



Reindeer

Rangifer tarandus

Fun Facts

- Reindeer and Caribou are the same animal (*Rangifer tarandus*) and are a member of the deer family.
- Both male and female reindeer grow antlers, while in most other deer species, only the males have antlers.
- Reindeer antlers fall off and grow back larger each year.
- During the summer reindeer eat mosses, herbs, ferns, grasses, shoots and leaves. During the autumn and winter they make do with lichen and fungi. An average reindeer eats 4-8 kilograms of vegetation a day.
- Reindeer are the only deer species to be widely domesticated. They are used as beasts of burden and farmed for their milk, meat and hides.
- Santa's reindeer were first mentioned in 1821 when a New York printer William Gilley first published a 16-page booklet titled 'A New Year's Present to the Little Ones' (author anonymous).

