



WATER BUFFALO
AUSTRALIA, N.T., Darwin
MAJ 2008
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SILVER AWARD
96

Búfalo Asiático de agua (Sp), *Wasserbüffel*, *Sumpfbüffel* (G), *Buffle d'eau*, *Buffle de l'Inde* (F). Also called **Asian water buffalo**, or **Indian buffalo**. Scientific name is from the Greek *boubalos*, meaning buffalo. Some authorities distinguish between the domestic (including feral) water buffalo as *Bubalus bubalis* and the wild Asian water buffalo as *B. arnee*, while others, including ourselves, do not differentiate. As it was the domestic form that was first described for science, the name *bubalis* Linnaeus, 1758 takes precedence. **DESCRIPTION** (*male*) Shoulder height 48-60 inches (122-152 cm). Weight about 1,200 pounds (545 kg), sometimes considerably more. Females are smaller.

A large, heavily built buffalo with stout legs and large, splayed hoofs. The skull is relatively light, long and narrow, with a nearly straight profile. The muzzle is large and hairless. The tail reaches to the hocks and ends in a small tuft. The coarse, sparse hair is moderately long and directed forward from hindquarters to head. General color is black, but older animals tend to be gray or pinkish. Lower legs are a dirty white, and there is often a narrow white "V" on the throat.



The horns (both sexes) are heavy at the base, triangular in cross section, flat on top with conspicuous wrinkles, and grow out from the sides of the head without forming a boss. Horns in Australia will vary from the typical type that curve back from the head in a semicircle, to "sweepers" that stretch straight out from the head with only the tips turning back. The latter can attain tip-to-tip spreads of as much as nine feet (2.74 m). Female horns often have wider spreads than those of males, but are light and thin, almost never equaling male horns in total score.

BEHAVIOR Gregarious. Lives in small herds of 10-20, which often consist of an old cow with as many as three generations of calves. Mature bulls are usually solitary except during the mating season, but are sometimes found in the company of one or two other males. Individual animals and family groups may have specific territories.