

# LION



Conservation Status:  
**Vulnerable**

## Scientific Classification

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: *Panthera*

Species: *leo*

Subspecies:

*Panthera leo* (African)

*Panthera leo persica* (Asian)



## FAST FACTS

**Weight:** 265 - 550 pounds

with males being larger than females

**Length:** 4 ½ - 8 ½ feet (not including the tail)

**Height:** 4 feet at the shoulder

**Life Span:** Average 15 years in the wild, up to 30 in captivity

**Gestation:** 4 months

**Number of young:** average of 3 to 4 in a litter

**Range:** Today the Asian Lion is only found in the Gir Forest in India. The African Lion is now mainly found in sub-Saharan regions of Africa.

**Diet:** Carnivore, eats zebra, antelope, wildebeest and other African animals

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Swahili word for lion is simba, meaning “king,” “strong,” and “aggressive.”
- A lion can spend up to 21 hours a day lying around and napping.
- Lions are the only cats who live in large groups, called a pride, consisting of 3 to 30 lions.

## Ecology & Conservation

Habitat loss and conflicts with humans are the lion's greatest threats. The lion's natural habitat is now only found in protected reserves and little is known about where lions go or what they do outside of the park boundaries.