**NSW AND ANIMAL ORPHANAGE MANUAL**

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**HISTORY:**

1. **The Nairobi Animal Orphanage**

**Background:**

The Nairobi Animal Orphanage was opened to the public on 11th November1963 for the purposes of hosting a collection of orphaned wild animals from all over the country. Its establishment was the brain child of the first Director of Kenya National Parks, Mr. Marvyn Cowie and was as a result of the increasing presence of wild orphans which strayed from herds, lost their mother from a poacher’s arrow, been abandoned or injured as a result of a stampede when something bad frightened wildlife family groups. The orphans were collected and cared for by the wardens and their families and sooner than later, their houses had become familiar with young buffaloes, elephants, rhinos, warthogs e.t.c. and their messy behaviors.

**Objectives:**

The Orphanage objectives were:

1. To give care and sanctuary to young animals found abandoned in the wild areas and where possible to rehabilitate them back to the parks

2. To let the public see these animals and to help foster interest among Kenyans in Wildlife animal.

3. To gather scientific information on these animals that could contribute to better understanding of their feeding patterns, behaviors and diseases.

4. Conservation education information dissemination to schools, learning institutions and general public in conjunction with Conservation Education Centre.

**Pioneer Animals:**

On 4th June 1963, construction of the animal orphanage was begun in its current position with £6000, which was mainly donations from well wishers and was used for the initial development. A chain link fence was first put up, followed by paddocks, water troughs and a small hospital.

Animals begun to arrive even before the facility was completed and by the time of opening, the facility had five buffaloes, one rhino, one elephant, one lion, two jackals, three cheetah cubs, eight ostriches, three steinbok, one dik dik and one warthog.

By the first eight weeks, the facility had received 17,000 visitors and by the end of the year, the figure reached 30,046 and in 1964, the figure was 104,582 visitors.

On completion of the orphanage, people began begging the officer in-charge of the orphanage to take care of their pets while they went on leave. Such animals were accepted into the Orphanage as P.G’s (paying guests). The owners had the assurance that their pets would be looked after and given a reasonable temporary home while they were away. The fees paid for the animals upkeep and food helped with the Orphanage’s finances. One of the P.G’s was Sebastian, the legendary large male Chimpanzee who died in 1996. In those days he had his own tricycle and had already developed a fondness for cigarettes.

**Relocation:**

The orphanage grew rapidly and by February of 1964, there were 33 animals and by the end of 1966 they rose to 161 animals. The visitor number also increased and between July 1965 and May 1966 the orphanage received 134,786 visitors.

The increase in animal numbers and visitation necessitated the relocation of the orphanage to the more spacious western side of Nairobi Park’s main Gate (Currently Nairobi Safari Walk site). The Nairobi Safari Walk is 25 acres in size and had much more open grass for plains game and indigenous trees for those animals requiring shade. Larger animal enclosures were constructed and the animals are exhibited in simulated habitats. Landscaping was carried out to give visitors more pleasure in viewing the animals in open and attractive areas.

**Current Orphanage:**

The present Orphanage is actually a .Mini- Orphanage compared to the former facility. It was created to shelter the animals during the construction of the Nairobi Safari Walk. The orphanage continues to receive animals, which are usually feeble when they first arrive and require intense care and the very old ones who need special attention and care. Some of the animals eventually get transferred to the Safari Walk, others are released back to the wild and the rest remain as part of the orphanage wild animal collection.

**Release programmed:**

All animals that find their way into the orphanage are given an equal chance to go back to the wild and join their kins after an elaborate rehabilitation Programme carried out by the Orphanage team of experts. However, those animals that are not able to successfully go through the Programme to the satisfaction of the Orphanage team end up at either the Nairobi Safari Walk or stay on at the Orphanage. Many animals have been released successfully into the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries all over the country.

**2. NAIROBI SAFARI WALK**

**Introduction:**

This 2.5 Km walk modern facility is located only 10 kilometers from the Nairobi Capital City it covers a total acreage of 27 Acres (about 11 hectors) western side of Nairobi National park main entrance gate where former Animal orphanage used to be located.

**History:**

The idea to have a Nairobi Safari Walk originated from the fact that by then, the existing Nairobi Animal orphanage status was far much below the desired standard for Conservation Education and Wildlife Captive management, despite the fact it was (even today it is) the most visited facility in Kenya Wildlife Service. The Animal orphanage was established in 1964 with an objective of being a refuge for Wild animals found abandoned or injured throughout Kenya. However over years other exotic species were gradually added making the facility a cross between a Zoo and orphanage.

By 1987 the idea to redesign orphanage into a modern facility (Safari walk) had began as a concerted effort between the then Wildlife Conservation Management department (WCMD)- Government of Kenya , Wildlife Conservation Society- New York and Wildlife Conservation International (WCI) Nairobi Offices. With European Union funding at the tune of Kshs 140 Millions, the architectural work was completed in 1996 while the actual ground work (construction) kicked off in June 1999 and completed by July 2000.

**Objectives:**

The facility major objectives are:

1. To exhibit Kenyan’s indigenous Wildlife species in their natural habitats.
2. To provide innovative Conservation Education programs.
3. To promote Conservation through exposure and participation.
4. To enhance a positive attitudes towards the conservation of nature with special emphasis on Kenyan’s youth.
5. To serve as an environmentally oriented recreation facility***.***

**Uniqueness**

This unique modern Conservation Education facility is a show case of Kenya’s vast biodiversity resources representing three major ecosystems; namely, Wetland, Savanna and Dry forested ecosystems. The design has incorporated a modern concept; that is, animals are in simulated natural habitats behind a carefully concealed safety barriers.

The facility has immensely improved visitors experience in Wildlife conservation and high standards of animal welfare. Also offers ideal environment to conduct research on wildlife and disseminate scientific information on animal nutrition, behaviors and diseases. Other areas of interest include animal mini museum and nature trails for lovers of nature.

**Fauna and Flora:**

The NSW exhibit over 150 indigenous plant species from all over Kenya. All the fauna and Flora at Nairobi Safari Walk are indigenous, except two animal species and at least four plant species; namely, White rhino and Pigmy hippos while *Lantana camara*, *Moringa oleifera*, Jacaranda and Kei-apple complete the list of exotic plant species The animals are habituated with human beings activity as majority originated from the former Animal orphanage or other private animal sanctuaries

**AFRICAN CAPE BUFFALO**

**Scientific Name***: Syncerus caffer*

**Swahili Name:** Nyati/ Mbogo

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Bovidae

Genus : Syncerus

Species : Syncerus caffer

**Description:** The Cape buffalo is a large, dark brown to black hoofed mammal with drooping fringed ears and large curved horn

**Size**: 1.0-1.7 m tall at shoulder; 2.1-3.4 m in length, Females are smaller than males

**Weight**: Male- 700-900 kg, Female- 425-550 kg

**Diet**: Herbivore - eats tall, coarse grasses

**Gestation**: 11.5 months; usually a single calf is born

**Sexual Maturity**: Males - 8 year of age and females 5 years of age.

**Life Span:** Wild -20 years, Captivity – 30 years

**Distribution**: Eastern and southern Africa.

**Habitat**: Open savannas and grasslands near a permanent source of water

**Did you know?**

1. The horns (shape and size) of the Cape buffalo are an excellent indication of age and gender. The females and young males do not have the hard shielding that protects the base of the skull in large adult males.

2. The Cape buffalo is one of the big FIVE.

3. Cape buffalos are extremely social and live in large, mixed herds of up to 2000 members! Both sexes have a separate hierarchy, with males dominant over females.

4. The Asian water buffalo is a separate species and have been domesticated. While Cape buffalo have never been domesticated.

5. Cape buffalo are always within a day's walk of a water source. This is especially true in the dry season when they are eating dried grasses.

6. Cape buffalo have the reputation of being dangerous when they are cornered or injured. There are many tales told by game hunters earlier this century of injured buffalo turning back and goring or killing the hunter.

**GRAY/ BUSH DUIKER**

**Scientific Name***: Sylvicapra grimmi*

**Swahili Name** : Nsya

**Scientific Classification**:

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Subphylum : Vertebrata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Bovidae

Genus : Sylviapra

Species : *S. grimmi*

**Description:** Duikers have dark, slick glossy coats but their tails have white hair that contrasts with the dark body. Even though the bush females are larger than the males, they usually do not have horns. Male and female forest duikers are about the same size and both have horns.

**Distribution:** Sub-Saharan region of Africa from Senegal to Ethiopia. It also ranges from Eastern Africa to the southernmost tip of Africa

**Habitat:** Savannas, grasslands, and woodlands.

**Weight :** Female 12 -25 kg; Male 11-21kg

**Length** :Female 90-115cm, Male 70-105cm

**Gestation period**: 140 – 150 days

**Weight at birth**: 1.6 kg **Sexual maturity:** 255 days (Both sexes)

**Diet** : Browsers - eat leaves and shoots from bushes, as well as fruits and flowers

**Life span**: 14 years

**Did you know?**

1. The bush duiker is more slender, with larger ears, than the forest duiker.
2. Bush duikers are mainly nocturnal, feeding from early evening until morning.
3. All duikers freeze and crouch to escape detection.
4. Duiker pairs devote a great deal of time to grooming one another's heads, which apparently aids in bonding pairs; it may also help individuals recognize their own species and discourage interbreeding with others.

**KIRK'S DIKDIK**

**Scientific Name*:*** *Madoqua kirkii*

**Swahili Name:** Digidigi

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Mammalia Order : Artiodactyla Family : Bovidae Genus : *Madoqua* Species : ***M. kirkii***

**Description**: Female dik-diks are somewhat larger than males. The males have horns, which are small slanted backwards and longitudinally grooved. The hair on the crown forms an upright tuft that sometimes partially conceals the short, ringed horns of the male. The upper body is grey-brown, while the lower parts of the body, including the legs, belly, crest, and flanks, are tan. A black spot below the inside corner of each eye contains a pre-orbital gland that produces a dark sticky secretion

**Distribution**: East Africa, Angola and Namibia

**Habitat:** Dense forest to open plains

**Sexual Maturity:** Female: 213 days, Male maturity: 304 days

**Gestation**: 172 days (5 1/2 months)

**Diet**: herbivores, so their diet mainly consists of foliage, shoots, fruit and berries

**Weight**: Males-3-6 kg females - 5-7 kg when full grown.

**Size**: 30–40 cm at the shoulder, 50–70 cm in length

**Life span**: 3 to 4 years in wild, 10 years in captivity

**Did you know?**

1. Genetic and behavioural evidence suggests that Kirk's Dik-dik exhibits fidelity in monogamous behavior.
2. The males guard their mates closely during oestrus and over-mark all female scent and female dik-diks do not appear to seek to mate outside the pair-bond.
3. Dik-diks are named for the alarm calls of the females, which make a dik-dik, or zik-zik sound

**BUSHBUCK**

**Scientific Name:** *Tragelaphus scriptu*

**Swahili Name:** Mbawala pongo

**Scientific classification:**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Mammalia Order : Artiodactyla Family : Bovidae

Genus : Tragelaphus

Species : T. Scriptu **Distribution:** Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in areas where it can easily be concealed from sea level to mountain-tops in all types of habitats from rainforest to sub-desert terrain.

**Size :** Males **-** 70-100 cm tall Females - 65-85 cm tall

**Weight :** Males 40-80 kg Females 25-60 kg

**Sexual maturity**: 11 months

**Lifespan :** Wild - 12 years or more

Captivity -

**Habitat :** Forest-edge antelopes. Live in habitat including rain forests, montane forests, forest-savanna mosaics and bush savannas.

**Diet :** Browsers/grazer;

**Gestation :** 6 months

**Did you know?**

1. The bushbuck's hunched-up gait makes it a slow and clumsy runner, but it is a good swimmer and can jump 6-foot-high fences.
2. Although bushbucks live in both moist and dry habitats, their most important requirement is good cover of forest or bush to provide shelter and food.

**WILDEBEEST (GNU)**

**Scientific Name:** *Connochaetes taurinus*

**Swahili name:** Nyumbu

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Bovidae

Genus : Connochaetes

Species : *Connochaetes* (flowing beard) *taurinus* (like a bull) *albojubatus* (white mane)

**Description:** This subspecies of wildebeest has a white beard, unlike most other subspecies which have black beards; both sexes have smooth, cowlike horns.

**Size:** Male 1.25-1.45 m at the shoulder

Female 1.15-1.42 m at the shoulder

**Weight:** Male 165-290 kg

Female 140-260 kg

**Diet:** Prefer short grasses, but will eat taller grasses during the dry season; generally drink twice a day

**Gestation:** 8 months

Nursing Duration: Young nurse for 4-9 months

**Sexual Maturity:** Male- 4-5 years

Female - 15 years

**Life Span:** 15 years in wild. 20 years in captivity.

**Distribution:** Kenya and Tanzania in Eastern Africa

**Habitat:** Grasslands

**Did you know?**

1. Each year an ancient spectacle, the single largest movement of wildlife, begins in search of fresh pastures and water. Such migrations may contain as many as one million individuals.

2. Eighty percent of calves (sometimes up to half a million) are born within a 2-3 week period at the start of the rainy season. Since predators can only take a limited number of prey at any given time, there is a higher chance of survival for each individual calf.

3. Calves can stand and run within 3-7 minutes after birth. They follow their mothers as they move with the herd.

4. Wildebeests are also called gnus because their call sounds like gnu gnu.

**LESSER KUDU**

**Scientific Name*:*** *Tragelaphus imberb*

**Swahili Name:** Tandala mdogo

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Bovidae

Genus : *Tragelaphus*

Species : ***T. imberbis***

**Description:** Lesser Kudu males are grey-brown while females are chestnut the coat is lighter on their underside. Both have about ten white stripes on their backs and two white tufts on the underside of their necks. Males have a small mane and horns of about 70 centimeters with one twist. Males are larger than females.

**Distribution**: found in East Africa and (possibly) the southern Arabian Peninsula

**Habitat**: Lesser Kudu live in dry thorn bush and forest

**Gestation Period**: 8 months. *Young per Birth*: 1 *Weaning*: After 6 months.

**Sexual Maturity:** Females by 15 months, males mature sexually at this time, although they do not become socially mature until their 4th or 5th year.

**Life span**: Up to 15 years.

**Size**: 90 to 110 cm tall, at the shoulder

**Weight:** females- 55 to 70 kg, males- 70 to 100 kg.

**Diet**: eat mainly leaves.

***Did you know?***

1. Lesser Kudu can jump distances more than 9 meters (30 ft) and 2,5 meters (8 ft) high. They can also reach running speeds of around 80 to 100 km/h (50 to 62 mph).
2. Lesser Kudu can be found in numbers of up to 123,000 in East Africa.
3. Lesser Kudu are nocturnal

**GREATER KUDU**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Scientific name | Tragelaphusstrepsiceros |
| Other names | Tandalamkubwa (swahili) |
| Identification | A large antelope with tawny coloring and thin, white, sparse vertical stripes (6-10)on the sides. Has a white chevron between eyes**.**Greater kudu may be distinguished from a similar species, the lesser kudu, by the presence of a throat mane.The male has long black twisted horns.Females do not have horns |
| Size | 1.2 to 1.5 m (4 to 5 ft.) at the shoulder |
| Weight | Male: 225 to 360 kg Female: 180 to 235 kg  |
| Lifespan | up to 15 years in the wild; up to 23 years in captivity |
| Habitat | Dense brush or forest |
| Diet | Herbivorous. They are browsers eating leaves and shoots from a wide variety of plants. They love to feast on fruitsThey can exist for long periods without drinking water |
| Gestation | Approximately 6 to 7 months; 1 and occasionally 2 calves at birth |
| Predators | leopards, hunting dogs, spotted hyenas, humans |
| Conservation status | Least concerned  |

**Fun Facts**

Kudu are highly alert and extremely hard to approach. When they detect danger – often using their large, radar-like ears – they give a hoarse alarm bark, then flee with a distinctive, rocking-horse running motion, the male laying back his horns to avoid overhead obstructions.

The common name kudu is derived from the indigenous Khoikhoi language of Southern Africa. The scientific name is derived from Greek: Tragos denotes a he-goat and elaphos a deer; Strephis means ‘twisting’ and Keras means ‘horn’.

The horns of a mature bull kudu have two and a half twists, and, if straightened, would reach an average length of 120cm. you can estimate the age of a greater kudu by the size and twists of its horns. The horns do not begin to grow until the bull reaches 6–12 months, twisting once at around two-years-of-age and not reaching the full two-and-a-half twists until the age of six.

Mother kudus hide their calves out of sight for long periods of time.The pregnant female departs from her group to give birth, leaving the newborn lying out for four or five weeks of age, one of the longest periods of all the antelopes.

Their mysterious coloring and markings protect kudus by camouflaging them. If alarmed, they usually stand still and are very difficult to spot. The colour of the male kudu darkens with age.

Male greater kudus have beards!

Males sometimes form small bachelor groups, but more commonly, they are solitary and widely dispersed. Dominance between males is usually quickly and peacefully determined by a lateral display in which one male stands sideways in front of the other and makes himself look as large as possible. Males only join females during mating season.

**WARTHOG**

**Scientific Name:** *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

**Swahili Name** : Ngiri

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Suidae

Genus : Phacochoerus

*Species : P. aethiopicus*

**Description:** Pig-like animal, black or brown in color, with coarse but sparse hair covering body. Its face is long with fleshy warts and protruding tusks.

**Distribution :** Central Africa and to the south, from the West Coast to the East Coast

**Habitat:** found in savannah and lightly forested areas

**Size:** 0.9-1.5 m in length; 63.5-85.0 cm tall at shoulder

**Weight:** Males 60-150, female 45-75 kg

**Diet:** Grasses, roots, berries, bark, and occasionally carrion

**Gestation:** 160-170 days (5.5 months)

**Sexual Maturity:** 18-20 months (1 ½ years)

**Life Span:** Captivity-18 years.

Wild- 12 years

***Do you know?***

1. Warthogs travel in groups called sounders consisting of 1 or 2 sows and young offsprings. Males usually travel alone.
2. Boars have more prominent warts than sows. They are primarily used to protect the face during fights.
3. Warthogs use burrows for shelter and when entering, the hogs back in. This enables them to defend themselves against predators. In the mornings, warthogs burst out of their burrows at top speed to get a running start on any predators that may be lurking nearby.
4. Although they look fierce, warthogs would rather run than fight. But they can be fierce opponents if cornered.

**COMMON ELAND**

**Scientific Name:** *Taurotragus oryx*

**Swahili Name:** Pofu

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Bovidae

Genus Species : *Taurotragus* (goat like bull) *oryx* (antelope)

**Description:** The eland is one of the largest antelopes. It has fawn coloring and long black spiral horns on both male and female.

**Distribution :** Eastern and Southern Africa, Drakensburg Mountains

**Habitat:** Inhabits sparse forests and brush; open territory to semi-deserts

**Size:** Approximately 1.36-1.8 m

**Weight :** Male 400-1000 kg

Female 300-600kg

**Diet :** Herbivore - includes leaves and fruit

**Gestation :** Gestation lasts approximately 8-9 months; one offspring is born at a time

**Sexual Maturity :** Male- 4 year, Female- 3 years

**Life Span :** 8-10 years in the wild, 25 years in captivity.

**Did you know?**

1. The eland is the largest African bovid, but the slowest antelope. It can only run about 35 km/h, but it can jump 3 meters from a standing start.

2. When walking, tendon or joints in the eland's foreleg produce a sharp clicking sound, the cause of which has not been widely investigated. Some scientists believe it may be a form of communication - if a male is walking through his territory, the clicking which can be heard for up to a mile away, may alert another eland about this territory.

3. It is one of the most adaptable ruminants, able to live in a wide array of environments. The only environments not suitable for an eland are swamps, forest, and deserts.

4. Like its distant gazelle and oryx relatives, the eland can conserve water by raising its body temperature as much as 7° Celsius (13.5° Fahrenheit) on hot days.

**COMMON ZEBRA**

**Scientific Name***: Equus quagga burchellii*

**Common Name:** Punda milia

**Scientific classification**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Mammalia Order : Perissodactyla Family : Equidae Genus : *Equus* Species : *E. quagga* Subspecies : ***E. q. burchellii***

**Description**: The common zebra is mid-sized and thick bodied with relatively short legs. Like all zebras, they are boldly striped in black and white, and no two individuals look exactly alike. They also have black or dark muzzles

**Distribution**: It ranges from the south of Ethiopia right through east Africa as far south as Angola and eastern South Africa.

**Habitats**: from treeless grassland to open woodland to wetlands

**Diet**: Prefers short, green grass but will eat tall, coarse growth

**Size:** height- 1.4 meters (4.6 ft) at the shoulder, length- 2.3 meters (8 ft) long

**Weight**: Males 220-320 kg; Females 175– 260 kg.

**Sexual Maturity**: Female 3yrs. Males 5-6 yrs.

**Gestation period:** 360-390 days (12 months)

**Life span:** Wild -20 years, captivity – 40 years.

**Did you know?**

1. When chased, a zebra will zig-zag from side to side, making it more difficult for the predator. When cornered, the zebra will rear up and kick or bite its attacker.
2. A zebra foal is brown and white instead of black and white at birth.
3. Zebra can turn their ears in almost any direction.

**White Zebras (albino common plains zebra)**

There are two females and one male. They were donated by the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch to NSW on 16th April 2002. ‘White zebras’ were initially seen in Lerogi Plateau near Maralal in Samburu District. These are ‘albinistic sports, or mutant forms of the common plains (Burchell’s) zebra. Like other albinos, they have pale eyes and light pink (as opposed to dark) snouts and gums.

**ORYX**

**Scientific Name :** *Oryx gazella*

**Swahili Name :** Choroa

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Artiodactyla

Family : Bovidae

Genus : Oryx

Species : *gazella*

**Description:** Oryx has a long, straight, almost-upright or swept-back horn, along with thick, horse-like neck, short mane and a compact, muscular body. One of the prominent characteristics of Oryx is a white face and fawn-colored body, with a defined pattern of black markings. The animal has black triangular patches on the head and broad black stripes that extend from the base of the horns over the eyes to the cheeks.

**Distribution:** The fringe-eared Oryx ranges from Kenya to central Tanzania. The Beisa Oryx ranges from Ethiopia through Somalia into northeastern Uganda and Kenya.

**Habitat:** Dry plains

**Weight:** Male; 167-209. Female; 116-118 kg

**Size:** 47 inches at the shoulder

**Lifespan:** Wild 12 years. Captivity; 22 years

**Diet:** Herbivorous/grazer

**Gestation Period:** 8½ months

**Sexual maturity:** 18-24 months (1 ½ - 2 years)

**Did you know?**

1. Oryx prefer to live in large herds, which comprise of about 600 animals.
2. The female comes into heat soon after giving birth. The more frequent estrus cycles enable females to produce calves at 9-month intervals.
3. It is a bit strange, but new born Oryx are able to run with the herd immediately after birth.
4. The horns of female Oryx are often longer and thinner than those of its male counterpart.
5. Oryx is a fine example of an antelope who successfully adapts to harsh conditions of dispersed food, intense heat and little or no water.
6. The ringed horns of an Oryx are up to 30 inches long, making them formidable weapons.

**WHITE RHINO**

(Exotic in Kenya; origin South Africa)

**Scientific Name:** *Ceratotherium simum*

**Swahili name:** Kifaru

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Perissodactyla

Family : Rhinocerotidae

Genus Species : *Ceratotherium* (horn shaped) *simum* (snub-nosed)

**Description:** Large stocky animal, naturally grey in color, two facial horns and wide, squared lips

**Size:** 1.7-1.9 m tall at shoulder; 3.25-4.25 m long

**Weight:** Male; 2,000-3,600 female; 1400-2000 kg

**Diet:** Herbivore that eats short grasses

**Gestation:** 16 months

**Sexual Maturity:** Male 10-12 years

Female 4-6 years

**Life Span:** wild-25 years. Captivity -45 years

**Distribution:** Southern Africa; northern savannahs of central Africa (Exotic in Kenya)

**Habitat:** Open savannahs and grasslands

**Population:** Kenya about 326

**Status:** CITES - Appendix I (Endangered)

***Did you know?***

1. A rhino's horn is not a true horn that is attached to the skull. It grows from the skin and is made up of keratin fibers, the same material found in hair and nails.

2. Fallacy believes: its horn has aphrodisiac properties.

3. The white rhino has a wide squared off lip that allows it to eat a wide swath of the green, short grasses that grow in the open savannahs.

4. Unlike other rhino species, the white rhino is semi-gregarious; the females and sub-adults are rarely alone. The dominant male patrols the territory that the females and young pass through. Females in managed situations will reproduce better if they are in a group.

**Dubai**

Dubai is male white rhino. He was born on 3rd October 1999 at Oljogi Ranch in Laikipia District. He came to the Safari Walk in October 2002 at the age of three years.

**LEOPARD TORTOISE**

**Scientific name*:*** *Geochelone pardalis*

**Swahili Name:** Kobe

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Sauropsida Order : Testudines Family : Testudinidae Genus : *Geochelone* Species : **G. pardalis**

**Description:** It is a large and attractively marked tortoise. The carapace is high and domed, and pyramid shaped scutes are not uncommon. The skin and background color is cream to yellow, and the carapace is marked with black blotches, spots or even dashes or stripes. Each individual is marked uniquely.

**Distribution:** widely distributed tortoise in Southern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa; southern Sudan, Ethiopia, Eastern Africa (including Natal), Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Angola and Southwest Africa.

**Habitat:** grassland habitats

**Size**: 18-inch

**Weight**: 18 kg.

**Sexual maturity:** 12 and 15 years. Captive leopard tortoises, however, grow faster and may mature as young as six years of age.

**Clutch size**: clutch consisting of between five and 18 eggs.

**Diet:** herbivorous.

**Life span**: generally have a life span of 100 years.

***Did you know?***

1. Leopard tortoises "court" by the male ramming the female. When mating, the male makes grunting vocalizations.
2. Leopard tortoises are the fourth largest species of tortoise, after the Sulcata tortoise, the Galapagos tortoise, and Seychelles giant tortoise.
3. Leopard tortoise can climb and go underwater for up to 10 minutes.

**PYGMY HIPPO**

(Exotic in Kenya; origin West Africa)

**Scientific name*:*** *Choeropsis liberiensis*

**Swahili name:** Kiboko birikimo

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Mammalia Order : Artiodactyla Family : Hippopotamidae Genus : ***Choeropsis*** Species : ***C. liberiensis***

**Description:** Pygmy hippos share the same general form as a hippopotamus. They have a graviportal skeleton, with four stubby legs and four toes on each foot, supporting a portly frame. The skin is greenish-black or brown, shading to a creamy gray on the lower body. Their skin is very similar to the common hippos, with a thin epidermis over a dermis that is several centimeters thick.

**Distribution**: The pygmy hippopotamus is found in West Africa, mainly confined to Liberia, with small numbers in the neighboring countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea and the Ivory Coast.

**Habitat**: Dense, swampy forests near rivers, streams and creeks..

**Weight**: 180 to 275 kg.(sexes are of similar size)

**Size**: stand about two and a half feet (0.8 m) tall at the shoulder, and measure about five feet (1.5 m) from head to tail.

**Diet**: Pygmy hippopotamuses are herbivores and feed on various vegetation, including succulents, tender shoots, leaves, roots, grasses, and fallen fruit.

**Sexual maturity:** 3 years.

**Gestation**: 6 – 7 months. (The newborn weighs ten to 4.5 to 6.4 kg.)

**Life Span**: Wild- 40 years. Captivity - 50 years.

***Did you know?***

1. Pygmy and Nile hippopotamuses are both members of the same family of mammals Hippopotamidae. At first glance they may look and act very much alike; but they are, in fact, two very distinct species with different lifestyles and physical adaptations.
2. Pygmy hippos have the same unusual sweat as common hippos, that give a pinkish tinge to their bodies, and are sometimes described as "blood sweat" though the secretion is neither sweat nor blood.

**Bob**

Elizabeth is female pigmy hippo brought from Mt. Kenya Game Ranch on 29th September 2004 when she was 22 year old. Bob is male brought from Oljogi game ranch on 29th September 2004. He was one and a half years old.

**AFRICAN LION**

**Scientific name:** *Panthera leo*

**Swahili name**: Simba

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Carnivora

Family : Felidae

Genus Species : *Panthera* (panther, leopard) *leo* (lion)

**Description:** Short-haired, tawny cat; black tail tuft, ears, and lips; newborns with grayish spots which fade to adult color by three months. Male at maturity, exhibit blond to black manes

**Size:** Male -1.7-2.5 m and 1.2 m at the shoulder

Female -1.4-1.7 m and 1.06 m at the shoulder

**Weight:** Male 150-260 kg

Female 120-180 kg

**Diet:** Antelopes, gazelles, warthogs, smaller carnivores, and occasionally Cape buffalo, giraffe, and young elephants

**Gestation:** 98-105 days; on average 2-4 cubs born

**Sexual Maturity:** Male 5 years

Female 4 years

**Life Span :** Up to 30 years in captivity, 15 years in wild

**Distribution :** sub-Saharan Africa

**Habitat :** Grasslands and semi-arid plains

**Did you know?**

1. Lions are the only truly social cat species, and usually every female in a pride of 5-37 individuals is closely related.

2. An adult lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away and warns off intruders or reunites scattered pride members.

3. While lions are inactive up to 21 hours a day, in the darkest, coolest hours of early morning the "queens of beasts" hunt as a team to catch a communal meal.

4. Pride lionesses frequently enter breeding season together and later give birth at the same time which allows them to share nursing and other maternal duties.

5. Although only one out of four hunting events is successful, dominant males always eat first, lionesses next, and cubs scramble for scraps and leftovers.

**Agwambo, Samburu and Safi**

The three (3) lion’s cubs were rescued from Samburu when they were about 4 months old around April 2009

**Blondi**

The only life Blondi knew was at the Dadaab Refugee Camp until she was abducted by Somali militia and smuggled into Somalia, at the age of 2 years. Her life was quickly transformed from enjoying wide expansive open plains to being locked up in a very tiny cage. Kenyan security intelligence found out what had happened and immediately informed the Kenya Wildlife Service who sent officials to Somalia to negotiate with the militia and return the lion back to Kenya. On the day she arrived at the Nairobi Animal Orphanage, Blondi was returned underweight and malnourished, with her front teeth ripped out from her gums and her paws cut off to disarm her from any means of attacking the prospective buyer. She has now fully recovered although she suffers from an eye cataract; a condition that stimulates clouding in the crystalline lens obstructing of the passage of light through the eye.

**Shaba**

Shaba! His name stems from where he was found – The Shaba National Reserve, located slightly towards the north of the equator in Kenya. His name has an even deeper meaning in Swahili; the national language of Kenya. Shaba is the Swahili word for “bronze”, a precious metal that is used for making wires and many ornamental objects.

At five months, Shaba was found with deep bites all over his body in 2000. He had been attacked and injured by other lions in the reserve. When he was found, KWS veterinary officers stitched his badly wounded body and had him transferred to the Nairobi Animal Orphanage.

**LEOPARD**

**Scientific Name:** Panthera pardus

**Swahili Name:** Chui

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Carnivora

Family : Felidae

Genus : *Panthera*

Species : ***P. pardus***

**Description:** Leopards show a great diversity in physical appearance, particularly because of the wide variations in color coat and rosette patterns. The leopard's rosettes are circular in East Africa but tend to be squarer in southern Africa and larger in Asian populations. The leopard's yellow coat tends to more pale and cream colored in desert populations, more gray in colder climates, and of a darker golden hue in rainforest habitats. Overall, the fur under the belly tends to be lighter colored and of a softer, downy type.

**Diet:** Their diet consists mostly of ungulates and monkeys, but rodents, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish are also eaten.

**Distribution:** occurring most in certain parts of southern Asia and widely in eastern and central Africa

**Habitats:** Leopards live mainly in grasslands, woodlands and riverside forests

**Gestation**: 90-105 days.

**Life span**: 15 years in wild, 20 years in captivity

**Size:** Head and body length 125 and 165 cm, Shoulder height is 45 to 80 cm.

**Weigh**t: Males - 30 to 91 kg, Females 23 to 60 kg.

**Home territories**: male 30–78 km2, females15–16 km2

**Speed**: 58 Km/h

***Did you know?***

1. It was believed that a leopard was a hybrid of a lion and a panther, as is reflected in its name –Panthera pardus.
2. The leopard stalks its prey silently and at the last minute pounces on its prey and strangles its throat with a quick bite.
3. Leopard can leap over 6 metres (20 ft) horizontally and jump up to 3 metres (9.8 ft) vertically

**Talek.**

Talek was rescued near the Maasai Mara Talek gate at a campsite when he was about 2weeks old in the year 2005. He was sighted by a Chinese visitor, Dai Watakabe who informed the Narok county council and the KWS rangers.

**CARACAL**

**Scientific Name**: Caracal caracal

**Swahili Name**: Simba Mangu

**Scientific classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Carnivora

Family : Felidae

Genus : Caracal

Species : C. caracal

**Description**: The colour varies between wine-red, grey, or sand-colored. Although Melanistic (black) caracals also occur. The most conspicuous feature of the caracal is elongated, tufted black ears.

**Habitat:** The caracal is distributed over Africa and the Middle East. Its chief habitat is dry steppes and semi-deserts, but it also inhabits woodlands, savannah, and scrub forest.

**Diet**: It hunts at night for rodents and hares.

**Life span:** in the wild is 12 years, and 17 years in captivity.

**Reproduction:**

Mating: any time of year esp. when nutrition status is optimal

Gestation: 68–81 days

Weaning: 10 weeks

Litter size: ranges from 1 to 6

**Sexual maturity**: one year

**Weight**: Males 13-18 kg, females 8-13 kg

***Did you know?***

1. The word caracal comes from the Turkish word "karakulak", meaning "black ear.
2. The caracal may survive without drinking for a long period — the water demand is satisfied with the body fluids of its prey.

**Caracal**

He was brought from Amboseli National park when he was four months old.

**SERVAL**

**Scientific Name: *Felis serval***

**Swahili Name:** Mondo

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus Species: *Felis* (cat) *serval* (deer-wolf) or *Leptailurus serval*

**Description:** The serval is a small to medium-sized, slender cat with spots and stripes. It has long legs, large ears, and a yellowish coat with distinct black markings.

**Distribution**: Northwest and sub-Sahara Africa

**Habitat:** Found near permanent water on savannas, and in open forests

**Size:** Averages about 1m long and 60 cm tall at the shoulder.

**Weight:** Male 10-18 kg. Female; 6-13kg)

**Diet:** Eats a wide variety of meat such as insects, rodents, birds, lizards; also will hunt small antelope and gazelle

**Gestation:** 75 days

**Sexual Maturity:** 1-2 years

**Life Span:** wild;13 years. Captivity; 20 yrs

**Did you know?**

1. Servals have long, powerful legs that are important for jumping. They have been known to jump as high as 3.6 m (12 ft.) to catch birds in mid air.

2. Servals' large ears act as radar dishes to locate food. These cats listen for the movement of animals in the grass before they pounce. It is believed that they use their ears as much as their eyes.

3. Servals, unlike other small cats, are much more diurnal, or crepuscular, meaning they are active in early mornings and late evenings.

4. Servals, like most cats, live a solitary existence. The only associations formed are during mating and between a mother and her kittens.

**Ali**

He is a slender, long-legged Serval cat with a golden coloured coat containing black rosettes. A specialist hunter of small rodents in tall grass, Ali was brought to the Nairobi Animal Orphanage on 24th of April 2000, when he was less than 1 year old. The Serval’s place of birth is unknown, but they were captured as tiny kittens and smuggled into Abu Dhabi where they were to be sold in the market and be hand reared by a vet. Ali is now fully matured, and cherishes every meal he gets fed with - and this he protects jealously. Being a cat of his own is what Ali prefers best. He is an adorable cat with every instinct to survive.

Servals have huge ears which function as dish antennae’s to locate prey. The long legs provide height for increased visual as well as the ability to make startlingly high pounces.

**SOKOKE CAT**

**Description:**

Sokoke has a sleek athletic body that is chiseled like that of the Cheetah. Its slender, hard muscled trunk, long legs and short head give it the appearance of a skilled predator. Coat is single layered and dense. It has a blotched tabby pattern with ticked hair and occurs in shades of brown. Head is flat at the top with alert, rounded ears and almond shaped slightly slanted green eyes.

**History:**

The original name of the Sokoke Cat breed was Khadzonzos. The Khadzonzos cats were discovered in the Sokoke-Arabuke forest, on the Kenyan coast, by Jeni Slater in 1978. Gloria Moeldrop, a friend of Slater's, brought some of the cats home with her to Denmark to breed. In 1990, she imported more cats from Kenya to strengthen the breeding stock.

The cats were first shown in Copenhagen in 1995.The breed was officially recognized by the FIFe in 1993 and renamed the Sokoke cat after the place from which they came.

**Speculation:**

There has been some speculation as to whether this is a domestic cat or a descendant of a wild cat that has domesticated itself.

**Classification:**

The Sokoke, the free-roaming street cats of the Kenya coastal area, and the Cats of Lamu Island have now been put into a small genetic branch of the Asian domestic Group with the Arabian Wildcat influence. These three types of cat share regional and genetic similarities but are very different in coloration and structure when looked at closely.

**Did you know?**

1. The original name **Khadzonzos** means "look like tree bark" in Giriama language.
2. Sokoke are very intelligent cats that are sensitive and react well to alternating moods and behavior patterns of humans.
3. The name changed to Sokoke, in 1993 after where they were discovered.

**WHITE TAILED MONGOOSE**

**Scientific Name**: Ichneumia albicauda

**Swahili Name**: Karambago

**Scientific classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Carnivora

Family : Herpestidae

Genus : Ichneumia,

Species : I. albicauda

**Description**: It is the largest species of mongoose. The head is very long and narrow and tapers to a point. Their large, rounded ears are set low on the sides of the head. It has a yellow to tan coloration on its body, with long black guard hairs, giving it an overall grizzled grey appearance. The base of the large, bushy tail is brownish yellow, and is white on the latter half.

**Distribution**: The white tailed mongoose lives in most of Africa south of the Sahara, and the southern portion of the Arabian Peninsula.

**Habitat**: They live in a wide range of habitats, from desert to savanna woodland, but seem to avoid moist.

**Diet:** feeds mostly on insects, but will feed on: Locusts, beetles, mole crickets, Rats, mice, shrews, lizards, snakes, small birds, fruits, berries and eggs of birds. They have been known to raid chicken houses.

**Life span**: Wild 8years and in captivity 20years.

**Reproduction**: *Gestation*: 60 days

*Weaning*: 9 months

*Breeding season*: once per year (February to May)

***Did you know?***

1. The genus name, Ichneumia, is derived from the Greek ichneumon, which means 'tracker'.The species name, albicauda, is derived from the Latin words albus, meaning 'white', and cauda, which means 'tail'.
2. Females have four mammae.
3. White tailed mongoose is solitary creatures.
4. If frightened, they will secrete a noxious substance from their anal glands and they do not stand on their hind feet for any length of time like other mongooses

**Rachael and Beatrice**

Rachael was rescued from Namanga and was brought to the orphanage o 25th October 2006 as a tiny baby.

**CHEETAH**

**Scientific Name***: Acinonyx jubatus*

**Swahili Name*:*** Duma

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Carnivora

Family : Felidae

Genus : *Acinonyx*

Species : ***A. jubatus***

**Description:** Cheetah’s fur is tan with round black spots measuring from 2 to 3 cm across, affording it some camouflage while hunting. There are no spots on its white underside, but the tail has spots, which merge to form four to six dark rings at the end. The cheetah has a small head with high-set eyes with “tear marks" running from the corner of its eyes down the sides of the nose to its mouth to keep sunlight out of its eyes and to aid in hunting and seeing long distances.

**Distribution:** There are several geographically isolated populations of cheetah, all of which are found in Africa or southwestern Asia

**Habitat**: Cheetahs are native to Africa and Asia The common habitat is grasslands, forests and desert-like plains.

**Diet**: small and larger game including antelope, zebra hares and rodents.

**Lifespan*:*** 12 years in the wild 20 years in captivity

**Gestation**: 3 months (90 days)

**Litter size**: average between 2 - 5 cubs **Weight*:*** 40 to 65 kg

**Speed** : 112 KM/P

**Height *:*** 2.3 - 2.8 ft

**Population**: Approx. 12,400 cheetahs remain in the wild. (Namibia has the most, with about 2,500)

***Do you know?***

1. Cheetahs were trained by man for hunting as long as 3000 BC
2. The name Cheetah comes from the Hindu word ''chita'' meaning 'spotted one'.
3. The genus name, *Acinonyx*, means "no-move-claw" in Greek, while the species name, *jubatus*, means "maned" in Latin, a reference to the mane found in cheetah cubs.

constantly active and enjoy the company of people.

The cats were brought in from Tsavo East National park on the 26th of August 2003, after they lost their mother when

**SPOTTED HYENA**

**Scientific Name***: Crocuta crocuta)*

**Swahili Name:** Nyangau/Fisi

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Carnivora

Family : Hyaenidae

Genus Species : *Crocuta crocuta* (from crocus - the color of saffron, and utus which means provided with)

**Description:** Coat is rough and short, color is reddish brown to tan, becoming lighter and less spotted with age, tail pompom and nose are black

**Distribution:** South of Sahara, except through areas with extreme desert conditions

**Habitat:** Spotted hyenas are found in grasslands, woodlands, savannas, subdeserts, forest edges and mountains.

**Size :** Male 79-86 cm

Female 84-89 cm

**Weight:** Male 56-63 kg

Female 67-90 kg

**Diet:** Carnivorous - wildebeest, zebra, Thomson's gazelle, Grant's gazelle, topi, buffalo

**Gestation:** 110 days or 4 months, average 2 young per litter but anywhere from 1-4, non-seasonal mating

**Sexual Maturity:** Approximately 3 years (Females mature later than males)

**Life Span:** Wild-12 years; Captivity- 25 years

***Do you know?***

1. Hyena lives in territorial social groups called clans. Clans are dominated by females and can reach up to 70 members.
2. The spotted hyena is the largest species of hyena. The other species are the brown hyena and the striped hyena.
3. Mistaken for hermaphrodites because; Female hyenas possess similar looking reproductive organs to males therefore accurate sexing can be difficult.

**SILVERBACKED JACKAL (BLACKBACKED)**

**Scientific Name**: *Canis mesomelas*

**Swahili Name***:* Bweha

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Mammalia Order : Carnivora Family : Canidae Genus : *Canis* Species : ***C. mesomelas***

**Description**: Jackal, a medium-sized carnivore with doglike features and a bushy tail. The black-backed jackal is easily recognized by the mantle of black hair on the back that contrasts with the rust-colored body. The black mantle is streaked with white and from a distance has a silvery appearance. The tail is black-tipped, as is that of the golden jackal.

**Distribution:** widely distributed in Africa, the Middle East and India

**Habitat:** Open and wooded savanna

**Diet:** Omnivorous/scavenger

**Size:** 15 to 20 inches at the shoulder

**Weight:** 6.5 – 13.5 kg

**Lifespan:** Wild- 8-10 years. Captivity 12-16 years

**Gestation:** About two months (60 days)

Litter size: 4 Weight at birth: 0.159 kg

**Sexual maturity:** Female- 309 days, Male-251 days

**Did you know?**

1. This animal has long been the subject of superstition about death and evil spirits. The ancient Egyptians believed a jackal-headed god, Anubis, guided the dead to those who judged their souls. Such beliefs were probably encouraged by the jackal's cleverness, nocturnal habits, eerie howling and scavenging.
2. Jackals are noisy. Family or pack members communicate with each other by a screaming yell and yapping, or a siren-like howl when a kill is located.
3. Jackals are very cunning and resourceful. Although usually considered scavengers-they do pick over kills made by large carnivores and frequent rubbish dumps-they also hunt and kill a variety of prey.

**NILE CROCODILE**

**Scientific Name*: Crocodylus niloticus***

**Swahili Name:** Mamba

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Reptilia

Order : Crocodylia

Family : Crocodylide

Genus Species **:***Crocodylus* (crocodile) *niloticus* (belonging to the Nile River)

**Description :** Large, lizard-shaped reptile with four short legs and a long muscular tail. The hide is rough and scaled.

**Size:** 5 m – 6m (16 ft- 20ft)

**Weight:** 225 kg up to 1000 kg

**Diet:** Up to 70% of the adult diet is fish. Other prey items may include zebras, hippos, porcupines, pangolins, and migrating wildebeest.

**Incubation :** 3 months

**Clutch Size** : 25-100 eggs.

**Sexual Maturity :** 10 years of age

**Life Span :** 45 years in the wild, 70-100 years in captivity

**Distribution :** Found throughout tropical and southern Africa and Madagascar

**Habitat :** Rivers, freshwater marshes, estuaries, and mangrove swamps

**Conservation Status:** USFWS -Endangered

***Did you know?***

1. A crocodile's ectothermic metabolism is extremely efficient; a large crocodile can survive for long periods of time between meals!
2. If baby crocodiles are in danger, the adult female may pick them up and flip them into her mouth or gular (throat) pouch for protection.
3. Nile crocodiles have Temperature-dependent sex determination (TSD), which means the sex of their hatchlings is determined not by genetics, but by the average temperature during the middle third of their incubation period. If the temperature inside the nest is below 31.7 °C (89.1 °F), or above 34.5 °C (94.1 °F), the offspring will be female. Offspring can be males if the temperature is within that narrow 5-degree range.

**BLACK & WHITE COLOBUS (GUEREZA)**

**Scientific name:** *Colobus guereza*

**Swahili name:** Mbega mweupe

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom **:** Animalia

Phylum **:** Chordata

Class **:** Mammalia

Order **:** Primates

Family **:** Cercopithecidae

Genus Species **:** *Colobus* (docked; they have very small thumbs, giving the appearance of being cut off) *guereza* (named for researcher)

**Description:** A small monkey with a U-shaped mantle of long white fur that descends from its shoulders and around its back. White fur surrounds their black face.

**Distribution:** Africa from West Nigeria to East Tanzania and Northern Ethiopia

**Habitat:** Primary and secondary forest, riverine forest, wooded grasslands; found at higher density logged forest than other primary forests

**Size:** Male-Head and body length = 67.5 cm, Tail length = 66.7 cm

Female- Head and body length = 61.5 cm, Tail length = 68.7 cm

**Weight:** Male; 10- 23 kg

Female; 8-9 kg

**Diet:** Herbivorous; leaves, fruit, flowers, twig

**Gestation:** 6 months

**Sexual Maturity:** 4-6 years

**Life Span:** Wild- 20 years. Captivity- 30 years

***Did you know?***

1. Baby colobus' are born completely white.

2. Ruminant-like digestive system has enabled leaf-eaters, such as colobus', to occupy niches that are inaccessible to other primates. They have a specially adapted stomach that is sacculated and supports bacterial colonies (for digestion of cellulose in their diet of leaves, unripe fruit, and seeds).

* 1. They live in territorial groups of approximately nine individuals, based upon a single male with a number of female and their offspring.

Two females and one male Colobus monkey at NSW came from Mt. Kenya Game Ranch. The male was brought in 1999 when he was adult.

**PATAS MONKEY**

**Scientific Name**: Erythrocebus patas)

**Swahili Name:** Tumbili

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Primates

Family : Cercopithecidae

Genus : Erythrocebus

Species : E. patas

**Description**: The Patas Monkey also known as the Wadi monkey is a ground-dwelling monkey. Patas monkeys grow to 85 cm (33 in) in length, excluding the tail, which measures 75 cm (30 in). Adult males are considerably larger than adult females.

**Distribution**: distributed over West Africa, and into East Africa.

**Habitats**: lives in more open savanna and semi-deserts, but avoids dense woodlands.

**Diet**: Omnivore. Acacia tree parts, fruit, grubs, insects, and small reptiles, seeds, and tubers.

**Lifespan**: 15-20 yrs, 20+ in captivity

**Sexual maturity**: around the age of 4 years

**Predators and Threats**: Lions, leopards, cheetahs, caracals, jackals, wild and domestic dogs, hyenas, and humans; habitat loss.

***Did you know?***

1. Patas is the world's fastest primate, can run on the ground at speeds up to 55 km per hour.
2. Patas monkeys walk on their fingers, not on their palms.
3. They have been called “the dancing monkey” because they jump when they are excited.
4. Patas monkeys can hold as much food in their cheeks as they can in their stomachs

**SYKES' MONKEY**

**Scientific Name**: Cercopithecus albogularis

**Swahili Name:** Nkima

**Scientific classification**

Kingdom : Animalia Phylum : Chordata Class : Mammalia Order : Primates Family : Cercopithecidae Genus : *Cercopithecus* Species : ***C. albogularis***

**Physical description Description:** A long tailed monkey with a grizzled brown, short coat, a bluish grey mantle over the shoulders, a black belly and limbs and a dark face with a pale yellowish 'diadem' on its forehead.

**Distribution**: North Western Angola to South Western Ethiopia and down through southern Africa.

**Habitat**: Rainforest and montane bamboo forest.

**Diet**: Fruit, flowers, nectar, leaves, shoot, insects, birds and small mammals (including bush babies).

**Gestation:** 5 months

**Size**: 49-66cm not including the tail,

**Weight**: females 4.3kg, males 7.9kg.

**Lifespan:** 20 years in captivity

**Behavior**

1. Blue monkeys live in groups of about 20-40, often with only one adult male. The females are often related.
2. The females will defend their territory against neighboring groups, with males only staying with the group between a few weeks and a couple of years at most.
3. Adult males make loud calls that are specific to the individual.

***Did you know?***

1. A single youngster is fully furred and with its eyes open.
2. The mother eats the placenta and licks the baby clean as it clings to her belly.
3. Male offspring leave the group when they reach sexual maturity

**VERVET MONKEY**

**Scientific Name:** Chlorocebus pygerythrus

**Swahili Name:** Tumbili

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Primates

Family : Cercopithecidae

Genus : Chlorocebus

Species : C. pygerythrus

**Description:** This small, black-faced monkey is common in East Africa as it adapts easily to many environments and is widely distributed. The face, ears, hands, feet and tip of the tail are black, but a conspicuous white band on the forehead blends in with the short whiskers. The males are slightly larger than the females and easily recognized by a turquoise blue scrotum and red penis.

**Distribution:** The Vervet Monkey ranges throughout much of Southern and East Africa, being found from Ethiopia, Somalia and extreme southern Sudan, to South Africa.

**Habitat**: Woodland, savanna and high bush.

**Size**: 18 to 26 inches.

**Weight**: Male; 4.8 kg. Female; 3.5 kg

**Lifespan**: 24 years in captivity.

12 years in wild.

**Diet**: Omnivorous

**Gestation**: 5 1/2 months

**Predators**: Leopard, eagle

**Did you know?**

1. Vervet monkeys living near areas inhabited by people can become pests, stealing food and other items and raiding crops. Good climbers, jumpers and swimmers, they often elude capture.
2. In sexual and dominance displays vervet monkeys run the gamut from shaking branches and jumping around to making a hard 'kek-kek-kek' sound to mark their territories.

**LESSER SPOTNOSED MONKEY**

(Exotic in Kenya)

**Scientific Name*:*** *Cercopithecus petaurista*

**Scientific classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Primates

Family : Cercopithecidae

Genus : *Cercopithecus*

Species : ***C. petaurista***

**Description:** This species has cheek pouches to carry food in while it forages. There is a white spot on the nasal area, thus the common name. **Distribution:** found in the countries of Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

**Habitat**: prefers thick, young secondary growth and riverine forests. **Diet:** leaves, insects, and shoots are also consumed.

**Weight**: Males between 4 up to 8 kg

Females between 4-up to 5 kg

**Life span**: Wild- 12 years Captivity- 20 -30 years

**Gestation:** 5- 7 months

**Behavior:**

1. Group sizes range from 15 to 20 individuals. This species is diurnal and arboreal.
2. The lesser white-nosed monkey has a unimale social system with a polygynous mating system.. When a male does try to immigrate into a group there is a high amount of competition amongst the males.
3. The males disperse from their natal groups in this species.

**Conservation Status**: IUCN- Least concerned

**Did you know?**

1. The lesser white-nosed monkey gives birth to a single offspring and Females are the ones who solicit copulation from the male
2. The lesser white-nosed monkey moves through the forest quadrupedally

**Benin**

This spot nosed monkey is named after his home Benin, in West Africa where he was captured and packed in a crate destined for Egypt, where he was to be sold along with other primates. However, when the plane landed in Kenya on transit, KWS confiscated the illegal shipment as there were no official transportation and sale documents for the primates.

**OLIVE BABOON**

**Scientific Name***: Papio anubis*

**Swahili Name**; Nyani

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia

Order : Primates

Family : Cercopithecidae

Genus : Papio

Species : P. anubis

**Description:** Olive baboons have a greenish-grey coat covering their bodies. Infants are born with a black natal coat that changes to the adult coloration as they age. Adult males have long hair forming a mane from the top of their heads through their shoulders and which gradually shortens down the back

**Distribution:** Equatorial Africa

**Habitat:** Baboons are generally characterized as savanna species, inhabiting open grassland near wooded areas

**Life span:** 25 to 30 years in wild. Up to 45 years in captivity.

**Diet:** It is omnivorous, finding nutrition in almost any environment, able to adapt with different foraging tactics

**Gestation:** 180 days (6 months)

**Sexual maturity**: Females are sexually mature at 7–8 years, and males at 7–10 years

**Height:** 70 cm (Male ), 60 cm (Female )

**Weight:** 24 kg (Male ), 14.7 kg (Female ) (wild)

**Did you know?**

1. The Olive Baboon is named for its coat, which, at a distance, is a shade of green-grey
2. Higher dominance means better access to mating and earlier access to food, so there is naturally a great deal of fighting over rank, with younger males constantly trying to rise in position
3. During ovulation, the skin of the female's anogenital area swells and turns a bright red/pink.

**BLACK MANGABEY**

**Scientific name:** *Lophocebus aterrimus*

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Mammalia Order : Primate Family : Cercopithecidae Genera : *Lophocebus* Species : *aterrimus*

**Description:** The molars of this species are long and the incisors are very large. The black mangabey has long limbs and a long tail.

**Distribution**: found in Angola and Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Habitat:** subtropical or tropical dry forests.

**Diet:** The black mangabey is primarily feeds on fruits and seeds, but also eats leaves, foliage, flowers, animal prey, and gum.

**Body length:** 15 to 35 inches (38 to 89 centimeters)

**Tail length:** 17 to 39 inches (43 to 100 centimeters)

**Weight:** 3 to 20 kilograms

**Life span:** up to 30 years in captivity. In wild unknown.

**Gestation:** 5½ to 6 months

**Age of maturity:** 4 to 5 years

**Conservation status**: all mangabey species are endangered.

**Did you know?**

1. Adult male mangabeys make a sound that biologists call a "whoop-gobble." The "whoop" gets the attention of other mangabeys in the area; the "gobble" tells everyone who and where he is. This unique call may be heard for a distance of up to one kilometer.
2. The mangabey was named for what Europeans thought was their homeland. The first shipment of these primates was labeled as coming from Mangabe, a port in Madagascar. But there are no mangabeys native to Madagascar!
3. The genus name *Lophocebus* means "crest monkey."
4. This species is arboreal and diurnal
5. The black mangabey moves through the forest in a quadrupedal manner
6. During estrus the anogenital region of the female swells and takes on a pink color.

**OSTRICH**

**Scientific Name**: *Struthio* camelus

**Swahili Name:** Mbuni

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Aves

Order : Struthioniformes

Family : Struthionidae

Genus Species : *Struthio* (ostrich) *camelus* (camel-like)

**Description:** Largest living bird.Males are jet black

with white plumage and bright red or blue skin. Females are fairly uniform in color, with earthy gray-brown plumage and skin color

**Distribution:** Common in the wild in East Africa

**Habitat:** Open country, desert areas, and dry savannah

**Size:** Approximate height 2.75 m

**Weight:** Up to 156.5 kg

**Diet:** Bulk of food is vegetation, fruit, seeds, leaves, shoots, shrubs, succulent plants; also invertebrates, occasionally lizards, and other small vertebrates. Stones are ingested to aid in digestion

**Incubation:** Approximately 40 days

**Sexual Maturity:** 3-4 years

**Life Span:** Approximately 40 years in managed situations, unknown in the wild

**Did you know?**

1. One ostrich egg equals up to 24 chicken eggs. And it takes approximately 2 hours to boil!

2. Ostriches can run up to 70 km/h and can outpace most pursuers, such as lions, leopards, and hyenas.

3. It is the largest and heaviest living bird. It is unable to fly and does not possess a keeled sternum (breastbone) common to most birds.

4. Ostriches stretch out their neck and lay their head on the ground to keep from being seen, hence the myth that ostriches hide in the sand.

5. Ostriches are so powerful that a single kick at a predator, such as a lion, could be fatal.

**HELMETED GUINEAFOWL**

**Scientific Name:** *Numida meleagris*

**Swahili Name:** Kanga

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Aves

Order : Galliformes

Family : Phasianidae

Genus Species : *Numida* (old Roman name for northwest Africa) *meleagris* (guinea-fowl)

**Description:** The head and neck of the helmeted guineafowl are bare, but there may be a wattle. The bill is short and stout; the body is stocky and black and dotted uniformly with white spots; and the wings are medium sized and rounded. The wattle on the male is much larger than on the female.

**Distribution:** Madagascar, Sudan, Kenya, and Uganda

**Habitat:** Inhabits forest, brush, and grassland

**Size:** Approximately 42.5-47.5 cm long

**Weight:** Up to 1.8 kg

**Diet:** Includes seeds, roots, tubers, grubs, rodents, small reptiles, and crawling insects; occasionally feeds on vegetation and fruits

**Incubation:** 26-28 days

Clutch Size 7-20 eggs

Fledging Duration 10 weeks

**Sexual Maturity:** Approximately 2 years

**Life Span:** Wild- 15 years. Captivity- 19 years.

***Did you know?***

1. The helmeted guinea fowl is capable of strong flight, but it is mainly terrestrial often choosing to run rather than fly. It typically roosts in trees.

2. Pairs remain monogamous. This diurnal bird calls with a rasping, stuttering, grating "keerrrr". Lives in flocks of up to hundreds of birds, and forages on open ground.

3. Guineafowl are both *monomorphic* and *monochromatic* - meaning both sexes look and act alike.

4. Guineafowl are found in Greek mythology. Meleagros was the son of Oeneus, king of Calydon. According to legend, upon his death, his sisters were transformed to guineafowl.

**VULTURINE GUINEAFOWL**

**Scientific Name:** *Acryllium vultrinum*

**Swahili Name:** Kanga

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Aves

Order : Galliformes [pheasants, partridges, turkeys, quail, and guineafowl]

Family : Numididae

Genus Species : *Acryllium* (small peak) *vultrinum* (vulture-like)

**Description:** Primarily bright blue body with black and white streaks and small white dots on the back feathers. They have a "horny" helmet on top of their naked heads. The head region is bright with blue, red, and yellow. The eyes are red and the beak is short and black. There is a band of tiny brown feathers on the back of its head.

**Distribution:** Eastern tropical Africa; can be found in the countries of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, E. Uganda, and N.E. Tanzania

**Habitat:** Dry desert areas with tall grass, patches of scrub, thorn bushes, and a few trees.

**Size:** 5. - 53 cm in length

**Weight:** about 1 kg

**Diet:** Seeds, roots, tubers, grubs, rodents, small reptiles, and crawling insects, occasionally vegetation and fruits

**Incubation:** 28 days

Clutch Size- 3-18 eggs

Fledging Duration- 10 weeks

**Sexual Maturity:** 2 years

**Life Span:** 10-15 years in wild. 20 years in captivity

**Did you know?**

1. The vulturine guineafowl is often referred to as the "royal guineafowl" because it tends to have the most striking appearance.

2. They are named for their bald head and neck, which resembles a vulture.

3. Both sexes have a very similar form and coloration. One effective way to distinguish the sexes is by observing each individual's body posture. The males tend to carry their heads high and attempt to look as big as possible. Females, on the other hand, tend to adopt a submissive posture.

4. These birds are excellent runners and rarely fly, with exception of reaching nocturnal roosting perches.

5. Nests may contain eggs from more than one hen; hens may share incubation duties.

6. These birds can survive long periods without water and tend to acquire the majority of their water requirements from the vegetation that they consume.

**CRESTED CROWNED CRANE**

**Scientific Name:** *Balearica pavonina*

**Swahili Name:** Korongo

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Aves

Order : Gruiformes

Family : Gruidae

Genus Species : *Balearica pavonina* (of a peacock; referring to the crown or crest)

**Description:** Large, long-legged birds, straight bills, long necks and elevated hind toe, bare pink or red and white cheek patch, golden feathery 'crown' protruding from back of head

**Distribution:** No data

**Habitat:** Open marshlands, grasslands, and swamps

**Size:** 110-130 cm

**Weight:** 3-4 kg

**Diet:** Grass seeds

**Incubation:** 28-36 days

Clutch Size 2-4 eggs

**Sexual Maturity:** No data

**Life Span:** Up to 25 years in captivity. in wild Unknown.

**Did you know?**

1. Unlike most cranes, crowned cranes lack folds in their windpipes making their voices very different from other cranes.

2. Crowned cranes occasionally roost in trees, a trait not seen in other cranes.

3. These cranes are often considered the living fossils of the crane family. They were able to survive the Ice Age in the savannas of Africa.

**AFRICAN GRAY PARROT**

**Scientific Name:** *Psittacu erithacus*

**Swahili Name:** Kasuku

**Scientific Classification**

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Aves

Order : Psittaciformes

Family : Psittacidae (true parrots)

Genus Species : *Psittacus* (parrot) *erithacus* (a solitary bird which can be taught to speak)

**Description:**

The male African gray looks similar to the female, but becomes darker with age. Females have a pale gray crown with dark gray edges (giving a scaly look), a gray body and scarlet tail feathers. The skin around the eye is naked and the beak is black.

**Distribution:** No data

**Habitat:** No data

**Size:** 30 cm

**Weight:** 400 g

**Diet:** Includes fruit, seeds, buds, nectar, and pollen; occasionally insects or other meat will be eaten

**Incubation:** 28 days

Clutch Size 2-4 eggs

Fledging Duration 12 weeks

**Sexual Maturity:** 4-7 years

**Life Span:** 50 years in captivity 23 years in wild

***Did you know?***

1. The African gray parrot is monogamous, nesting solitarily in a tree with a hole for her eggs.

2. One defense mechanism is fluffing up to look larger and biting.

3. The African gray is considered to be one of the most accomplished mimics. Parrots, when raised by humans, show an amazing ability to mimic people and noisy objects, but in the wild they have never been observed mimicking.