



Steenbuck



Common name: Steenbok
Scientific name: *Raphicerus campestris*
Other names: Steinbok, steenbuck, steinbuck, Raphicère champêtre, Steinböckchen, Isha, Dondor

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Head and body length: 70-95 cm

Shoulder height: 45-60 cm

Tail length: 5-10 cm

Adult weight: 7-16 kg

Steenbok are petite antelope, with long legs and an upright stance. The coat is a light golden-brown color, although there is some variation among individuals with some being quite reddish and others more gray. The undersides are white. Steenbok have

few distinctive markings: the large eyes are ringed by a fine circle of white hairs, and there is a slender black triangle which starts at the nose and tapers upwards. The ears are extremely large. The horns, found only in males, are straight, sharp, and very upright. They will grow 7-19 cm long.

REPRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Gestation period: 170 days.

Litter size: 1.

Weaning: 3 months.

Sexual maturity: Females as early as 6-7 months, males begin to mature around 9 months.

Life span: 10-12 years.

Baby steenbok may be born throughout the year, and can stand and walk just a few minutes after birth. However, the infant is usually hidden away by its mother for a few weeks before beginning to follow her around.

ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOR

Steenbok tend to be most active during the day, although when temperatures peak at midday they may seek refuge in shade. This species appears to live in monogamous pairs which share a territory some 4-100 hectares in size - however, the two animals are usually found apart and only come together to breed. The territory is marked by both sexes by using dung heaps. When threatened, steenbok will hide by lying on the ground and freezing in order to avoid the danger. If the threat continues to approach, they will rocket away for a short distance and then try to hide again. Aardvark burrows may be used as refuges.

Family group: Solitary, although a stable pair (which meets up solely for breeding) shares one territory.

Diet: Mostly leaves from shrubs and trees, but also fruits and grasses.

Main Predators: All major predators, including wild cats (both large and small) and pythons. Infants may be hunted by smaller predators such as jackals, raptors, monitor lizards, and baboons.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Steenbok are found in open grassland with light tree cover across most of southern Africa. Another population lives in the stonier acacia grasslands of east Africa.

**A MATURE STEENBUCK RAM HAS AN AVERAGE:
SHOULDER HEIGHT OF 22 INCHES
WEUGHT OF 22 POUNDS
HORN LENGTH OF 4 INCHES**

SCI MINIMUM SCORE OF 11 (Length of both horns + circumference of bases)

INTERESTING HUNTING NOTES: The Steenbuck forms part of the "Tiny 10" and is one of the most beautiful of the ten. A hugely underrated trophy, mainly due to its size or the fact that so few people notice them or have the time to study them before they disappear over the horizon. The Steenbuck gets its name from the very first Dutch settlers who travelled to Africa. The word "Steen" means brick, as you could well imagine the color of the Steenbuck resembled that of a red building brick, and thereby getting the name Steenbuck. All in all, a magnificent trophy to add to any trophy room.

IDENTIFICATION: Small antelope, slim and elegant with a short head with large ears and long legs. The general colour is a reddish brown with light coloured to white under parts. The insides of the ears are white with black stripes. There is a black stripe on top of the muzzle. Females can be slightly heavier than males. The hind quarters and lower parts/belly are pure white. Only the male **Steenbok** have upright, slender horns projecting above the eyes. Conspicuous black, facial glands are situated in front of the large, dark brown eyes.

HUNTED IN Free State and Limpopo.

HABITAT: Open grassveld with patches of tall grass or scattered bush for shelter avoiding mountainous areas.

