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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Zebra

Our three male zebras arrived at Australia Zoo in June 2011 from Werribee Open Range Zoo.

The unique stripes of zebras make these among the animals most familiar to people. They occur in a variety of habitats, such as grasslands, savannas, woodlands, thorny scrublands, mountains, and coastal hills.

Zebra

Zebras are African equids best known for their distinctive black and white stripes which come in different patterns unique to each individual. They are generally social animals that live in small harems to large herds. Unlike their closest relatives, horses and asses, zebras have never been truly domesticated.

Habitat

The plains zebra is the most common and geographically widespread species of zebra. It ranges from the south of Ethiopia through East Africa to as far south as Angola and eastern South Africa. The plains zebra remains common in game reserves, but is threatened by human activities such as hunting for its meat and hide, as well as competition with livestock and encroachment by farming on much of its habitat.

Diet

Zebras feed almost entirely on grasses, but may occasionally eat shrubs, herbs, twigs, leaves and bark. Their digestive systems allow them to subsist on diets of lower nutritional quality than that necessary for other herbivores.

Breeding

Female zebras mature earlier than the males, and a mare may have her first foal by the age of three. Males are not able to breed until the age of five or six. Mares may give birth to one foal every twelve months. She nurses the foal for up to a year. Like horses, zebras are able to stand, walk and suckle shortly after they are born. A zebra foal is brown and white instead of black and white at birth.

Australia Zoo Zebra profiles

Stevie

I came to Australia Zoo in June 2011 all the way from Werribee Open Range Zoo in Victoria, along with my two mates, Michael and Zac. I am the oldest of the three zebra here and I was born in 1991. Because I'm the only stallion in the group, I'm the more dominant leader in our little herd, but I make sure I'm not too bossy, and the other two are happy to let me be the big man!
When you're up close to me, you can notice small white dots on my chest within one of my black stripes. I love having my photo taken - whenever there is a camera in sight, I will always be up front showing off my good looks.

Endangered Species!

Very low numbers are left in the wild. Zebra are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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