

Common Hippopotamus

SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals and the
SCI Trophy Records Committee proudly presents

this certificate to:

Mechislav Klimovich

for taking a Common Hippopotamus

with a Rifle measuring 45 7/8

On a hunt in R.S.A., Mabula on 07/05/2008

Measured by Konstantin Popov on 07/15/2008.



Hippopotamus amphibius
Hippotamo (Sp), *Nilpferd*, *Grossflusspferd* (G),
Hippopotame (F), *Seekoei* (Af). Also called river
hippopotamus. "Hippopotamus" is from the
Greek *hippos* (horse) and *potamos* (river), or
river-horse.

DESCRIPTION Shoulder height 55-60 inches
(140-152 cm). Weight 3,000-6,000 pounds
(1,350-2,700 kg).

The common hippopotamus is an enormous,
barrel-shaped, semi-aquatic animal, with short
legs and almost hairless skin. The head is huge
with a mouth that can open to more than 90
degrees. The canine teeth are well developed,
forming tusks that are formidable weapons. The
nostrils and eyes are on top of the head so that
when the animal is in the water only the muzzle,
eyes and ears need be visible. The skin is thick,
dark and glandular, and sometimes exudes
drops of moisture than contain red pigment,
from which arose the supposition that hippos
sweat blood. Females are similar to males,
though somewhat smaller.

BEHAVIOR Highly gregarious, living in herds of
up to 30, though sometimes in much larger
herds. Males may be alone. Larger herds consist
mainly of females and young. Adult males
compete for control of herds and territories,
engaging in lengthy, vicious fights-the principal
weapons being their teeth-that often result in
serious injury or death. Breeding occurs year-
round, but with seasonal peaks in some areas.
Usually one calf (rarely twins) is born 7-1/2 to 8
months later. The female will mate again two
weeks after weaning the previous calf. Sexually
mature at 3-4 years, but does not breed until 6-7
years. Longevity in the wild may be 40 years, in
captivity as much as 54 years.