



**BANTENG
NEW ZEALAND
APRIL 2008
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PHOTO ENTRY

Banteng (G), *Banting* (F). Sometimes spelled banting, bantang, or bantin. Called *tsaine* in Burmese, *bantin* in Malayan.

DESCRIPTION (*male*) Shoulder height 52 inches (132 cm). Weight about 1,100 pounds (500 kg). Females are smaller and slimmer than males.

The banteng is a good-sized ox, closely related to the gaur, but smaller and lighter, with a less developed dorsal ridge, relatively longer legs, a more elongated head and smaller ears. The tail is tufted and reaches below the hocks, and there is an imperfectly developed dewlap. Banteng found in Australia are handsome animals of the Javan type. Young bulls are reddish-brown until about age three, becoming blackish-brown or black when fully mature, the

blackish coloration progressing from front to back. Very old bulls may turn gray. There is a large white rump patch that contrasts sharply with the color of the body. It extends to-but does not include-the root of the tail. The lower legs have white "stockings" from knee to hoof. The horns are relatively short and slim,



round in cross section, more or less wrinkled near the base, but smooth for the rest of their length. They grow widely outward from the top of the head, then curve smoothly upward and somewhat forward to sharp tips. The horn bases in old bulls are connected by a hairless, gristly shield. Females are a chestnut-red color and have very small horns.

BEHAVIOR Gregarious. Usually found in herds of 8-15, though at times as many as 40-50 have been observed. Old bulls are usually solitary or with one or two other bulls. Feeds mainly on grasses and sedges, with most activity in morning and evening, or at night when pressured by humans. During the heat of the day it retreats to dense forest among the paperbark trees. Sense of smell is excellent, hearing and eyesight are good. Very agile.