Animals Native to the Arab World

The Arab world is home to a variety of indigenous animals, many of which are unique due to their resilience to harsh weather conditions. They not only inhabit the region, but also serve as symbols of cultural and historical heritage. This graphic feature nine animals native to the Arab world.

Arabian Oryx
The Arabian oryx is a medium-sized antelope native to the Arabian peninsula. The oryx is the national animal of Qatar, even serving as the official logo of Qatar Airways. The Arabian oryx became extinct in 1972 and was reintroduced into the wild 10 years later due to extreme conservation efforts. An estimated 1,000 Arabian oryxes are living in the wild today.

Barbary Macaque
This species of macaque is found mainly in the Atlas and Rif Mountains of Algeria and Morocco with a small population living in Gibraltar.

Hamadryas Baboon
Hamadryas baboons are highly social animals and are the only monkey species found in both Africa and Asia (Arabian peninsula). It is believed that they were accidentally introduced to the Arabian Peninsula by the ancient Egyptians, who considered them sacred.

Arabian Mau
Originally thought to be a random street cat, the Arabian Mau is a descendant of wild desert cats, making them well suited for hot and arid climates. Today the Arabian Mau can be found across the Arabian Peninsula.

Arabian Tahr
The Arabian tahr lives mainly in the Hajar Mountains of Oman. Tahrs are well equipped to handle high altitudes and steep slopes with their rubber hooves. Usually browsers, tahrs feed on grass, shrubs, leaves and fruit.

Syrian Hamster
The Syrian hamster’s natural habitat is limited to the arid regions of northern Syria and parts of southern Turkey. In the local Syrian dialect, these hamsters are nicknamed “Mister Saddlebags” (عابِ جارب) because of their ability to store food in their cheeks.

Arabian Horse
The Arabian horse is one of the oldest horse breeds in the world and today, their bloodline can be traced in most breeds of riding horses. Arabian are an emblem of pride throughout the Arab world, even playing a role in the founding of Qatar. Today the site of the pivotal battle Al Shaqab, located on the grounds of Qatar Foundation’s Education City, is an Arabian breeding farm and equestrian center commemorating the role of the Arabian steed in Qatar’s independence.

Dhofar Parrotfish
The Dhofar parrotfish is a species of parrotfish found only along the central and southern coast of Oman. This fish was first classified as a unique species in 1995 and can be distinguished by its luminous green-blue scales.

Animals Native to the Arab World

Hamadryas Baboon
Hamadryas baboons are highly social animals and are the only monkey species found in both Africa and Asia (Arabian peninsula). It is believed that they were accidentally introduced to the Arabian Peninsula by the ancient Egyptians, who considered them sacred.

Arabian Mau
Originally thought to be a random street cat, the Arabian Mau is a descendant of wild desert cats, making them well suited for hot and arid climates. Today the Arabian Mau can be found across the Arabian Peninsula.

Arabian Tahr
The Arabian tahr lives mainly in the Hajar Mountains of Oman. Tahrs are well equipped to handle high altitudes and steep slopes with their rubber hooves. Usually browsers, tahrs feed on grass, shrubs, leaves and fruit.

Syrian Hamster
The Syrian hamster’s natural habitat is limited to the arid regions of northern Syria and parts of southern Turkey. In the local Syrian dialect, these hamsters are nicknamed “Mister Saddlebags” (عابِ جارب) because of their ability to store food in their cheeks.

Arabian Horse
The Arabian horse is one of the oldest horse breeds in the world and today, their bloodline can be traced in most breeds of riding horses. Arabian are an emblem of pride throughout the Arab world, even playing a role in the founding of Qatar. Today the site of the pivotal battle Al Shaqab, located on the grounds of Qatar Foundation’s Education City, is an Arabian breeding farm and equestrian center commemorating the role of the Arabian steed in Qatar’s independence.

Dhofar Parrotfish
The Dhofar parrotfish is a species of parrotfish found only along the central and southern coast of Oman. This fish was first classified as a unique species in 1995 and can be distinguished by its luminous green-blue scales.