

## 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

Long Mohawk and bald  
spot behind ears

Mane may extend  
between shoulders

50-70%  
black nose

Minor  
facial  
scarring

Lightly worn  
light yellow teeth



## AGING LIONS

FIELD GUIDE TO THE LIONS OF  
WEST-CENTRAL AND  
EASTERN LOW-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](http://www.AgingTheAfricanLion.org)

## SUB-ADULTS: 3-4 years

Short Mohawk and  
bald spot behind ears

Bare  
shoulder

30-50%  
black nose

No or  
minor  
facial  
scarring

Sharp light  
yellow teeth

## OLDER ADULTS: 7 years & older

Slack jowl

Mohawk may still be present,  
mane filled in behind ears

Covered  
shoulder

Full mane  
ring around  
face

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 behind  
ears and as full  
ring around face



**JOWL  
SLACKNESS**  
when >7 years

