

# ZEBRA, HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN



## RANGE:

Southwest Africa and western Angola.

## HABITAT:

Dry stony mountains and semi desert of southwest Africa.

## SIZE:

Forty-seven to 51 inches at the shoulder. Weight is 600 pounds. Males are 10% larger than females.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY:

15 to 30 years.

## REPRODUCTION:

Gestation period is 300 to 365 days. Usually bear one foal which is up and about within an hour after birth.

## DIET:

**Wild:** Tough, tall grasses

**Zoo:** Timothy hay, oats, and alfalfa.

## BEHAVIOR:

- Live in bachelor herds or permanent family herds of 5 to 15 mares and foals led by a stallion who protects the herd and keeps it together.
- Different rump patterns, which are characteristic for each species, help keep the group together as they travel in follow-the-leader fashion.
- They graze on tufted grass in the morning and late afternoon, resting under thorn bushes during the heat of the day.
- Their voice is a low snuffing neigh or whinny like a horse's.
- In the Namib desert Hartmann's zebras sniff out water and paw 3 feet down below the sand of dry river beds to uncover it, thus benefiting many desert animals.
- A zebra's moods are often indicated visually by changes in ear, mouth and tail positions.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

- No two zebra's stripe patterns are identical. This makes it easier for members of a herd to recognize each other but harder for their main predator, the lion, to single one out.
- This species has a distinctive flap of skin, a dewlap, on the underside of their neck.
- They have a deep chest to allow for breathing while running swiftly.
- They have high, narrow hooves for sure footing in rocky terrain.
- Their heart weighs 3 times that of a Plains zebra to accommodate the increased number of oxygen-carrying red blood cells needed in a high altitude environment.
- They can go 4 days without water.
- Lions, hyenas, wild dogs, cheetahs and leopards prey on zebras, but man is the most deadly of all predators.
- Zebras outside reserves are killed for their decorative hides and fly whisk tails.
- To evade a predator the Hartmann's mountain zebra can gallop up to 40 miles per hour and jump a 6 foot wall.

## STATUS:

CITES Appendix II

## REFERENCES:

Horses, Asses, and Zebras. Encyclopedia of Mammals. (Barnes & Noble, Inc.), 1999; 482.  
Odd-toed Ungulates-Zebras. Encyclopedia of Animals. (Fog City Press), 1993; 178.



photo by Laura Lamb

Order:	<b>Perissodactyla</b>
Family:	<b>Equidae</b>
Genus:	<b>Equus</b>
Species:	<b>zebra</b>
Subspecies:	<b>hartmannae</b>