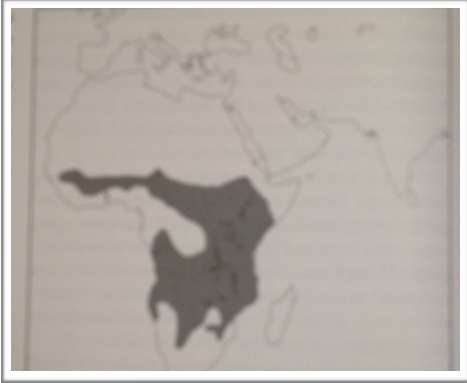


Lion

Panther leo



Range: Sub-Saharan Africa and
Gir Forest in India

Size: ♂: 170-250 cm (66-98 in)

♀: 140-175 cm (55-96 in)

Weight : ♂: 150-225 kg (330-496 lbs)

♀: 120-182 kg (264-400 lbs)

Tail: 90 cm

Habitat: every habitat except
desert

Estrus cycle: 46 days

Estrus length: 3-14

Gestation: 100-114 days

Litter: 1-3 usually 2

Weaning : 4 months

Sexual maturity: 33-50 months

Social: prides containing 2-7
males and 4-12 females

Food: small to large mammals

IUCN: Vulnerable

Subspecies : 2 possibly 5

Longevity: captive: 20 yrs
wild : 15 yrs

Order: Carnivora Family: Felidae

The only true social big cat lions live in groups known as prides. In the Asian subspecies prides are made up of related females with their offsprings. Solitary males join the pride only during breeding. In Africa prides are much larger with males forming coalitions of up to seven individuals joining prides with as many as a dozen females. Young males leave their natal pride and form coalitions made up of related males or other males from the same pride. Occasionally single males will join an established coalition. Often violent conflict occurs when a new coalition attempts to oust the resident males from a pride. If successful the new males will kill the infants in the pride. Male will stay with a pride anywhere from a few months to several years.

Lions are a stalk and ambush predator with females doing most of the hunting. Vegetation provides concealment for the lion as they stalk prey. Although females may hunt alone they are much more successful hunting in groups. Research has shown that individuals will occupy the same "position" during separate hunts. Lion can eat large amounts of food at

one time. Males have been recorded eating 33 kg in a single night and females 25 kg.