



African Lions

Panthera Leo



Azizi

Swahili for “precious” or “treasure”

I was born July 28th, 2011 in Tucson, AZ and **I came to the Racine Zoo in October of 2012** and since then I have had many cubs, including Zuri!

You can tell me and Zuri apart because I’m shorter, darker, I have upside-down teardrop markings near my eyebrows; I often spend time near the guest viewing window

Zuri Saba

Swahili for “beautiful seven”

I was born July 7th, 2014 in Racine, WI!



My full name is Zuri Saba, but you can just call me Zuri. Azizi is my mom. You can tell us apart because I am taller, lighter colored, and I have vertical line markings near my eyebrows

LIONS AT A GLANCE



- Tongue *papillae* (or barbs) allow lions to clean meat off their prey as well as groom themselves and each other.
- In the wild, lions eat large mammals, birds, and rodents
- At the zoo, our lions love their meatballs
- Sharp claws are hidden until they are needed
- Golden brown fur helps lions blend in with their environment
- Cubs are born with spots to better assist with camouflage, and some individuals retain these spots faintly into adulthood.

Female:

4.6-5.7 ft

Male:

5.6-8.3 ft

330-570 lbs

270-400 lbs

Neck mane
(mostly
males)



27-41 inch tail

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: 12-16 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care: 25 years

WHERE ARE NATIVE LION HABITATS LOCATED?



African lions have historically lived throughout most of the African continent. Today, their range is mostly limited to small isolated populations in protected areas of sub-Saharan Africa. Although referred to as "kings of the jungle," they actually live in thick bush, grassland, and open woodland habitats.

Lion Behaviors

SLEEPING

Lions sleep up to 22 hours a day. It takes a lot of work for lions to hunt prey, so they sleep during the day to save their energy for nighttime hunting.

If we're sleeping, that means we're feeling safe and comfortable.



ROARING

I'm announcing my presence. Lions roar to mark their territory and to communicate with other lions in the area. A lion's roar can be heard 5mi/8km

We often roar before mealtime.



STALKING

I'm working to feed my family. Females are responsible for hunting for their pride, so they will work together to bring food home to share with everybody.

Don't be surprised if we try sneaking up on you.



PACING

Lions will walk along the boundaries of their territory and mark it with urine to make sure no intruders come causing trouble.

If you see us pacing, we may be patrolling our territory or excited to eat.

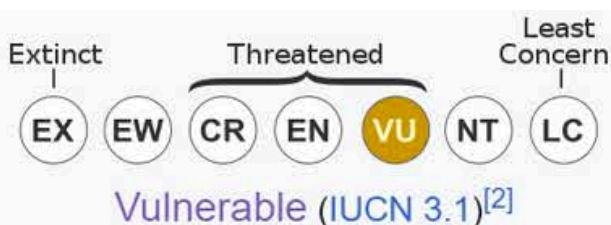


- Lions form social groups, called **prides**. Prides may average 6-8 lions, and include a couple males, some females, and their cubs. Family members are very affectionate, with lots of face rubbing, licking, and purring.
- Females will help raise each other's cubs, who stay with the family for around 2 years. After that, male cubs are kicked out by mom to form groups together or start their own prides. Our lions are a mother-daughter pair, so it is right in line with their natural behavior that they remain together as adults.
- Though the lion is the top predator in the savannah, it does face some competition with hyenas and other animals. Lions have been known to actively kill hyenas and vice versa.

African Lion Conservation

Predators like lions are very important to their habitat. Predators disperse rich nutrients and influence the structure of ecosystems by regulating the food chain.

Lions are currently listed as **vulnerable** due to a number of human-wildlife conflict issues. Besides being hunted by humans, lions also suffer from habitat loss, climate change, and loss of prey.



How can we help?

We can help lions by not supporting any organization that offers interactions with lion cubs. Petting cubs often supports the irresponsible capture of wild lions.

We can also help other predators where we live by never using poison traps for pests. Carnivores like lions often fall victim to poison when they eat infected animals.