

ANIMAL FUN FACTS

THE KUDU

The kudu is part of the antelope family. Kudu males have long, twisted horns. Females do not.

A kudu male weighs about 500 to 800 pounds, while the female kudu weighs around 400 to 500 pounds.

Their life span is from 7 to 8 years in the wild.

Kudu's primarily eat leaves, grass, and roots. They occasionally eat fruit and tubers. They live in bushy, rocky hillsides and dry riverbeds.

A kudu's gruff bark is the loudest, most resounding sound of all antelopes.

A kudu female forms a herd, which is 24 animals in the group. The kudu male is a solitary animal who joins the herd only to breed.

The kudu male's majestic long twisted horns allow them to spar with other males in efforts to prove their dominance. When two males are sparring, their horns become interlocked. While fighting, they turn and shove in efforts to knock the other male off balance enough to be knocked down. It has been reported that kudus have been found with their horns hopelessly locked together, even unto death.

As they mature, tradition says male Kudus grow long, majestic, twisting horns to represent the good choices they have made when faced with hard, unexpected twists of fate.

Kudu's go for long periods without drinking water. They can do so because they absorb water from the plants that they eat. Kudus seek shelter and rest during the hottest part of the day. They eat and drink during the cooler morning and early evening hours.

Kudus have to be continually on guard for the dangers of predators. Wild dogs, leopards, lions and hyenas prey upon adult male kudus. Cheetahs prey upon females and the young.



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