



**RED HARTEBEEST**



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# Red Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus caama*)

**Afrikaans:**

Rooihartbees

**German:**

Rote Kuhantilope

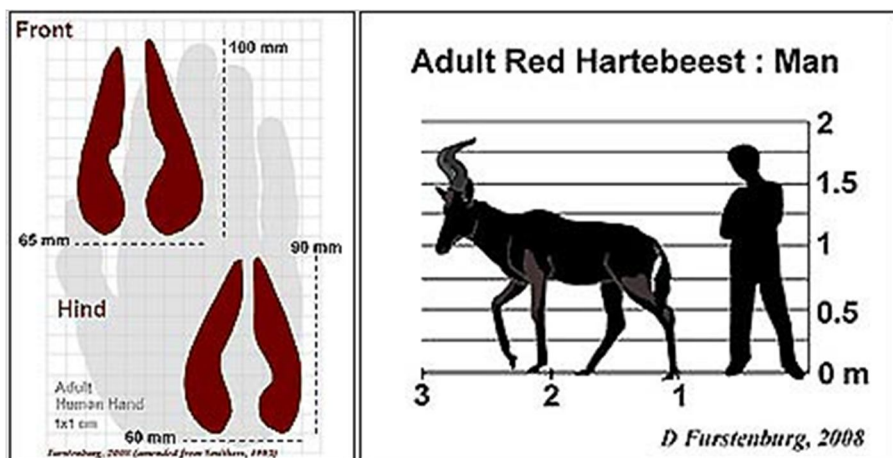
**French:**

Bubale

## Description

A semi-large antelope resembling something between a cattle and a buck, with high standing front quarters and much lower hind quarters. The face and the frontal bone of the skull are abnormally elongated compared to other African antelope. The head and neck are normally held high while not grazing. Body colour vary from yellowish-grey to dark brown. The neck, shoulders and fore part of the back is darker than the rest of the body, and the buttocks a light cream-brown, and an almost black, blaze on the forehead and muzzle. The shoulders and the front of the upper legs may turn dark in adults. The underside is a faded cream-white.

## Comparison To Man



## Trophy

Both sexes bear well-developed horns although those of the bulls are distinctly thicker than those of the cows. They are situated on a pedicle that is raised high above the forehead giving the face a long appearance. When viewed from the front the horns are V-shaped, but from the side are lyre-shaped. They are heavily grooved from the base but the tips are smooth. With post-adult ageing, the grooves on the anterior side weather and become smooth and the horn ends wear away, shortening their length. The best trophy status is found with bulls between 8-11 years. The horn shape differs significantly between the different hartebeest subspecies. Extant hartebeest hybrids are not recognised for trophy registration.

## Habitat requirement

Suitable habitat varies from arid desert-like sandveld, rainfall less than 250 mm/year, to karroid succulent veld, savannah woodland and montane grassland Highveld, rainfall 900 mm. Red hartebeest adapt well to temperate coastal regions, to the cold snaps of highland winters of the Free State and the Eastern Cape and to hot, arid environments. The most essential parameter is a wide diversity of grass species with an intermediate height of 12-35 cm. Both sweetveld and mixedveld habitats are optimal but sourveld is marginal to unsuitable. Most preferred is an annual rainfall of 300-450 mm with open woodland and mixedveld savannah, predominantly found on foot slopes of mountains and in plains with low undulating hills. Open grass areas in woodland, floodplains, the fringes of marshlands and semi-deserts are all suitable, but closed woodland, thickets, riverine bush and forests are avoided. Red hartebeest are predominantly crawlers that climb underneath fences.