

WILDLANDS

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DID YOU KNOW?

TEETH

The teeth of a hippo are not really suitable for grazing and processing grass. Their incisors and molars cannot bite off or grind grass. They bite off the grass with their lips and swallow it back with their tongues.



ENCLOSURE FACTS

- WILDLANDS only has female hippos.
- The water basin inside the hippopotamus enclosure is 2.40 metres deep. The water level is 1.80 metres.
- The stable is heated and the humidity in the stable must also be taken into account. Hippo skin is sensitive to dehydration.

A hippo sleeps under water. He floats – without waking up – to the top, breathes and then sinks to the bottom again.

DANGER!

Hippos are much more dangerous than they look! In South Africa, the hippo claims the most human victims after the malaria mosquito. Hippos are very territorial and as soon as you come too close, they attack!

UNDERWATER PRACTICES

Hippos roar regularly, but they also make sounds under water and communicate with each other. Not much research has been done on this, but it is suspected that it is similar to the way dolphins or whales communicate (ultrasound and clicking noises).

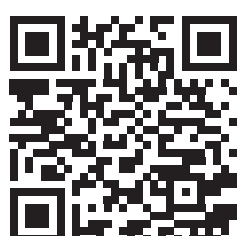
EFFICIENT DIGESTION



It is hard to tell from the abundance of poo, but a hippopotamus has a very efficient digestive system.

By way of comparison:

an elephant eats 150 kg of grass a day, which is about 6% of its body weight, while a hippopotamus 'only' eats 40 kg of grass a day, which is about 2% of its body weight.



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