

# Grant's Zebra

**Scientific Name:** *Equus quagga boehmi*

**Class:** Mammalia

**Order:** Perissodactyla

**Family:** Equidae



Grant's zebra is a northern subspecies of the Upper Zambezi zebra (*Equus quagga zambeziensis*). It is the smallest of the seven subspecies of the plains zebra. It is vertically striped in front, horizontally on the back legs, and diagonally on the rump and hind flanks. Shadow stripes are absent. Northerly specimens may lack a mane. They grow to be about four and a half feet tall and weigh about six hundred pounds. These zebras have excellent eyesight and hearing and can run up to forty miles per hour.

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## Range

The range of this subspecies is the eastern and southern Africa.

## Habitat

They live in the grasslands and savannas and some woodlands.

## Gestation

Gestation is twelve to thirteen months.

## Litter

One foal is born at the weight of about seventy pounds. It will nurse until sixteen months old. The foal can walk twenty minutes after being born. They are mature at about four years of age and have a median life expectancy of thirty years.

## Behavior

Zebra live in family groups of up to eighteen zebra and are led by a single stallion. Territories held by male zebras are amongst the largest known of herbivores. The lead male stays near the rear of the harem to defend against predators. They can run up to forty miles an hour. They communicate with facial expressions and sounds. They also groom each other. Their teeth grow throughout their lifetime.

## Reproduction

The female zebra spends most of her life either pregnant or raising foals. Females have two to nine estrus periods every nineteen to thirty-three days. Since they are social animals they do not form permanent herds but loose associated groups of many families.

## Wild Diet

Zebras feed almost entirely on grasses but may occasionally eat shrubs, herbs, twigs, leaves, and bark.