

Chamois

Rupicapra rupicapra rupicapra

What does it look like?

Chamois are a goat like animal native to Europe. Males are approximately 25-40kg in weight with females approximately 20-30kg.

Their colour varies from grey brown to honey gold with their winter coat being dark brown and almost black. They generally have a creamy coloured face with a strip across the eyes to the nose.

Both male and female have horns that curve backwards to a sharp point.

Mating is from early May to early June with young born around December/January.

They are found throughout the high country of the South Island including parts of Southland and Fiordland.

They have very good eye sight which makes them a challenge to get close.



Why is it a problem?

Chamois are herbivores and can graze heavily on native vegetation in the sub alpine environment. They also suppress forest growth. Left uncontrolled they can increase greatly in population which increases their impact on the environment.

Control methods

Shooting is generally effective, particularly aerial shooting from helicopters.

Landowner permission will be required before any type of shooting/hunting is done.

Related links

DOC <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/what-to-hunt/chamois/>

Pest Detective <https://www.pestdetective.org.nz/culprits/chamois/>

Management programme

Organisms of interest

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=AnimalPests&Species=592>