

Grant's Zebra

Equus quagga boehmi

Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Perissodactyla*



Family: *Equidae*

Characteristics: Grant's zebras are a common subspecies of plains zebras. There are 6 distinct subspecies of plains zebra, but none are genetically different from the others. (IUCN) Zebras are best known for their unique striped pattern with black or dark brown and white or off-white colors. The stripes of a Grant's zebra cover the entire body including the legs and face. The mane is short and stands straight up. Grant's zebras can be up to 5 feet tall at the shoulder and weigh up to 800 lbs. (Buffalo Zoo)

Behavior: Zebras are social animals that live in large herds. The herds migrate, graze, and even groom together. Plains zebras live in smaller family groups within the herd consisting of one male and several females with their young (National Geographic). Zebras are constantly wary of predators like lions or hyenas. The herd will adjust its speed to accommodate slower individuals and come to the aid of a zebra that is wounded.

Reproduction: Plains zebras reach sexual maturity from 2-3 years of age. There is a 340-390 day gestation period in captive breeding programs. The female will give birth to a single foal. The foal is precocious and can run within an hour of birth. The mothers are very protective for the first few weeks to ensure that the foal does not imprint on another individual or large object (Princeton).

Diet:

Wild: Zebras are grazers and feed almost entirely on tall grasses (Buffalo Zoo).

Zoo: Hay and an adult/senior equine pelleted grain supplement

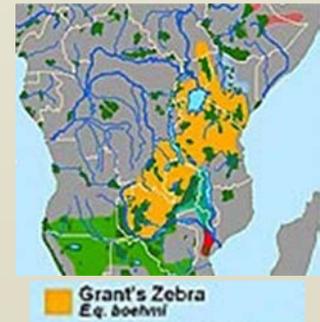
Conservation: Plains Zebras are abundant in Africa and breed particularly well in captivity. IUCN Redlist upgraded the plain's zebra in 2016 to near threatened due to illegal hunting of zebras. There is a SSP breeding program for plains zebras. The zebra population is declining. Habitat loss and over-hunting are the main factors contributing to population decline. Two species of zebra are already extinct due to human factors.

FYI: A zebra's stripes are different for every individual, just like a human fingerprint. A foal can even identify its mother by her stripe pattern.



Range & Habitat:

Found in parts of Zambia, DR Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia. They live in mostly grassland habitat.



Lifespan: up to 30 years in captivity, 20 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Zebras have striped fur in a disruptive coloration pattern. The stripes make it hard for predators to distinguish one individual from another, especially at dawn and dusk.

IUCN Conservation Status:
Near Threatened

