

“ANIMAL SOCIETY”

Episode 01 “African Herbivores”

Final Timecoded Script

SERIES INTRO:

001 00:00:01:00 00:00:02:11

Across our world, we live

002 00:00:04:08 00:00:05:06

In cities

003 00:00:05:13 00:00:06:12

And villages

004 00:00:08:04 00:00:10:00

All part of a greater whole

005 00:00:11:03 00:00:12:12

But we’re not alone

006 00:00:14:17 00:00:16:03

They come in herds

007 00:00:17:23 00:00:18:19

Hives

008 00:00:19:18 00:00:20:19

And swarms

009 00:00:21:12 00:00:22:07

Prides

010 00:00:22:18 00:00:23:07

Packs

011 00:00:23:18 00:00:24:12

And pairs

012 00:00:24:21 00:00:26:00

Living in nature

013 00:00:26:12 00:00:28:06

Members of society

EPISODE INTRO:

014 00:00:37:12 00:00:39:01

On the great plains of Africa

015 00:00:40:20 00:00:44:09

Some of the mightiest animals on earth share space with the smallest

016 00:00:45:00 00:00:48:19

In one of the greatest areas of nature untouched by man

017 00:00:49:02 00:00:53:13

All manners of wilderness coming together in great numbers, or all alone

018 00:00:54:18 00:01:01:13

Through the periodic wet and dry seasons, the corresponding weather greatly dictating the behavior of the entire ecosystem

019 00:01:02:12 00:01:05:19

As food becomes either abundant or scarce respectively

020 00:01:05:21 00:01:08:19

Particularly affecting the many species of great herbivores

021 00:01:09:02 00:01:10:17

Most being herd animals

022 00:01:10:22 00:01:16:16

Though of varying sizes, social structures, pair bonds, parental relationships and outcasts

023 00:01:17:10 00:01:19:14

They are the heart of the African wilderness

SEGMENT 1:

024 00:01:20:09 00:01:22:21

None the least that of the wildebeest

025 00:01:24:07 00:01:27:09

A genus of antelopes, itself a group of bovines

026 00:01:29:10 00:01:33:15

Wildebeest are distinct from other antelopes by sight and behavior alike

027 00:01:34:06 00:01:35:20

Divided into two species

028 00:01:36:08 00:01:37:09

The black wildebeest

029 00:01:38:08 00:01:39:16

And the blue wildebeest

030 00:01:41:20 00:01:46:11

Standing 4.5 feet tall, 8 feet long at up to 600 pounds

031 00:01:47:18 00:01:58:20

They can be found throughout Namibia, Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya

030 00:02:00:03 00:02:01:04

In open plains

031 00:02:01:19 00:02:02:11

Shrublands

032 00:02:03:03 00:02:03:20

And woodlands

033 00:02:04:09 00:02:05:13

Mountainous or flat

034 00:02:06:12 00:02:09:16

They are among the most ubiquitous herbivores in the continent

035 00:02:10:00 00:02:11:13

Active day and night

036 00:02:11:21 00:02:13:23

Feeding almost exclusively on grass

037 00:02:14:10 00:02:19:08

Though when grass is in short supply they have been known to feed on shrubs and trees as well

038 00:02:20:15 00:02:23:21

Occasionally coming in great herds of thousands of individuals

039 00:02:24:13 00:02:30:10

Though the average size of a herd outside of migration is typically limited to 20-30 individuals

040 00:02:30:13 00:02:33:18

Centered around a loose structure of females and their calves

041 00:02:34:17 00:02:36:21

Along with a few territorial bulls

042 00:02:38:21 00:02:43:20

The herd being limited to two or three ranges corresponding to the wet and dry season

043 00:02:44:20 00:02:47:10

Occasionally having an intermediate range as well

044 00:02:49:04 00:02:53:02

The wet season range being the smallest, often at 200 acres or less

045 00:02:54:10 00:02:57:21

While the average dry season range is near 400 acres

046 00:03:00:00 00:03:05:05

The blue wildebeest performing an annual migration to new grazing grounds around May or June

047 00:03:05:15 00:03:09:24

Gathering in huge numbers, up to 1.5 million individuals

048 00:03:10:05 00:03:17:01

Along with hundreds of thousands of other animals such as zebras and gazelles who follow the wildebeest to their new grazing grounds

049 00:03:17:11 00:03:20:12

Covering distances of up to 1000 miles

050 00:03:21:21 00:03:25:04

Making it one of the greatest natural animal phenomenon in the world

051 00:03:27:03 00:03:32:13

As such immense herding takes place, wildebeest are required to be highly social and communicative

052 00:03:33:11 00:03:37:10

Using body language, vocalizations and olfactory communications

053 00:03:37:24 00:03:41:21

A male's bellow being loud enough to be heard over a mile and a half away

054 00:03:42:23 00:03:50:15

While urination and defecation as well as preorbital glands near the eyes and pedal glands on the feet aid in olfactory communications

055 00:03:51:06 00:03:55:20

Wildebeest often rubbing their heads and faces on each other's backsides for social contact

056 00:03:56:09 00:03:57:18

Mother and child recognition

057 00:03:58:15 00:03:59:23

And conflict management

058 00:04:00:16 00:04:04:11

While both male and female grow horns, there are subtle differences between them

059 00:04:05:03 00:04:06:23

Including the size and the angle

060 00:04:07:12 00:04:10:13

Mating season, also known as rut, lasts three weeks a year

061 00:04:11:06 00:04:17:00

And usually coincides with the end of the rainy season, when the wildebeest can feed on lush green grass

062 00:04:17:10 00:04:21:16

As well as minimize risk of predation due to decreased predator abundance

063 00:04:22:04 00:04:26:14

Females usually maturing at 16 months of age, while males can take up to 2 years

064 00:04:27:08 00:04:32:15

Though the males become aggressively territorial and mostly succeed in mating only at 4 to 5 years of age

065 00:04:33:06 00:04:38:19

They do not normally form permanent pair bonds, shown to engage multiple mates in a single season

066 00:04:39:09 00:04:46:14

During each rut the older males establish small territories by calling and herding, usually around less than an acre in size

067 00:04:46:17 00:04:49:12

As well as in-fighting between males, known as sparring

068 00:04:52:12 00:04:56:04

They do not eat or sleep as long as mature females are in the vicinity

069 00:04:56:08 00:05:05:13

Instead focusing their entire attention on the females by serenading them with hums, croaks and bellows and herding large groups of females together into their territory

070 00:05:05:14 00:05:09:05

Once a male has gained access to a mate, the female remains close by

071 00:05:09:07 00:05:11:19

Mating dozens of times to ensure conception

072 00:05:12:06 00:05:19:02

After which, bachelors, pregnant females, females who recently gave birth and older calves are all segregated into separate groups

073 00:05:19:15 00:05:22:12

The gestational period of wildebeest is typically 8 months

074 00:05:22:17 00:05:25:20

With the newborn calf weighing approximately 45 pounds

075 00:05:26:08 00:05:36:24

The period immediately after birth being the most crucial, as the calf is imprinted by the female, the mother staying close to her offspring to ensure that the offspring will recognize her by scent alone and vice versa

076 00:05:37:07 00:05:42:05

After which the calf learns first to stand, then to walk within 6 to 8 minutes after birth

077 00:05:45:00 00:05:50:19

Up to 500 000 calves are then born between February and March, during the start of the rainy season

078 00:05:51:23 00:05:54:16

Able to keep up with the pace of the herd within days

079 00:05:55:04 00:05:59:13

The young calf stays close to its mother for the first few months, protecting it from predators

080 00:06:00:08 00:06:05:01

With males often remaining at the outer rim of the herd to help protect the more vulnerable calves as well

081 00:06:05:10 00:06:10:15

The calf gains independence at 8 months of age and is commonly considered fully grown at 16 months

082 00:06:11:24 00:06:15:22

The average life expectancy of a wildebeest is typically around 20 years old

083 00:06:17:04 00:06:20:24

It is during their first year that wildebeest are the most vulnerable to predation

084 00:06:21:03 00:06:25:08

Often targeted by lions, cheetahs, hyenas and African wild dogs

085 00:06:25:17 00:06:34:17

Despite common perception, wildebeest overall are often most vulnerable when in larger herds than small, as individuals tend to be less vigilant in greater numbers

086 00:06:34:19 00:06:37:13

Though the individual risk of predation is much smaller

087 00:06:37:18 00:06:45:05

Once a predator is spotted, the herd gathers closely while braying and bellowing loud, shrill alarm calls to alert others as to the location of the predator

088 00:06:45:22 00:06:48:05

As well as stomping their feet to intimidate it

089 00:06:48:11 00:06:54:01

With males and females who recently gave birth being aggressive pursuers of predators, chasing them off

090 00:06:54:07 00:06:59:15

Wildebeest respond similarly to alarm calls made by other animals, such as gazelles and baboons

091 00:06:59:19 00:07:05:02

With smaller animals aside from predators often trailing the wildebeest herd for scavenging and protection

092 00:07:05:15 00:07:13:22

Wildebeest often specifically group together with smaller groups of zebras whenever faced with an open savannah environment, to reduce risk of individual predation

093 00:07:14:07 00:07:19:14

Though they remain segregated, the wildebeest and the zebras effectively form a cross-species herd

094 00:07:21:09 00:07:22:23

Or a larger cohesive group

095 00:07:25:12 00:07:30:12

While the wildebeest still retain their inner herd mentality, a so called swarm intelligence

096 00:07:31:22 00:07:37:10

Wherein despite having the appearance of a large group of individuals chaotically moving alongside each other

097 00:07:39:18 00:07:45:15

The herd actually systematically explore, analyze and overcome obstacles as a single entity

098 00:07:47:16 00:07:53:09

An instinct that sometimes even overcomes individual survival, with weaker individuals often separating themselves

099 00:07:55:06 00:07:57:23

Falling victim to predators such as crocodiles

100 00:08:00:09 00:08:02:07

Or drowning when crossing rivers

101 00:08:05:15 00:08:08:07

So that the herd can move on otherwise intact

102 00:08:12:12 00:08:16:22

Prioritizing the herd as a social unit, within the animal society

SEGMENT 2:

103 00:08:31:08 00:08:35:10

Among the most archetypal animals on the plains of Africa is the African elephant

104 00:08:36:19 00:08:38:23

The largest animal walking on land today

105 00:08:39:08 00:08:42:00

The African elephant measures up to 13 feet high

106 00:08:42:08 00:08:44:08

Weighing 15 000 pounds

107 00:08:44:24 00:08:47:19

The only surviving family of their order of Proboscidea

108 00:08:48:14 00:08:52:23

They are more closely related to manatees and dugongs than any mammal on land

109 00:08:53:02 00:08:58:07

Yet they share the same habitat and much of the same food sources as many ungulates, or hooved animals

110 00:08:59:03 00:09:01:23

The African elephant is divided into two subspecies

111 00:09:02:01 00:09:02:23

The bush elephant

112 00:09:03:06 00:09:04:16

And the forest elephant

113 00:09:05:03 00:09:07:22

The bush elephant being the larger and more common of the two

114 00:09:08:17 00:09:11:05

They are exclusively herbivores and frugivores

115 00:09:11:13 00:09:16:19

Feeding on grass, leaves, fruits, bark, roots and shrubbery

116 00:09:17:07 00:09:20:18

Known to have an immense impact on their environment wherever they pass

117 00:09:20:24 00:09:25:00

Each full grown elephant feeding for between 16 and 20 hours a day

118 00:09:25:17 00:09:30:12

Consuming as much as 330 pounds of food and 11 gallons of water

119 00:09:31:05 00:09:39:12

Decimating plant life and flattening entire forests or woodland areas, moving 6 to 12 miles per day to accommodate their need for sustenance

120 00:09:40:17 00:09:44:14

Even as far as over 100 miles when food sources are scarce

121 00:09:45:23 00:09:49:05

Elephants come in large to medium-sized herds of varying numbers

122 00:09:49:13 00:09:53:07

As they form complex fission-fusion based matriarchal societies

123 00:09:54:00 00:09:59:18

Wherein the main herd is centered around an older, dominant female, or cow, and her offspring and occasionally younger sisters

124 00:10:00:10 00:10:03:11

The matriarch remaining the leader of the family until death

125 00:10:03:17 00:10:06:07

After which she is succeeded by her eldest daughter

126 00:10:06:19 00:10:08:16

Even if her sister is present

127 00:10:09:17 00:10:14:01

The family units of elephants also associate with other families to form bond groups

128 00:10:14:09 00:10:17:10

Though they are not restricted to following each other's movements

129 00:10:17:15 00:10:21:22

Several families or bond groups may also group together over long migrations

130 00:10:22:04 00:10:23:10

Forming larger clans

131 00:10:23:14 00:10:28:14

Usually consisting of 8 or 9 bond groups, or between 16 to 20 families

132 00:10:28:21 00:10:35:12

Though the bonds within the clan aren't typically very strong, they do become territorial and defend their range when food is scarce

133 00:10:36:03 00:10:38:24

Males, or bulls, have a very different social life

134 00:10:39:09 00:10:46:03

Typically leading an increasingly independent life as they grow up, only to be forced out by the females after reaching maturity

135 00:10:46:12 00:10:54:08

The bulls then lead a mostly solitary life, only occasionally grouping together with other males in bull groups of around 10-20 individuals

136 00:10:55:02 00:11:00:11

The bull group as well as solitary male-male encounters are defined by a distinct dominance hierarchy

137 00:11:01:14 00:11:04:23

Depending on health, age, size and sexual condition

138 00:11:06:24 00:11:12:01

Older bulls dominating younger ones and dispersing any attempts at forming groups to challenge them

139 00:11:12:13 00:11:17:21

Though male elephants may use threat displays and engage in sparring, playful or otherwise

140 00:11:18:06 00:11:25:02

Legitimate fights are rare and limited mainly to mature males over territorial displays or as part of mate guarding behavior

141 00:11:25:08 00:11:29:07

The only time the males and females interact are during mating season

142 00:11:30:08 00:11:33:10

Which happens only when a cow has reached her fertile period

143 00:11:33:23 00:11:37:07

As well as when the male has entered a state of heightened testosterone

144 00:11:37:11 00:11:38:16

Known as musth

145 00:11:39:03 00:11:44:00

While cows can be fertile multiple times, males only enter musth once a year

146 00:11:44:05 00:11:46:17

Typically during the dry season for younger males

147 00:11:46:24 00:11:48:21

And wet season for the older ones

148 00:11:49:04 00:11:54:24

Musth is characterized by testosterone levels increasing by a factor of up to 60 times that of normal levels

149 00:11:55:03 00:11:58:06

Accompanied by an acute swelling of their temporal glands

150 00:11:58:21 00:12:05:23

Followed by a constant state of highly aggressive behavior and excretion of a fluid known as temporin from the sides of their heads

151 00:12:06:13 00:12:10:15

Behavior which can lead the elephant to charge any animal without provocation

152 00:12:11:16 00:12:19:01

During this time, the bull will try to track and follow a potential mate and assess her condition via a collection of pheromones excreted from her urine

153 00:12:19:08 00:12:25:13

The bull then engages in a mate guarding behavior, following the female or multiple females to fend off other suitors

154 00:12:26:00 00:12:30:17

Once secured, the male will lay his trunk on the females back to signal his desire to mount her

155 00:12:31:02 00:12:34:23

Most mating successfully accomplished by older males during the wet season

156 00:12:35:03 00:12:37:07

An elephant pregnancy lasts 2 years

157 00:12:38:00 00:12:40:17

With interbirth intervals of 4 to 5 years

158 00:12:41:16 00:12:48:00

The extended pregnancy allowing the fetus to be born highly developed and able to quickly walk and use its trunk to collect food

159 00:12:48:15 00:12:53:08

A single calf is born, 33 inches tall and weighing around 260 pounds

160 00:12:53:17 00:12:57:16

While for the first few days, the mother takes care to shield the calf from the rest of the herd

161 00:12:58:05 00:13:05:09

Once the calf is strong enough to keep up with their migration, it is greeted by all members of the herd by touching and caressing it as a sign of affection

162 00:13:06:09 00:13:11:21

The calf is then occasionally subject to alloparenting, or shared parenting by several females in the herd

163 00:13:12:02 00:13:14:06

Usually the aunt or older sibling

164 00:13:14:22 00:13:17:24

While calves are largely dependent on nursing for the first 6 months

165 00:13:18:12 00:13:21:05

They can go on past 2 years before weaning entirely

166 00:13:21:20 00:13:30:06

Around which time the calf starts to engage in more outwardly social bonding behavior, such as chasing other calves, as with females, or play fighting, as with males

167 00:13:31:02 00:13:36:12

The female maturing at age 9, while the males take longer until age 14 or 15

168 00:13:37:09 00:13:41:14

Though formal adulthood is only reached at age 18 for both sexes

169 00:13:42:01 00:13:45:21

The average life expectancy of elephants being 60 to 70 years

170 00:13:46:05 00:13:51:18

As elephants past adulthood are largely impervious to predation due to their immense size

171 00:13:52:16 00:13:58:20

Only larger predators and pack hunters such as lions, hyenas and African wild dogs targeting calves

172 00:13:59:13 00:14:03:04

As highly social animals, elephants have various forms of communication

173 00:14:03:11 00:14:07:09

Using their trunks to greet other elephants by stroking or wrapping them together

174 00:14:08:00 00:14:11:10

Trunk slaps or shoves to discipline calves and younger elephants

175 00:14:12:12 00:14:18:05

And to collect chemical information about each other by touching each other's mouths, temporal glands and genitalia

176 00:14:18:19 00:14:22:12

Deriving information about the individuals health, age and status

177 00:14:23:23 00:14:27:18

Elephants also use a variety of calls, mostly produced through the larynx

178 00:14:29:07 00:14:31:19

But also occasionally modified through the trunk

179 00:14:32:19 00:14:37:20

Including trumpeting, used to express excitement, distress or aggression

180 00:14:38:13 00:14:40:17

Roars and squeals during fighting

181 00:14:42:08 00:14:43:22

And bellows when wounded

182 00:14:45:09 00:14:48:07

Elephants have also been shown to communicate through seismics

183 00:14:49:23 00:14:54:04

By impacting the ground with their feet, the vibrations are carried for miles

184 00:14:56:02 00:15:01:14

Elephants on the receiving end able to channel the vibrations through their front legs onto the ear canal

185 00:15:02:18 00:15:08:08

Highly intelligent, elephants have been shown to express self-awareness and cognition with extreme long-term memory

186 00:15:10:10 00:15:14:21

Especially of migratory patterns and locations of family members of periods of years

187 00:15:15:19 00:15:16:24

Even decades

188 00:15:18:19 00:15:26:01

Further speculated to be capable of expressing emotion and concern about the welfare of their family members and those of their bond groups

SEGMENT 3:

189 00:15:42:03 00:15:45:17

Among the most recognizably African animals, the giraffe stands tall

190 00:15:47:10 00:15:50:00

Widely known for their distinctive and unique appearance

191 00:15:50:05 00:15:53:18

Their only remaining living relative being the okapi of Congo

192 00:15:55:07 00:16:02:12

Giraffes are instantly recognized for their enormous necks and long legs, making each of the nine subspecies the tallest mammal in the world

193 00:16:03:04 00:16:05:18

The legs themselves taller than the average human

194 00:16:06:04 00:16:11:24

Spread out over nearly all of sub-Saharan Africa, giraffes are also among the most ubiquitous herbivores of Africa

195 00:16:12:19 00:16:15:13

Found throughout savannahs, grasslands and open woodlands

196 00:16:16:22 00:16:21:06

Their long necks specifically developed to reach their primary food source of acacia leaves

197 00:16:22:04 00:16:25:00

Though they can also survive on grass, fruits and shrubs

198 00:16:25:10 00:16:32:20

Most full grown male giraffes, or bulls, standing at between 16 to 20 feet tall, weighing over 2600 pounds

199 00:16:33:14 00:16:36:08

With females, or cows, being slightly smaller

200 00:16:37:04 00:16:42:18

Their large size and highly specialized diet leading giraffes to feed 16 to 20 hours a day

201 00:16:42:22 00:16:45:10

Spending nearly the entire time standing up

202 00:16:45:21 00:16:51:16

Giraffes manage it by a process of rumination, or chewing, swallowing, regurgitating after partial digestion and then chewing it again

203 00:16:51:19 00:16:53:23

To maximize the nutritional intake

204 00:16:54:06 00:16:59:18

Thus requiring less food than other animals of equivalent size as their food becomes more concentrated

205 00:16:59:24 00:17:03:12

Only eating on average 75 pounds of foliage each day

206 00:17:04:01 00:17:11:00

Giraffes can be found as being either solitary, or in smaller groups of very open composition with few strong social bonds

207 00:17:11:08 00:17:13:14

Another form of fission-fusion society

208 00:17:14:00 00:17:19:06

Usually with half a dozen individuals moving in the same general direction in proximity to each other

209 00:17:19:09 00:17:23:01

The largest groups coming together during dry season when food is scarce

210 00:17:23:09 00:17:26:09

The most stable groupings being those of a mother and her young

211 00:17:26:24 00:17:30:15

As well as cohesive groups between siblings or calves of similar age

212 00:17:30:19 00:17:35:14

With mixed-sex groups known to frequently occur as part of a broader social structure

213 00:17:35:21 00:17:42:00

Subadult bulls are the most outwardly social, engaging other bulls in play fighting and forming all-male groups

214 00:17:42:08 00:17:45:17

While older males often become increasingly solitary and nomadic

215 00:17:46:01 00:17:52:03

Giraffes are seldom territorial, but have clearly defined home ranges that they are centered around and return to

216 00:17:52:13 00:17:59:12

Greatly affecting the area through their feeding, often stripping trees down to the bark or giving so called waistlines to taller trees

217 00:17:59:23 00:18:04:04

Changing the very landscape through their feeding, particularly when moving in larger groups

218 00:18:04:10 00:18:09:13

As their impact is spread out over larger areas and not confined to the migration pattern of a herd

219 00:18:10:04 00:18:16:00

Giraffe reproduction is generally polygamous with a few older bulls mating with many fertile females

220 00:18:16:08 00:18:24:22

With no clearly defined mating season, it can instead occur at any time following maturation at age 3 to 4 years for cows and 4 to 5 years for bulls

221 00:18:25:10 00:18:31:21

Though bulls are often restricted in their maturation by the competition of any older, mature male already in the area

222 00:18:32:02 00:18:38:08

Delaying their development until they leave the area or the younger bull challenges the older one with victorious results

223 00:18:39:04 00:18:48:00

As bulls are continuously engaged in a strict dominance hierarchy within their overlapping territories, using their necks for combat in a behavior known as necking

224 00:18:48:22 00:18:56:02

Slamming together, rubbing and leaning on each other, even using their ossicones, or small horns on the tops of their heads as weapons

225 00:18:57:02 00:19:03:08

Though most matches don't lead to any serious injuries, there have been reports of broken necks and jaws and even death

226 00:19:03:22 00:19:10:03

Afterwards, the losing bull engages in a submissive, mutual courting behavior to reestablish their social relationship

227 00:19:10:14 00:19:12:24

Highly similar to male female courting

228 00:19:14:06 00:19:21:15

Though bulls only engage in the courtship of females following a sampling of the cow's urine to assess her fertility through the presence of pheromones

229 00:19:21:18 00:19:24:23

Once an estrous female is found, the bull begins courtship

230 00:19:27:00 00:19:30:09

The bulls emits loud coughing sounds to signal their intent

231 00:19:30:19 00:19:33:08

Then engage in extensive mate guarding behavior

232 00:19:33:17 00:19:36:09

Challenging other males in the area to duels as well

233 00:19:36:16 00:19:40:05

Though a single bull may be guarding several cows over a large area

234 00:19:40:24 00:19:43:11

Mating itself is typically brief and repeated

235 00:19:44:03 00:19:47:24

Afterwards, a gestation period of around 15 months commences

236 00:19:48:04 00:19:50:23

During which, the cow returns to the place of her birth

237 00:19:51:10 00:19:53:11

A cross-generational calving ground

238 00:19:54:00 00:19:58:24

The cow gives birth while standing up, leading the calf to fall up to 6 feet to the ground

239 00:19:59:03 00:20:06:02

Though the extended gestational period also lends it highly developed leg muscles, allowing it to stand within an hour of being born

240 00:20:06:09 00:20:10:21

They are then nursed and cared for exclusively by their mother for the first 9 months of its life

241 00:20:12:09 00:20:16:08

Though weaning starts already at 4 months with the introduction of solid foods

242 00:20:17:11 00:20:19:24

New mothers often gather in smaller nursery herds

243 00:20:20:11 00:20:21:22

Seeking safety in numbers

244 00:20:22:11 00:20:25:12

Occasionally featuring what is known as a shared calving pool

245 00:20:26:12 00:20:29:10

Wherein calves are periodically left in the care of the herd

246 00:20:30:02 00:20:33:04

While the mother forages or drinks elsewhere temporarily

247 00:20:34:02 00:20:36:11

The other cows in the herd looking after the calf

248 00:20:37:04 00:20:40:22

Though if a threat is detected, the other cows will only alert their own young

249 00:20:41:21 00:20:45:07

The other cows and calves often left to either take notice and follow

250 00:20:46:04 00:20:47:18

Or face the threat alone

251 00:20:48:17 00:20:53:02

While cows share a strong bond of varying degree with their calf until the next calving

252 00:20:53:11 00:20:56:09

Bulls play no active role in raising the young

253 00:20:57:01 00:21:03:19

Though unlike most other African herbivores, the males do exhibit friendly interactions with the calves when they come in direct contact

254 00:21:05:08 00:21:11:06

Male calves leave their mothers at 15 months of age, either becoming solitary or joining all male groups

255 00:21:13:15 00:21:16:24

While females often become solitary at 18 months of age

256 00:21:19:21 00:21:23:14

Though remaining in the family territory until they themselves are impregnated

257 00:21:26:00 00:21:30:06

Though more than half of all calves don't survive their first year due to predation

258 00:21:31:14 00:21:36:05

Adult giraffes generally being protected by their size from most predators except for lions

259 00:21:36:19 00:21:39:06

The average lifespan being 25 years

260 00:21:40:06 00:21:44:20

Calves are instead targeted by hyenas, African wild dogs and leopards alike

261 00:21:45:17 00:21:49:17

Though giraffes are typically silent, they have also been known to exhibit a few calls

262 00:21:50:20 00:21:55:07

Ranging from infrasound being carried for miles, inaudible to the human ear

263 00:21:55:17 00:21:57:20

To bellows between a mother and calf

264 00:22:01:06 00:22:04:09

As well as mooing and mewling sounds of the calves themselves

265 00:22:07:22 00:22:11:24

And hissing and moaning calls of adults to call attention to a threat

266 00:22:12:17 00:22:14:11

Or to intimidate each other

267 00:22:15:05 00:22:19:19

While their hearts may be the biggest of any mammal on land at over 25 pounds

268 00:22:21:04 00:22:23:08

And they may be largely docile

269 00:22:24:12 00:22:27:08

Giraffes have shown little concern for other giraffes

270 00:22:30:03 00:22:32:10

Or indeed other animals at large

271 00:22:32:19 00:22:41:03

Occasionally known to deviate from their herbivorous diet to ingest carrion, even from other fallen giraffes, when opportunity arises

OUTRO:

272 00:22:42:00 00:22:43:19

From herds and clans

273 00:22:44:22 00:22:46:18

To families and loners

274 00:22:48:07 00:22:49:20

And mother and child

275 00:22:50:19 00:22:54:14

The herbivores of Africa come in all configurations

276 00:22:54:22 00:22:58:21

Each employing different means of communication and interaction

277 00:22:59:07 00:23:02:24

Each having different social rules and norms to abide by

278 00:23:03:14 00:23:05:13

They all have one thing in common

279 00:23:06:06 00:23:08:09

They go through the seasons together

280 00:23:09:08 00:23:11:08

As part of a larger group

281 00:23:12:12 00:23:13:22

Living in nature

282 00:23:14:15 00:23:16:00

As a society

METRICS:

030 00:01:41:20 00:01:46:11

Standing 150 centimeters tall, 2.4 meters long, at up to 270 kilograms

074 00:05:22:17 00:05:25:20

With the newborn calf weighing approximately 20 kilograms

105 00:08:39:08 00:08:42:00

The African elephant measures up to 3.3 meters high

106 00:08:42:08 00:08:44:08

Weighing 5.5 metric tons

118 00:09:25:17 00:09:30:12

Consuming as much as 150 kilograms of food and 40 liters of water

159 00:12:48:15 00:12:53:08

A single calf is born, 80 centimeters tall and weighing around 120 kilograms

198 00:16:25:10 00:16:32:20

Most full grown male giraffes, or bulls, standing at between 5 to 6 meters tall, weighing over 1.6 metric tons

205 00:16:59:24 00:17:03:12

Only eating on average 35 kilograms of foliage daily

238 00:19:54:00 00:19:58:24

The cow gives birth while standing up, leading the calf to fall up to 180 centimeters to the ground

267 00:22:15:05 00:22:19:19

While their hearts may be the biggest of any mammal on land, at over 11 kilograms