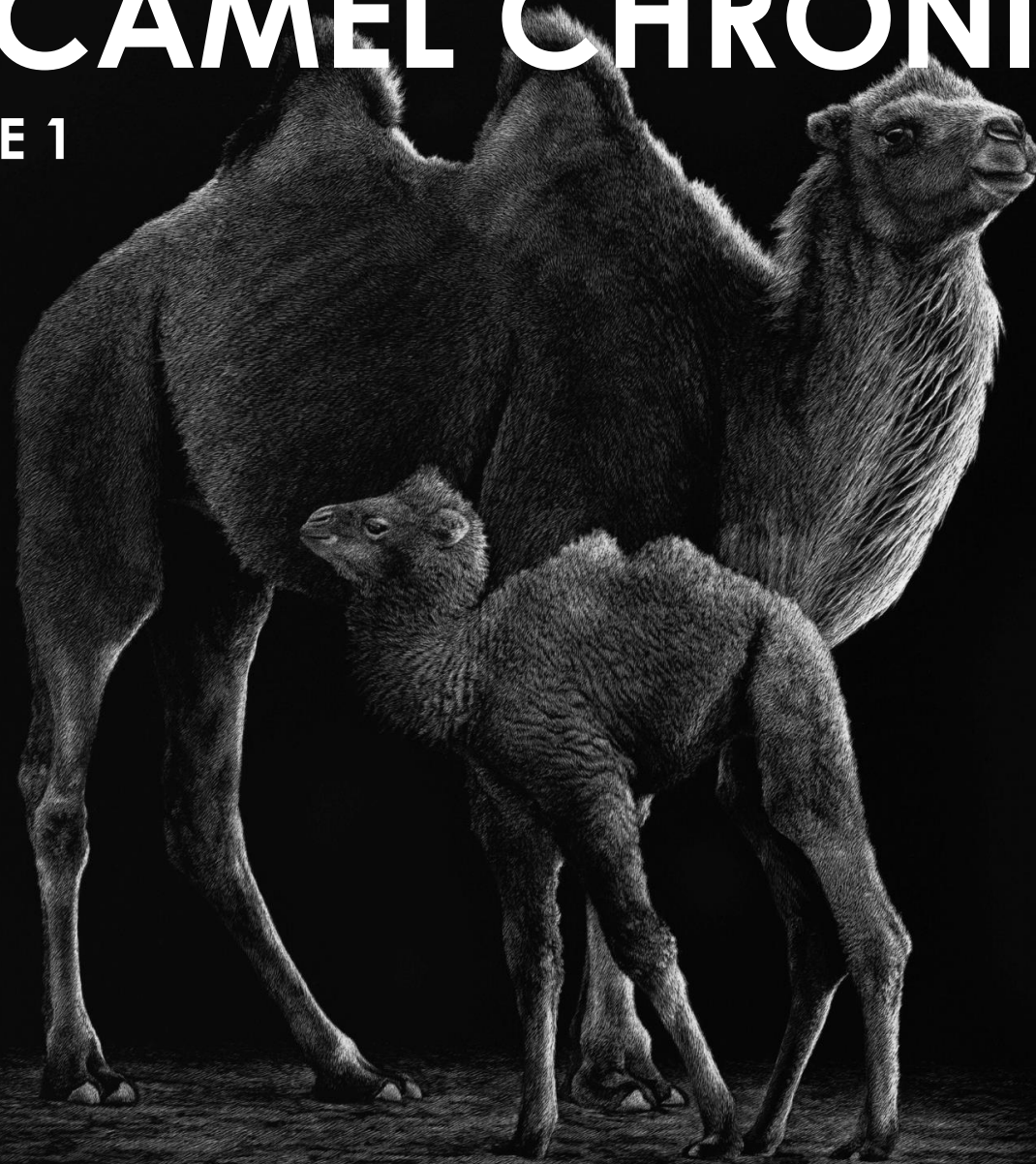


# WILD CAMEL CHRONICLE

2026 | ISSUE 1



Wild Camel



Protection Foundation





# WILD CAMEL PROTECTION FOUNDATION USA

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Kathryn Rae*

*Kah-Wai Lin, Ph.D.*

*Adiya Yadamsuren, Ph.D.*

## ORGANIZATION PROFILE

*Wild Camel Protection Foundation USA Inc.*

*501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered in New Jersey, USA*

*EIN: 41-4015604*

## CONTACT

*Kah-Wai Lin, Ph.D.*

*Website: <https://wildcamelusa.org/>*

*E-mail: [wildcamelusa@gmail.com](mailto:wildcamelusa@gmail.com)*

*Cover image: A stunning scratchboard artwork by master artist [Amy Stauffer](#), inspired by my photograph of a female Wild Camel and her newborn calf. Rendered in her distinctive and meticulous style, the piece beautifully captures both tenderness and resilience.*



Wild Camel (*Camelus ferus*) is one of the rarest species on Earth, with ~1,000 individuals remaining in the wild, found only in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and China. There are currently around 40 Wild Camels in breeding centers in Mongolia, and 0 in zoos anywhere in the world.

**Wild Camel Protection Foundation USA (WCPF USA)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in New Jersey, United States, working in close partnership with **Wild Camel Protection Foundation UK** (est. 1997) and **Wild Camel Protection Foundation Mongolia** (est. 2001), dedicated to the conservation, research, and education of the endangered Wild Camel, as well as supporting the operation of two **Wild Camel Breeding & Research Centers** in Mongolia.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

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- News from WCPF
  - “Canvas of Hope” Exhibition in Embassy of Mongolia (5-7)
  - Educational Exhibit in Cape May Zoo (8)
  - Educational Exhibit in Virginia Zoo (9)
- News from Breeding Center
  - First Wild Camel Newborn in 2026, (10)
- Article
  - First Scientific Documented Birth of a Wild Camel (11-12)
- Educational Program (13)
- Auction: Chrysocola for Wild Camel (14)
- Field Moments (15-17)

# “Canvas of Hope: Saving the Wild Camel” Exhibition

April 11, 2026 | Embassy of Mongolia to the United States, Washington D.C.



The “Canvas of Hope: Saving the Wild Camel” exhibition, held on April 11, 2026 at the Embassy of Mongolia to the United States, was a meaningful and highly successful event.

We were deeply honored by the presence and inspiring remarks of His Excellency Barbayar Ulziidelger, Ambassador of Mongolia to the United States, whose speech emphasized the importance of international collaboration in protecting one of the world’s most endangered large mammals. Kathryn Rae, Founder and Trustee of the Wild Camel Protection Foundation UK, traveled from the United Kingdom to support the exhibition and delivered an opening address. Dr. Kah-Wai Lin, Founder and President of the Wild Camel Protection Foundation USA, also shared remarks at the opening reception.

The exhibition welcomed more than 80 attendees, including representatives from conservation organizations, academic institutions, and zoological institutions, such as the American Center for Mongolian Studies, The Wilds, Smithsonian Institution, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, The Mongolia Society, Library of Congress, Mongolian Community Association, Peregrine Global Foundation, Books for Taiwan, and many others.



Guests experienced a compelling collection of wild camel artworks donated by artists worldwide, alongside wildlife and cultural photography from Mongolia. Educational displays brought to life the story of the Wild Camel and the fragile ecosystem of the Gobi Desert, complemented by a special exhibit on Przewalski’s horse conservation sponsored by Prague Zoo. Through these visual narratives, visitors gained a deeper understanding of the urgency and global significance of Wild Camel conservation.

The event served as an important platform to connect communities, raise awareness, and foster future collaborations between Mongolia and the United States in conservation, education, and research.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Embassy of Mongolia to the United States for their generous support in hosting this exhibition. Their partnership has been instrumental in advancing the mission of the Wild Camel Protection Foundation USA, and in strengthening our shared commitment to safeguarding the future of the Wild Camel.



We would like to thank all the artists who generously donated their artworks. Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters: Red River Paper, Snow Leopard Trust, Pardicolor Creative Arts Fund, and Prague Zoo. We sincerely appreciate Counselor Ankhbayar Ganbold for his invaluable help and support. We are also grateful to Nance Fite for donating two chrysolcolia necklaces; Lillian Meng for donating camel watercolor artworks; Bradley Reeder and Pamela Feazell for a knitted Wild Camel wall art; and photographer, I-Shiuan Lee and videographer, Yu-Chen Tsai for documenting the event. We would also like to thank Amy Lin for organizing and bringing guests from New Jersey to attend the exhibition. Many attendees traveled from afar, by both air and road, and we sincerely appreciate their support.

All artworks are available for purchase, with proceeds supporting Wild Camel conservation in Mongolia. We are deeply grateful for the generosity shown by attendees.

If you would like to support this cause by purchasing artwork, please visit:  
<https://ko-fi.com/wildcamelusa/shop>

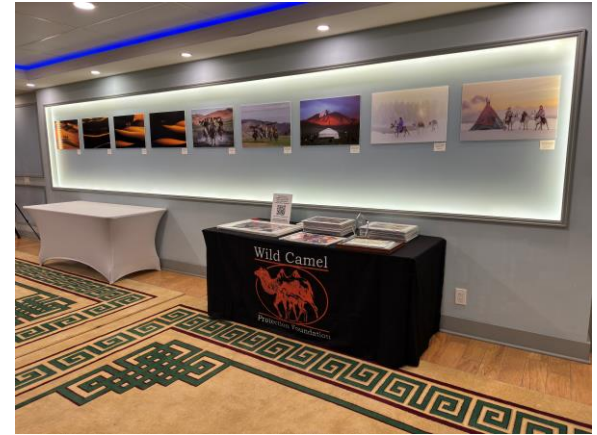
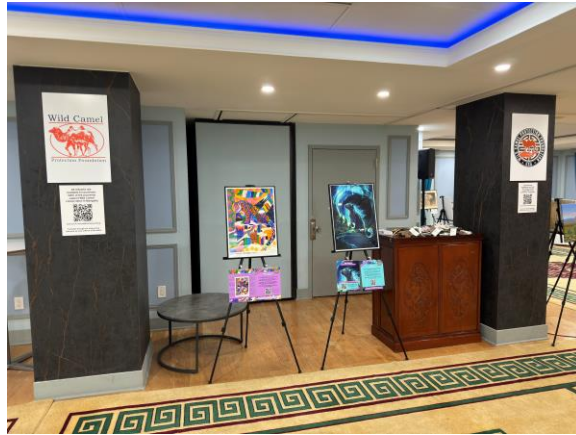
Media coverage of the event:

- [MM News \(Mongolian National Broadcaster\)](#)
- [UMON TV](#)
- [Diplomatic Watch](#)

Video of the event:

[https://youtu.be/zPUOApkQUc0?si=O7tQi\\_FdTcCUMu6j](https://youtu.be/zPUOApkQUc0?si=O7tQi_FdTcCUMu6j)





# Educational Exhibit in Cape May County Park & Zoo



On April 4, 2026, our Wild Camel and Gobi Desert educational exhibit at Cape May County Park & Zoo, turned out to be far busier than expected. With the Easter event drawing large crowds, we had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, easily a few hundred people stopped by our table.

Our exhibit was set up right in front of the Bactrian and dromedary camel enclosure, which worked out perfectly. Many visitors came over after seeing the camels, and we would ask a simple question: "Did you know there's actually a third species of camel?" Most had no idea, and it became a natural and engaging way to introduce the Wild Camel.

The kids went straight for the hands-on activities. Our 3D papercrafts and stickers were completely gone within the first two hours, a good problem to have, and a clear sign of strong engagement from the start.



We also ran a "Guess the Gobi Wildlife" game, which turned into a fun challenge for both kids and adults. Some visitors stayed much longer than expected, trying to identify each animal. It made the experience interactive and memorable, rather than just reading panels and moving on.

On display, we featured Mongolian ger camps, camel culture, and the Gobi Desert, along with educational panels explaining what Wild Camels are and the threats they face. A short video playing in the background helped bring everything together. For many visitors, this was their first time learning about Wild Camels.

What stood out most was people's curiosity. Many stopped by casually, but ended up asking thoughtful questions and staying for a while. Quite a few were genuinely surprised that such a rare species exists, and that there are no Wild Camels in zoos anywhere.

Overall, it was a great day, busy, a bit chaotic at times, but in the best way. The combination of Easter crowds, interactive activities, and the camel enclosure behind us made it both fun and educational, exactly what we hoped for.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Cape May County Park & Zoo for their support and for the opportunity to share this story with the public.



# Educational Exhibit in Virginia Zoo



On April 12, 2026, the Wild Camel and Gobi Desert educational exhibit at the Virginia Zoo was a great success. Kate Rae and Kah-Wai Lin were present throughout the day.

We welcomed a steady stream of visitors, many of whom were surprised to learn that there is a third species of camel, the Wild Camel (*Camelus ferus*). This simple but powerful realization became an engaging starting point for conversations about biodiversity and conservation.

Children were immediately drawn to the interactive elements of the exhibit. The 3D papercrafts and stickers were quickly taken by enthusiastic young visitors, while the "Guess the Gobi Wildlife" game captured the attention of both children and adults. These hands-on activities created an accessible and enjoyable way for visitors to connect with the unique wildlife of the Gobi Desert.

Displays featuring Mongolian ger camps, camel culture, and ongoing conservation efforts helped bring the story of the Gobi Desert to life. Through photography, storytelling, and educational materials, visitors gained a deeper understanding of the Wild Camel's rarity, its fragile habitat, and the urgent challenges it faces in the wild.

For many attendees, this exhibit marked their very first introduction to the Wild Camel and its conservation story. The level of curiosity and engagement from the public was both encouraging and inspiring.

During our visit, we also had the opportunity to meet with the leadership team at the Virginia Zoo to discuss potential future collaborations.



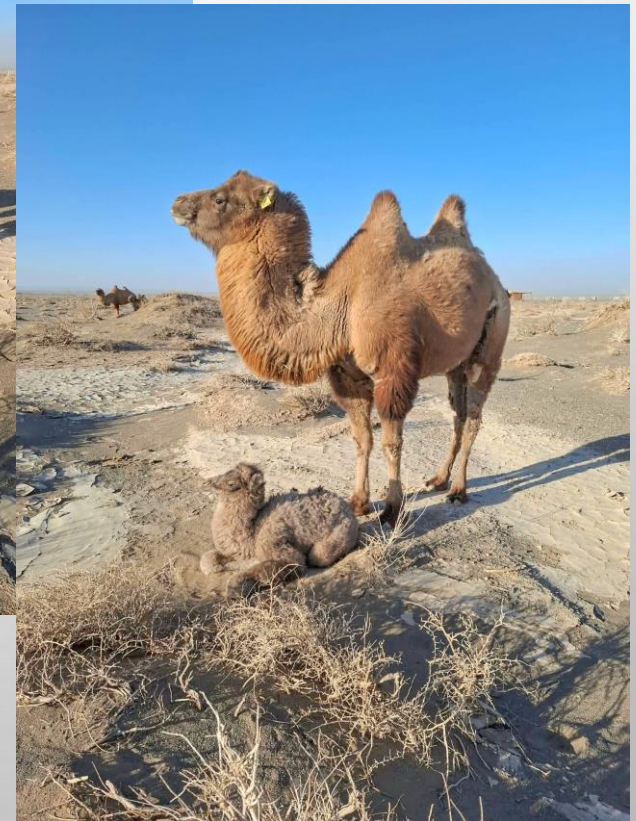
# First Wild Camel Newborn in 2026

On March 28, 2026, we are delighted to announce the birth of the first Wild Camel calf of the year at the Wild Camel Breeding & Research Center in Toli Bulag, Mongolia, a hopeful milestone for one of the world's most endangered large mammals.

With a gestation period of approximately 13 months, each successful birth represents a significant biological and conservation achievement. In a species with a small and fragile population, every newborn carries immense importance for long-term survival and genetic continuity.

This calf reflects the dedication of field teams working under challenging conditions in the Gobi Desert, and serves as a powerful reminder that sustained conservation efforts can make a real difference.

We look forward to sharing updates on the calf's development in the months ahead.



# First Scientific Documented Birth of a Wild Camel

This article summarizes a recent scientific study published in the journal *Acta Ethologica* by Martina Sihelská and colleagues (Martina Sihelská, Anna Bernátková, Adiya Yadamsuren, Tamara Fedorova & Martina Komárková. Parturition in the wild camel (*Camelus ferus*): the first in situ recorded observation. *Acta Ethologica*. 2026; 29(10). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10211-026-00483-5>).

The Wild Camel (*Camelus ferus*) is one of the rarest large mammals on Earth, surviving only in remote desert regions of Mongolia and China. With an estimated global population of around one thousand individuals, the species is listed as Endangered. Despite its remarkable adaptations to extreme desert environments, the Wild Camel remains one of the least studied camel species in the world. Because these animals inhabit vast and remote landscapes such as the Gobi Desert, direct observations of their natural behavior are extremely rare. Many aspects of their life history, including reproduction and maternal care, have long remained poorly understood.

A recent scientific study has now provided an extraordinary breakthrough: the first detailed observation of a Wild Camel giving birth in its natural habitat. This rare event offers scientists valuable insight into the reproductive behavior of one of the world's most elusive desert animals.

## OBSERVATION IN THE GOBI DESERT

The birth was observed in April 2025 in the Great Gobi A Strictly Protected Area in southwestern Mongolia, one of the last remaining strongholds of the Wild Camel population. The researcher, Martina Sihelská, monitoring the area encountered a 13-year-old female camel that appeared close to giving birth. To avoid disturbing the animal, researcher observed the process from approximately 25 meters away while carefully documenting her behavior.

Earlier in the day, the female showed several signs indicating that labor was approaching. She appeared restless, frequently standing up and lying down, and occasionally walked short distances before settling again. These behaviors are typical signs that birth is imminent.

## THE BIRTH PROCESS

Active labor began later in the day when the female lay down on the desert ground. The delivery process itself lasted approximately 35 minutes. When the calf finally emerged, it rested briefly on the ground before beginning to move.

Despite the harsh desert environment, the newborn calf quickly demonstrated remarkable strength. Within about 25 minutes, it managed to stand on its legs for the first time, although somewhat unsteadily. Soon afterward, the calf located its mother's udder and began nursing roughly 37 minutes after birth.

This rapid development is critical for survival. In the open landscapes of the Gobi Desert, newborn animals cannot remain vulnerable for long. Being able to stand, walk, and nurse quickly helps ensure that the calf can stay close to its mother and avoid potential threats.

## MATERNAL BEHAVIOR

Following the birth, the mother displayed attentive and protective behavior. She

repeatedly approached the calf, sniffing and carefully examining it while remaining alert to the surroundings. Occasionally, she nudged the calf gently, seemingly encouraging it to stand and remain close.

Interestingly, the researcher noted that Wild Camel mothers do not lick their newborns, a behavior commonly observed in many other mammals. The mother also did not consume the placenta. Instead, recognition between mother and calf appears to rely primarily on scent and close physical contact.

The female also demonstrated strong protective instincts. When another camel approached the area, she positioned herself between the newcomer and her calf. Even a nearby goat prompted a defensive response, showing how vigilant mothers are during the vulnerable early period after birth.

## SLOW REPRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION IMPORTANCE

Wild Camels reproduce very slowly compared with many other large mammals. Females carry their calves for approximately 13 to 14 months and typically give birth to only one calf at a time. Moreover, births do not occur every year; many females reproduce only once every two years.

Because of this slow reproductive cycle, population growth is naturally limited. In wild populations, calves often make up less than ten percent of the total number of animals. This means that every successful birth is extremely important for the survival and recovery of the species.

## WHY THIS DISCOVERY MATTERS

Documenting the birth of a Wild Camel in the wild provides valuable scientific information about the species' reproductive behavior, maternal care, and early calf development. Such observations are essential for improving conservation strategies.

Wild Camels face numerous threats across their remaining range, including habitat degradation, competition with livestock for water and forage, mining activities, and the increasing impacts of climate change. Because the species reproduces slowly, these pressures can have a significant impact on population recovery.

By understanding how Wild Camels reproduce and raise their young in the wild, conservationists can better identify important breeding habitats and ensure that these critical areas receive proper protection.

## A SYMBOL OF SURVIVAL IN THE DESERT

Wild Camels are remarkable survivors of one of the harshest environments on Earth. They endure extreme temperature fluctuations, scarce water resources, and vast barren landscapes. Yet despite these extraordinary adaptations, their future remains uncertain.

The observation of this rare birth not only expands scientific knowledge but also highlights the importance of continued conservation efforts. Every new discovery about this elusive species helps strengthen the global effort to protect the Wild Camel and ensure that this ancient survivor of the Gobi Desert continues to roam its natural home for generations to come.



a



b



c



d



e



f



g



h



i

From Figure 2 of the article by Sihelská et al. 2026: The birth of a Wild Camel follows several clear stages. First, the calf's head and front legs appear as the mother lies on her side during labor. After a short period, the calf is fully born. The mother then stands up and begins interacting with her newborn. She approaches the calf, sniffing it carefully and gently nudging it to encourage it to move and stand. Shortly afterward, the placenta is expelled. Within a relatively short time, the calf manages to stand on its own and soon begins nursing from its mother for the first time. During this early period, the mother remains very attentive and protective, even chasing away other animals that come too close to her newborn calf.

# Educational Program for Zoos and Schools

The Wild Camel Protection Foundation USA is pleased to introduce an engaging **educational exhibit** focused on the **endangered Wild Camel (*Camelus ferus*) and the unique ecosystem of the Gobi Desert**. Through interactive activities, visual storytelling, and hands-on learning, this exhibit brings one of the world's least-known species to life while highlighting the importance of global biodiversity conservation.

Designed for visitors of all ages, the program combines science, culture, and conservation to create meaningful and memorable learning experiences. From animal identification games and 3D papercraft activities to short documentaries, livestream from Gobi and public seminars, the exhibit offers flexible components that can be adapted to zoos, schools, and community spaces.

We warmly welcome **zoos, schools, and educational institutions** to participate and collaborate with us in bringing this program to your audience.

Together, we can inspire curiosity, raise awareness, and empower the next generation to protect our planet's most vulnerable species.

[Download the introduction brochure](#)

# Auction: Chrysocolla for Wild Camel

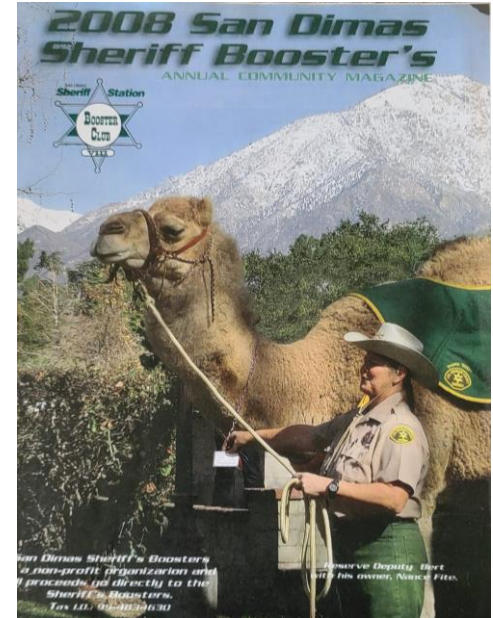
This Chrysocolla necklace was generously donated by **Nance Fite**, a long-time supporter of the Wild Camel Protection Foundation and a passionate advocate for wildlife. Nance was also the handler of "Deputy Bert," a beloved camel who served with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Bert became widely known and was even recognized in the Guinness World Records as the highest-ranking camel in the world. Though he has since passed, his legacy continues to bring smiles to many and stands as a lasting symbol of the unique bond between humans and camels.

The piece features a gem-grade chrysocolla cabochon set in silver, sourced from the Orange Blossom Mine in the Mojave Desert of California. Chrysocolla, admired for its soft blue-green hues, resembles a lighter and more delicate form of turquoise and is prized for its distinctive color and natural patterns.

The Chrysocolla gemstones featured here originate from the legendary Orange Blossom Mine, with the permission and authorization of its owners, Cameron Morgan and his cousin Glen Morgan. Cameron personally donated these gemstones, which he mined and crafted into the cabochon necklaces presented here.

More than a beautiful object, this necklace reflects the spirit of the desert landscape and honors a life devoted to animals and conservation.

All proceeds (100%) will go directly toward Wild Camel conservation in Mongolia.



[Bid Now](#)






John Hare, an explorer, conservationist, and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, co-founded the Wild Camel Protection Foundation together with Kathryn Rae. Between 1993 and 1997, he led four pioneering expeditions into the Gobi deserts of China and Mongolia, two of which were undertaken using domestic Bactrian camels. These early journeys were instrumental in documenting the presence and status of the Wild Camel in some of the most inaccessible regions on Earth. The image shown here captures John Hare alongside Chinese scientists during the 1997 expedition in the Desert of Lop, China. This historic expedition played a key role in advancing scientific understanding of the species and laid the foundation for long-term conservation efforts that continue today.



As of this writing, Dr. Adiya Yadamsuren and Dr. Pamela Burger are leading a team of scientists and veterinarians on a field expedition in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia. The mission includes annual veterinary health checks, tissue and blood sample collection, hybrid camel surveys, and ongoing field research critical to the survival of the Wild Camel. Conserving the Wild Camel is demanding work that requires significant time, expertise, and dedication behind the scenes. These efforts, carried out under challenging conditions in one of the world's harshest environments, are essential to safeguarding not only an endangered species, but also the fragile ecosystem of the Gobi Desert, and ultimately contributing to the health of our planet.



During a visit to the Wild Camel Breeding & Research Center in Zakhyn Us in April 2025, Dr. Kah-Wai Lin photographed this touching moment between a mother and her newborn Wild Camel calf. With the global population of Wild Camels critically low, every birth represents a vital step toward the survival of the species. Moments like this highlight both the fragility of their future and the importance of ongoing conservation efforts in the Gobi Desert.



The Wild Camel is endangered, with only around a thousand left in the wild. Every individual carries genetic value essential for the species' survival.

Your support helps the Wild Camel Protection Foundation protect Wild Camels in Mongolia through conservation, research, and education.

**Every donation matters. Help secure their future.**

**Donate Now**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Wild Camel



Protection Foundation

