



Grant's Zebra *Equus burchelli*

Geographical Range: These African mammals are widespread throughout the continent and are found in southern Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

Habitat: This marvelously striped animal is commonly found inhabiting open areas of the African savanna. Since they are grazers they are restricted to savanna and grassland habitats which are flat open plains, grassy, or at least have sufficient vegetation to sustain a grazing animal.

Exhibit Location: Our Grant's zebras can be found in the African section of the Zoo directly behind the Reptile House.

Physical Characteristics: This horse-like animal can stand as tall as 56 inches high at the shoulder and weigh up to 800 pounds. Its most distinguishing characteristic is its striping pattern; black or dark brown stripes on a white or off white background. Their stripes are rather broad and distinct which meet under the belly and continue through to the hooves. The Grant's zebra possesses a tufted tail and a stiff upright mane

Diet: In the wild, they are grazers and feed almost entirely on tall coarse grasses. In captivity, Grant's zebras are fed Timothy hay, monogastric sweet feed and a vitamin supplement which is added to their food.

Did you know?

- The patterns of their distinctive stripes are as individual as a human fingerprint.
- Grant's zebra herds are very cooperative; a migrating group will adjust their speed to accommodate the slowest member of the herd.
- Within several minutes of its birth, a newborn zebra begins to walk, and within just a few hours is capable of running with the rest of the herd.
- If forced to face a predator, a zebra will defend itself with powerful kicks. Just one strong, well-placed kick from a zebra is sufficient to kill a predator as large as a hyena.
- Humans are the predators responsible for the decline of large numbers of zebras. By hunting for their skins and meat, and by taking over their habitat, we have driven two zebra species to extinction.

Status:

Zebras are fairly abundant, especially in game parks and reserves. Nevertheless, zebras suffer from the spread of agriculture, which removes large amounts of grassland for farm use. Numbers are stable at this time.