**COMMON WATERBUCK**

**DEFASSA WATERBUCK**

**Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus**

**Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa**

**Description**

Two races are recognised, the common waterbuck (*K. e. ellipsiprymnus*) and the defassa (*K. e. defassa*). Both are large and robust, with coarse shaggy coats, with the hair on the neck and throat often longer than on rest of body. The ears are short and rounded, white on the inside with black tips. There is usually a pale to white eye ring and a white crescent-shaped marking often present on upper throat. In the common overall coat colour is grey-brown, with either grey or brown being dominant, and a white ring encircles the buttocks. Defassa often more reddish in colour but some close to common, but the rump has a broad white patch. Only bull carries the long, heavily ridged, forward swept horns. Defassa in western Africa commonly called sing sing waterbuck.

**Distribution**

Eastern southern Africa and into East Africa and Ethiopia to the east of the Great Rift Valley; Defassa from Zambia to East Africa and into Ethiopia, then westwards as far as Senegal.

**Conservation standing**

Both races still relatively common, but have disappeared from some areas and numbers greatly reduced in others. There are at least 30,000 common and more than 50,000 defassa, although these are probably considerable underestimates. In at least 40 countries. Widely introduced and reintroduced in southern Africa on to game farms.

**Habitats**

Usually associated with water, such as rivers and lakes, but also extend into woodland. Open grassland adjacent to cover is also used.

**Behaviour**

Usually in herds of 5 – 10 animals but sometimes up to 30. Adult bulls establish territories, in their fifth or sixth year, through which nursery herds pass and during the rut they try to retain cows for mating. These established territories are held until another bull drives off the incumbent. In some areas larger herds may form in the wet season, but break into smaller units during the drier months when grazing may be scarce.

**Food**

Mainly grass eaters.

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**Measurements**

| Total length: | 2,1 – 2,74 m (6.9’ – 9.0’) |
| Tail: | 35 cm (13.8”) |
| Shoulder Height: | 1,3 m (4.3’)|
| Weight: | 250 – 370 kg (550 – 595 lb) |

*(male slightly heavier than female)*

**Breeding**

- **Mating season:** Mainly throughout year but in some areas seasonal peaks
- **Gestation:** 280 days
- **Number of young:** 1 but sometimes 2
- **Birth weight:** 13 kg (28.7 lb)
- **Sexual maturity:** Females mate at 1 to 2 years; males > 4 years
- **Longevity:** Captive 17 years 5 months

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**German:**

Ellipsenwasserbock / Defassa-Wasserbock

**French:**

Cobe à croissant / cobe defassa

**Spanish:**

Antílope de agua / cobo untuoso

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**Rifles and Ammunition**

- **Suggested Calibre:** 7mm – .338.
- **Bullet:** Expanding bullet designed for penetration.
- **Sights:** Medium-range variable scope.
- **Hunting Conditions:** Expect medium to longer shots depending on area.
Common Waterbuck / Defassa Waterbuck

Defassa waterbuck bulls in western Uganda

Common waterbuck cow showing distinctive white rump ring