

# Veterinary and Animal Sciences

October 11-12, 2018  
Edinburgh, Scotland

J Vet Med Surg 2018, Volume 2  
DOI: 10.4172/2574-2868-C1-003

## CAMEL BREEDS OF INDIA: CONTEMPORARY OVERVIEW

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**T**he aim of this paper is to describe different breeds of camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) and to report the current situation in India. Indian camels can be broadly classified from their utilization point of view a.) Baggage type b.) Riding type c.) Swimming type. As per National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal 9 breeds have been registered among which 4 breeds are major breed viz. Bikaneri, Jaisalmeri, Kachchhi, Mewari. Other breeds of camel are Mewati, Malwi, Marwari and Jalori. Kharai breed being the latest breed to be registered by NBAGR. In India camels are native to Rajasthan and Gujarat since their physiology is suited

to a dry desert climate. Camel population has decreased by 22.48%, over the previous census (2007) and the total camels in India is .4 million number in 2012. An all India estimate of the 2014-15 camel population would therefore be no more than 3 lakhs i.e 2 lakhs in Rajasthan and 1 lakh in Gujarat with the latter fast declining. Given the current scenario the camel, the state animal of Rajasthan may soon figure in the IUCN Red list as a critically endangered species.

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