tree leaves are main food for yak. Green fodder is grown for yak both summer and winter.</p>		
<b>Morphology</b>			
Colour	Majority Black. Few animals have white forehead/white face/white strip from hump to tail		
Horn shape and size	Mostly curved forward followed by backward with pointing tips. Some animals have upward or inward or lateral or downward pointing horns. Male: 28-35cm; Female: 18-24cm).		
Visible characteristics	<p>Medium sized with compact body. Legs are short and stocky. Horizontal ear is typical characteristic of Arunachali Yak. Poll is prominent with convex head. Udder mostly trough shaped with cylindrical teats. Brisket, belly, ribs, lateral parts and legs are covered with long hair.</p>		
	Male	Female	Overall
Height (avg. cm.)	111.0	94.0	
Body Length (avg. cm.)	160.0	135.0	
Heart girth (avg. cm.)	170.0	143.0	
Body weight (avg. kg.)	416.0	262.0	
Birth weight (avg. kg.)	13.8	13.2	
<b>Performance</b>			
	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Litter size born	1.0		

Age at first parturition (months)		43.0	45.0
Parturition interval (months)	16.8	15.8	17.4
Milk yield per lactation (kg)	185.0	120.0	224.0
Milk Fat (%)	7.45	4.5	9.8
Fleece weight (kg/year)	1.5	0.65	1.85
Fibre Diameter ( $\mu$ )		50.0	100.0
Any Peculiarity of the breed	It is seen that adult weight of both male and female reduced by 20-30% during winter food scarcity. Down fibres are having more importance than coarse fibre. The average age of clipping of down fibre is 12 months and on an average 0.5 kg is collected per clipping per animal. Generally down fibre length is short with 16-20micron diameter. Down fibres from young calves are more in demand. 0.25-0.5% of twinning is observed.		