



# Note on the Survival Status of Przewalski's Horse, *Equus ferus przewalskii* (Perissodactyla: Equidae)

**Kabir A\***

Department of Biology, Cantonment Public College, Bangladesh

\*Corresponding author: Ashraful Kabir, Department of Biology, Cantonment Public College, Nilphamari, Bangladesh, Email: ashraful.mission@gmail.com

**Mini Review**

**Volume 6 Issue 1**

Received Date: July 11, 2024

Published Date: August 14, 2024

DOI: 10.23880/jeasc-16000141

## Abstract

Since, Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalskii*) are not survived in wild, so this is urgent to keep them in captive breeding in any zoos or safari parks. All reports on this horse focused on this same issue. In nature, the sole enemy of this horse is Himalayan wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*), so in captivity through proper management, the breeding schedule could enhance their number for reintroduction in nature.

**Keywords:** Przewalski's Horse; Reproduction; Management; Captive Breeding; Zoo; Safari Park; Reintroduction

## Introduction

After Nikolay Przhevalsky (1839–1888) who was a Russian geographer, the name of Przewalski's horse (takhi/Mongolian wild horse/Dzungarian horse) was coined. This is once extinct in the wild, but it has been reintroduced to its native habitat Mongolia. In nature, the Himalayan wolf (*Canis lupus chanco*) is their dominant predator. Przewalski's horse (*Equus przewalskii*) once roamed throughout Central Asia, China, and Europe [1]. This horse was extinct in the wild by mid 1960s [2,3], and remnant populations exist only in small captive breeding herds. Jimsar County Xinjiang, China is a renowned breeding institute of this horse [4]. The height of Przewalski's horse is 122-142 cm and average weight 660 lb. The global status of this animal is endangered (EN). The objective of this study is to know its present status and trying to enhance its captive breeding for reintroduction in nature (Figure 1).

## Classification

- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Mammalia

- Order: Perissodactyla
- Family: Equidae
- Genus: *Equus*
- Species: *ferus*
- Subspecies: *przewalskii*
- Scientific name: *E. f. przewalskii* (I. S. Polyakov 1881)



**Figure 1:** Przewalski's horse [5].

### Survival Status of Przewalski's Horse

Przewalski's horses are born in all months of the year, but more than 75% were born from April to July in the northern hemisphere [6]. The reproduction rate was found 77.8%, survivor rate 42.8%, and growth rate 4.8% [7]. Infertility arises from mismatch between stallions and mares, congenital sterility, altered environment, and diseases [4]. In Hustai National Park of Mongolia, the average survival rate of the released Przewalski's horses was observed 56.4% and 51.95% of foals' death caused by wolf predation, 18.9% by inborn diseases and abortion, 8.8% by injury, 5% by insufficient milk intakes from their mother, and 12.6% by unknown reasons [8]. It has migratory behaviour.

### Conclusions

The present data suggests that there is no shortcut without captive breeding of Przewalski's horses for their conservation. In this case, any zoos and safari parks could play an effective role on its successful breeding through scientific management. Zoo or park authority could provide necessary research funds on this burning issue.

### References

1. Monfort SL, Arthur NP, Wildt DE (1991) Monitoring ovarian function and pregnancy by evaluating excretion of urinary estrogen conjugates in semi-free-ranging Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalskii*). *J Reprod Fertil* 91(1): 155-164.
2. Maltzan J, Kohler B, Wiesner H (2007) Breeding management of Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalskii*) in Munich Tierpark Hllabrunn: experience from 30 years. Pp: 48-53.
3. Robert N, Walzer C, Ruegg SR, Kaczensky P, Ganbaatar O, et al. (2005) Pathologic findings in reintroduced Przewalski's horses (*Equus przewalskii*) in southwestern Mongolia. *J Zoology Wildl Med* 36(2): 273-285.
4. Zhang HF, Sun LC, Cao J (2002) the breeding status of captive Przewalski's Horses in Xinjiang. *Acta Zoologica Sinica* 37: 70-72.
5. Przewalski's horse.
6. Volf J (1989) Die "wilde" odergezielte Aufzucht von przewalski Pferden (*Equus przewalskii*) *Zoologische Garten* 59: 402-410.
7. Chen J, Weng Q, Chao J, Hu D, Taya K (2008) Reproduction and development of the released Przewalski's Horses (*Equus przewalskii*) in Xinjiang, China. *J Equine Sci* 19(1): 1-7.
8. Bandi N (2004) Reproduction status of takhi being reintroduced in Hustai National Park. 2nd International Workshop on the re-introduction of the Przewalski's horse.