



HARTEBEEST

Alcelaphus buselaphus

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The hartebeest is 3.5 to 5 feet tall at the shoulder and 5 to 8 feet long.

WEIGHT

The hartebeest ranges in weight from 165 to 440 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Hartebeests are grazers that feed almost entirely on grass.

HABITAT

Savannas and grasslands.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Open grassland and bush regions throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

FUN FACT

There is evidence that the hartebeest once was domesticated by the ancient Egyptians and used as a sacrificial animal.



Hartebeests are social animals that live in organized herds of up to 300 animals. They have been known to form aggregations of up to 10,000 animals. Females within a herd form groups of 5 to 12 animals with up to four generations of offspring in their group. Hartebeests are usually conspicuous and sedentary. They may have a sentinel to warn the herd of predators. Hartebeests rely primarily on their vision to spot predators, and they snort to warn each other of approaching danger. Although appearing slightly awkward, they may reach speeds of up to 50 mph.

