



LORD'S DERBY ELAND

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Artiodactyla Family: Bovidae

Taurotyagus oryx

Description: The Eland is the largest antelope. Its beige-brown coat turns gray with age. It has white stripes running across the shoulders and a black stripe down the back.

Length: 6-11.5 feet

Height: 4-6 feet

Weight: 1,500 pounds. Some bulls can weigh over 2,000 pounds.

Lifespan: 8-10 years in the wild and 15 years in captivity.

Habitat: Plains with scrub or scattered trees for cover.

Range: Primarily in National Parks in Eastern and Southern Africa

Diet in the Wild: Foliage, fruit and some grasses.

Status: Endangered. Population has been drastically reduced by hunting, agriculture and disease.



Special Features:

- The spiral horns can grow up to 2 ½ feet in females and 3 ½ feet in males.
- The bulls have a dark, tufted forehead and often a white chevron between the eyes.
- Both sexes have a short, tufted neck man. A dewlap at the base of the throat has a tuft of black hairs and is conspicuous in old bulls.
- Live in loose herds of 25-70 animals. Old bulls are often solitary.
- Since it roams widely in search of food, it is not territorial and does not defend its home range.
- Although placid, shy and generally silent, it is always alert and barks a gruff alarm to warn of danger.
- When foraging, the Eland moves constantly. As it moves, the Eland makes a clicking noise that is probably caused by the two halves of each hoof striking together.
- Horns are used to knock down branches.
- When food is scarce the Eland paws the ground to dig up roots and bulbs.
- It can go long periods without water surviving on moisture in its food. It will drink brackish water replenishing its body with salt and essential minerals.
- In Russia and Zimbabwe, the Eland is domesticated and valued for its hide, rich milk and tender flesh. It is also used as a beast of burden.

Breeding/Care of Young:

- Sexual maturity in females is 3 years and males 4 years.
- Gestation is 8-9 months.
- Usually single birth.
- The calf is born without horns.
- The newborn calf remains hidden for two weeks. Then it follows the herd, bleating to stay in touch.
- Weaned in 4-5 months.

