



BLESBOK

Damaliscus dorcas



The blesbok is easily recognized by the white blaze from that extends from its forehead to its nostrils, broken by a narrow brown bar between the eyes. The blesbok is now extinct in its native habitat, but is surviving on game farms and in wildlife refuges. In the wild they occur in grasslands of highveld with permanent water and coastal plains. When water is available, they drink at least once a day, although they can survive without direct water for several days. They are most active during the early morning and late afternoon. In very hot weather, the blesbok may stand facing the sun, head down. Unlike most antelope, the blesbok is not a good jumper.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The blesbok reaches about three feet in height at the shoulder and averages approximately five feet in length.

WEIGHT

The blesbok ranges between 120 and 175 pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The blesbok is a grazing animal that shows a preference for short grasses.

HABITAT

The blesbok prefers to live in open grasslands with an abundant source of water.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The blesbok is only found in South Africa.

FUN FACT

The word “blesbok” is a derivative of the Afrikaans words for “blazed antelope,” which is in reference to the white blaze found on their face.