



African Lion

Panthera leo

Geographical Range: The African lion can be found in Africa, south of the Sahara desert.

Habitat: African lions prefer to live in grassy plains and open woodlands.

Exhibit Location: The African lion exhibit is located outdoors near the Siberian Tiger exhibit and adjacent to the Reptile house.

Physical Characteristics: The Lion is the largest African cat. Height at the shoulder is 3 feet and the length (without tail) can reach six feet. Weight is from 270-500 pounds. The fur is uniform in length and tan in color for camouflage. The tail is tufted. The conspicuous mane is found only on the mature males. The African lion has a longer mane and heavier build than the Asian lion.

Diet: In the wild, African lions feed on zebra, wildebeest and antelope. In captivity, they are fed a commercially prepared feline diet on a daily basis. They are given fresh, hard bones once a week.

Did you know?

- Lions eat every 2-3 days when prey is plentiful. Adult males can consume about 50 pounds at one time.
- Fact: A remnant population of this species of lion exists in India's Gir Forest. There are 200-300 lions in this sanctuary. They are totally protected by law, but the native people are slowly encroaching on the lions' natural habitat because of man's domestic stock food requirements.

Status: Internationally endangered or threatened (CITES), SSP