

**Springbuck Species (Common, White and Black)**



**White SpringBuck**



**Black Springbuck**



**Common or Normal Springbuck**

**Springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*)**



Photo: Doug Lee

**Afrikaans:**

Springbok

**German:**

Springbock

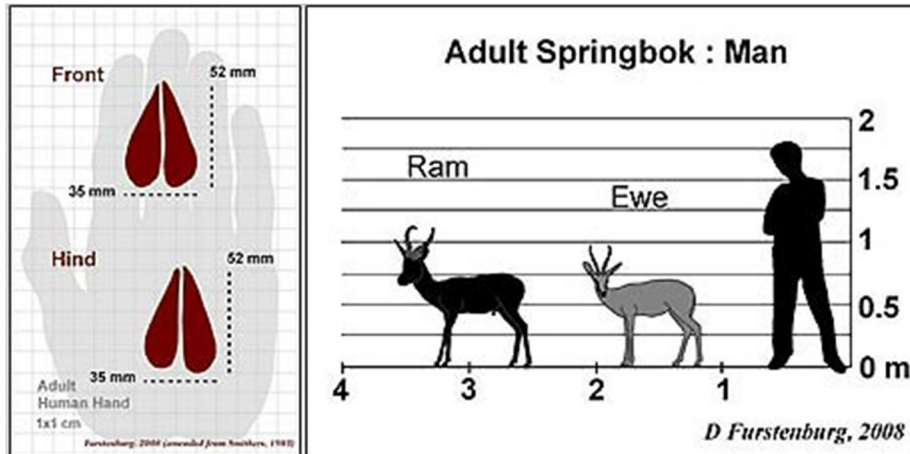
**French:**

Antidorcas

## Description

The name springbok is derived from their regular, hopping jumps and the species name marsupialis from “marsupium”, a pouch, referring to the dorsal fan of 10-17 cm high white hair on the saddle, which is pulled flat into a pouch, covered by short brown hair of 1.5-2 cm. When jumping, the back is characteristically arched with the head held low to the level of the knees. Single jumps during a run can reach a height of 2.6 m. A light, slender build, medium sized antelope with a thin bone structure. The buttocks being higher than the back. Natural colour is a bright, cinnamon-brown pelage on the back, a dark chestnut-brown stripe along the flanks, pure white under parts, and distinct, dark brown stripes on the sides of the white face.

## Comparison To Man



## Trophy

Both sexes bear well developed, lyre-shaped horns, which are parallel at the base, project upwards and slightly backwards, and turn sharply towards each other at the tips, forming two hooks. It is heavily grooved for 60-75% of the length. The horns of ewes are thinner, straighter and further apart at the base than those of the rams. Trophies can exceed 40 cm and reach full development at an age of 20 months.

## Habitat requirement

The preferred habitat is arid environments, dry grassy flats, Karoo scrub, salty pans, dune pathways, dry river beds and semi-desert shrubland. The broadleaf, sweet, short grasses surrounding water pans are favoured.

**The most important parameters are:**

- the availability of perennial short, sweet-grasses and forbs
- woody scrub with a high mineral content
- sandy soil
- a low shrub density
- an annual rainfall of 50-450 mm.

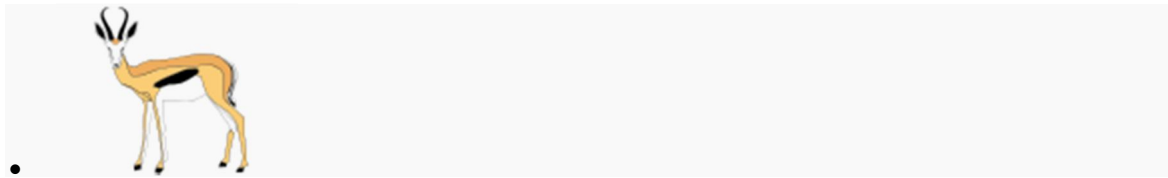
Dense thicket, closed woodland, rocky surfaces, mountainous areas, forests, tall-grass stands and moist, alluvial clay soils are avoided and not suitable. Surface drinking water is not essential. Springbok introduced into the Free State and the Eastern Cape have adapted to a wider spectrum of marginal habitats. These introductions are known to go through a repeated process of flourishing for 3-5 years and then a sudden population crash.

## Appearance

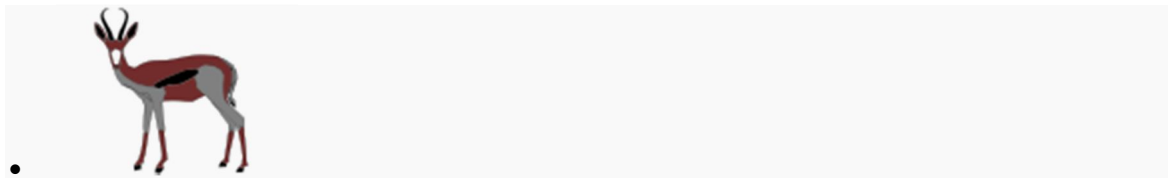
Springbok adults are between 70 and 90 cm (28 and 35 in)<sup>[6]</sup> tall at the shoulder, depending on weight and gender; they weigh between 25 and 35 kg (55 and 77 lb) for the females and 32 and 48 kg (71 and 110 lb) for the males. Their colouring consists of white, reddish/tan and dark brown. Their backs are tan-coloured and they are white beneath, with a dark brown stripe extending along each side from the shoulder to inside the thigh.

Rams are slightly larger than ewes, and have thick horns; the ewes tend to have skinnier legs and longer, more frail horns. Average horn length for both genders is 35 cm (14 in), with the record being a female with horns measuring 49.21 centimetres (19.37 in). Springbok footprints are narrow and sharp, and are 5.5 cm (2.2 in) long.

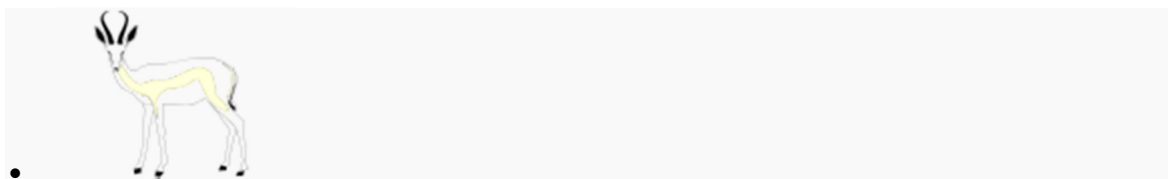
There are three variations in the color of springbok pelage.<sup>[7]</sup> In addition to the normal springbok there are black springboks and white springboks. Black springboks primarily have two shades of chocolate-brown and a white marking on the face. White springboks are predominantly white with a very light brown colored side stripe.



Normal springbok



Black springbok



White springbok