



TOPI (TSESSEBE)

Damaliscus lunatus tsessebe



The tsessebe is a subspecies of the topi that is found in south-central Africa. Topis in general are territorial animals. Most territories support two to six females and their young. Some females may occupy the same male's territory for up to three years. All territories contain high vantage points, or mounds. Males use these mounds for territorial displays, and females use the mounds as a way to alert others of danger. Territorial males have exclusive rights to the females on their territory. When the bull is absent, the highest ranking female takes over the position of leader and is in charge.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The topi stands 3.3 to 4.3 tall at the shoulder and is 5 to 7 feet in length.

WEIGHT

The topi weighs between 200 and 350 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The diet of topis is composed almost entirely of grass.

HABITAT

Topis prefer grassland habitats. These areas range from large treeless plains to bush and tree savannas.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The topi is segregated into several separate populations. These populations extend from the northern savanna to east and southern Africa. The tiang subspecies is found in south-central Africa .

FUN FACT

Both male and female topis like to rub their heads on the ground (to spread scent from their facial glands), roll in the earth, and stir up mud with their horns.