



BLACK WILDEBEEST

Connochaetes gnou



The male black wildebeest is much darker in color than the female. Both sexes become lighter in the summer and develop shaggier and darker coats in the winter. They have bushy beards and a mane that stands up from the neck instead of hanging down. The base of the black wildebeest's horns is widened and flattened to form a protective shield. Because a portion of their range extends into arid regions, they have adapted to be able to go for more than a day without water. These animals migrate in large herds and live in grasslands. They rarely seek shade and need little winter shelter.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The black wildebeest is approximately three to four feet in shoulder height and six to seven feet in length.

WEIGHT

The black wildebeests ranges between 250 and 400 pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The black wildebeest feed mainly on grasses and other vegetation.

HABITAT

The black wildebeest prefers open grasslands with an adequate water supply.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The black wildebeest can be found in the grasslands and shrublands of northeastern South Africa.

FUN FACT

White settlers almost drove these animals into extinction because they viewed them as pests and because they valued their tails for use as flyswatters.