



SPRINGBOK (SPRING BUCK)

Kingdom: Animalia **Phylum:** Chordata **Class:** Mammalia **Order:** Artiodactylia **Family:** Bovidae

Antidorcas marsupialis

Description: The springbok is a strikingly marked, gazellelike antelope. It has a white face with dark stripes from the mouth to the eyes, a reddish-brown coat that turns to a darker shade resembling a black stripe and then to white on the lower third of its body, and a white backside. (The ones in the museum are bred to be white.)

Status: endangered

Habitat: Open, dry savannas and grasslands

Range: Southern Africa from the Republic of South Africa northward through Namibia, Botswana and Angola

Diet in the Wild: Young tender grasses or low shrubs and other succulents

Length: 48-56 inches

Height: 29-35 inches

Weight: up to 100 pounds

Lifespan: 10 years in the wild

Special Features:

- Both males and females have curved, black-ringed horns. The males are up to 19 inches long while the females are smaller.
- A pocket-like flap of skin lined with white hair extends from the middle of the back to the rump. When excited or frightened, this flap turns inside out revealing a crest of erect white hairs along the back (“stotting”). This warns other member of the herd of danger.
- “Pronking” is a specialized type of gazelle-jumping behavior that springboks display. When pronking they can leap up to 13 feet in the air with their body curved and the legs stiff.
- They can run up to 55 miles per hour.
- Young males have been known to accidentally lock horns during territorial fights or play and not be able to become unhooked.
- They drink water only when it is available. During droughts they seek out flowers for moisture since it holds more than grass.
- During times of extreme drought massive herds numbering up to 1 million will move outside their normal range. This is called trekbokken.
- The springbok is the sporting emblem of the Republic of South Africa

Breeding/Care of Young:

- Gestation is 6 months
- Single offspring
- Weaned after 6 months
- Reproduce every two years
- Females mature at 1 year old and males at 2 years old.

