Antilocapra Americana: Pronghorn

**TAXONOMY**
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Artiodactyla
Suborder: Ruminantia
Family: Antilocapridae
Genus: Antilocapra
Species: Antilocapra americana

**PHYLOGENY**
Pronghorns are the sole living member of the family Antilocapridae, an ancient deer-like family dating back 20 million years.

Pronghorns are native to North America and are found nowhere else in the world. They are often called “Prairie Ghost” because they are so elusive. Males have a prominent pair of branched horns on the top of the head, which are made up of keratinous sheath of hairlike substance that grows around a bony core and females have smaller barely visible straight horns.

**INTERESTING FACTS**
Pronghorns shed their horns after each breeding season.
Pronghorns can change the angle of their body hair by flexing muscles under their skin. In the desert heat, their hairs stand straight up to allow air to circulate. During chilly nights, the hairs lie flat and smooth to keep out cold air.
When the pronghorn runs, its mouth is open so it can breathe in extra oxygen.
Pronghorns are relatively disease and parasite free.

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