

# Bontebok

## *Damaliscus pygargus*



Range: South Africa

Size: ♂: 95-105 cm (37-41 in)

♀: 90-100 cm(35-39in)

Weight ♂:68-86 kg(203-238lbs)

♀: 56 kg(123-154 lbs)

Horns: 37cm (2-5 in)

Habitat: Grasslands

Estrus: several days

Estrus cycle: 21-22 days

Gestation : 32 weeks

Litter: 1

Weaning: 16-20 weeks

Sexual maturity: 19 months

Lifestyle: Terrestrial

Activity: Diurnal

Social:multi-female herd 2-4  
adults males solitary

Breeding: polygynous

Movement :generally sedentary

Food: leaves fruit pods of  
succulents

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : 2

Longevity: captive: 18 yrs

Wild: n/a

Order: Artiodactyla Family: Bovidae

At one time the Bontebok and Blesbok were considered separate species but today they are considered subspecies with the Bontebok *D. p. pygargus* and the Blesbok *D. p. philipsi*. The subspecies have distinct ranges that do not overlap.

The bontebok is a nomadic animal migrating with the seasonal rains. It is a diurnal grazer feeding on grass in small female herds of up to ten individuals. Males live in larger bachelor herds. The males defend established territories. The reduction of its natural range has caused the bontebok to become more sedentary. Both males and females possess spiral shaped horns but the males are stouter. Males use their horns defend their territory against other males.

*The lesser kudu* lives in the semi-arid bush utilizing the heavy thicket for cover. Having a slender body this antelope can maneuver through the thorny underbrush easily. The diet of leaves and fruit of water storing succulents provide the lesser kudu with enough water that it rarely drinks.