

African Lion

by **ZANE**



Lions live in Africa or in zoos. The scientific name for lions is *panthera ico*.

Lions are not dark in color. They're a brownish tan. Only the male lions have a mane. A mane is really long fur around the whole head.

Lions normally live for 20 years in the wild. When they live at the zoo, they can live about 24 years.

Lions live in grassy lands. They roam over large areas. These cats live in prides which are large groups of 15 lions. The male cats are from 350-550 pounds. The females are much smaller at 250-300 pounds. Their babies are called cubs. A mother cat can have 3-4 cubs at one time.

Lions are mammals. They are warm-blooded animals. They eat other animals like zebras, buffalo, or wild hogs.

Lions are fast runners. They can only run for a small amount of time before getting really tired. They normally run fast when trying to catch another animal for a meal.