

MATURE CUBS: 1-2 years

No forehead hair
or short Mohawk

Bare
shoulder

10-30%
black nose

No
facial
scarring

Sharp
white teeth

PRIME ADULTS: 5-6 years

Forehead covered,
no Mohawk

Shoulder
filling in

50-70%
black nose

Minor
facial
scarring

Lightly worn
light yellow teeth



AGING LIONS

FIELD GUIDE TO THE LIONS OF
SOUTHERN AND
HIGH-LYING
AFRICA



Scientific research shows that lions can be classified into age classes using five key physical traits as indicators. Because some traits can vary between individual lions, always look at multiple traits to estimate a lion's age. For more extensive information on lion aging and biology, visit: www.AgingTheAfricanLion.org

SUB-ADULTS: 3-4 years

Short or long Mohawk

Bare
shoulder

30-50%
black nose

No or
minor
facial
scarring

Sharp light
yellow teeth

OLDER ADULTS: 7 years & older

Slack jowl

Long or thinning
frizzy mane

Covered
shoulder

70-100%
black nose

Heavy
facial
scarring

Heavily worn
dark yellow teeth



HOW OLD IS YOUR LION? Choose the age class that best matches the appearance of your lion.

As lions age...

MATURE CUB

1-2 years

SUB-ADULT

3-4 years

PRIME ADULT

5-6 years

PRIME AND OLDER ADULTS

7-8 years

9 years & older

**NOSE
COLOUR**
darkens to black



TEETH
flatten and
stain yellow



FACE
shows scarring
and pocking



MANE
grows in as
mohawk & on
shoulders



**JOWL
SLACKNESS**
when >7 years

