



AFRICAN (CAPE) BUFFALO

Syncerus caffer



The cape buffalo is an aggressive, powerful, and fast animal that can run at speeds of up to 35 miles an hour. Cape buffalo have few natural predators and are capable of defending themselves against (and sometimes killing) lions, who will attack only old, sick, or immature buffalo. The leopard is a threat only to newborn calves. The horn span of the cape buffalo can exceed three feet. In males, the two horns are joined by a boss, which is a shield that covers the entire head. The color of buffalo hair ranges from brown to black. Young buffalos have a dense covering of hair; adults have sparse hair; and very little hair is present on very old individuals.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The cape buffalo ranges from four to six feet in shoulder height and six to nine feet in length.

WEIGHT

The cape buffalo ranges between 1,100 and 2,000 pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The cape buffalo is herbivorous and typically grazes on various grasses. They also only drink water once each day.

HABITAT

The cape buffalo is found in areas with rivers, lakes, and swamps. They are found at sea level as well as in mountainous altitudes. Cape buffaloes like dense cover, but are found in open woodlands as well.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The cape buffalo is found in the middle of the African continent. This range stretches from just south of the Sahara to just north of South Africa.

FUN FACT

Cape buffalo are extremely social and live in large, mixed herds of up to 2,000 animals.