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## “SERVING THE HUNTER WHO TRAVELS”

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*“Hunting provides the principal incentive and revenue for conservation. Hence it is a force for conservation.”*

### Special To The Hunting Report World Conservation Force Bulletin

by John J. Jackson, III

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□ News... News... News

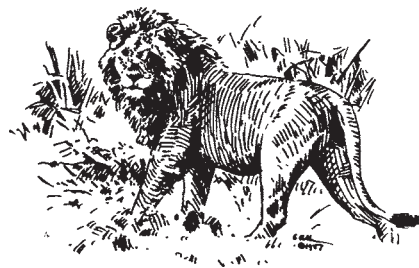
#### A Tool For Lion Hunters: The Pocket Guide To Aging Lions

■ In November, Conservation Force began widely distributing a condensed version of its *Guide to Aging Lion in East and Southern Africa*. The free guide occupies the last two pages of this Bulletin. It has been circulated to professional hunters associations, is available on Conservation Force’s website, is being published in *African Indaba* and freely handed out at meetings and conventions around the world.

Of course, it is not a substitute for the more complete guide of 46 pages published by Safari Press and also sold by *The Hunting Report* at a nominal price. The guide was the work of 12 of the leading lion specialists in the world, while this free guide has been wholly prepared by the leading author of the original, Karyl Whitman, Ph.D., and has been previewed by Craig Packer, Ph.D.

Hunters are the primary stakeholders in the survival of the African lion, which is seen as intolerable by pastoralists. We are also its stewards.

It is necessary and important that we search for and apply suitable practices for this dwindling species. The limiting of harvest to lion five years of age or older is the new ethic, new definition of a trophy lion, and has the very



least biological impact on the respective population. If we are to be good stewards, we must adopt reasonable practices ourselves. The age ethic is fortified by contemporary lion science. Conservation Force is deeply engaged with the scientific community in the

advancement of that science in addition to our leadership in evolving national lion action plans across Africa.

I am getting a little leery of “best practices” as being unnecessarily limiting. Nevertheless, this is a better practice, particularly while we endeavor to secure robust lion populations, of which there are too few, and rebuild and restore others. It is probably a necessary, good faith practice if we are to keep lion from being uplisted and continue to play our important role in its conservation. It is still a difficult judgment call in the field, but that is what makes it a true trophy.

Keep this guide or print a free color version from Conservation Force’s website at <http://www.conservationforce.org/pdf/2010LionBrochureF.pdf>.

Conservation Force Directors serve on the African Lion Working Group (ALWG) and the Cat Specialist Group of IUCN. Conservation Force has lion research, management and recovery projects from Danakil, Ethiopia, west

to Burkina Faso and throughout all of Africa. Unfortunately, it is not yet enough, but we are in for the long haul to ensure that lions forever roar.

**NEW DEVELOPMENTS:**

**Polar Bear Listing Cases Status**

The Federal Judge in the polar bear cases challenging the ESA threatened listing has remanded the final listing rule to the USF&WS for the limited purpose of explaining its use of the descriptive term “imminent” in its definition that an endangered species is one in “imminent” danger of extinction as distinct from one “threatened,” which is not imminently at risk. The USF&WS used the term as if it appears in the ESA, but it appears nowhere in the law. The judge has ordered briefing on that point by everyone before oral arguments that have been rescheduled for February 23. Yours truly is one of the 15 of more than 50 lawyers selected to orally argue the briefs that day.

The issues to be orally argued span the “prematurity” of the listing, the legal meaning of “likely,” “foreseeable,” “threatened,” “endangered,” “distinct populations,” “taking into account foreign programs,” as well as the “uncertainty” of climate projections. The resolution of these issues will determine more than the value of resources in the North and the welfare of the bear. It may impact everything in our lives. Under the ESA, listed fauna comes first.

**St. Petersburg Hosts 58<sup>th</sup> CIC General Assembly**

The CIC’s 58<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**In Memory of Kevin J. Crown**

■ Barbara Crown, editor and publisher of *The Hunting Report*, has lost her husband of 18 years. He passed on Sunday, October 31. She has honored Conservation Force and his memory by designating Conservation Force as a recipient of donations in his honor. Contributions can be made in memory of Kevin J. Crown by mail to Conservation Force, PO Box 278, Metairie, LA 70004-0278, or on our website at <http://www.conservationforce.org/donate.html>.

is set for 12-15 May in St. Petersburg, Russia. It is being hosted by the 2 million-member Russian Association of Hunters and Fishermen. If there is ever a CIC assembly that can’t be missed, this is the one.

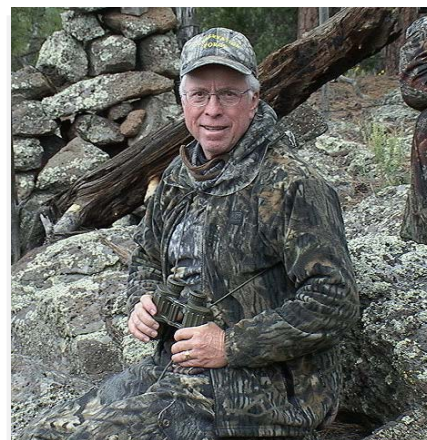
I’ve just returned from the Executive Board Meeting of CIC in Vienna. The CIC has a new President, a renowned hunter, Bernard Lozes of France. It also has a new Executive Director, Tamás Marghescu, formally of the IUCN. The CIC is positioned to assume worldwide leadership of hunting interests like none before it, and the St. Petersburg gathering will act as the doorway to a new vigor for the hunting world.

If you wish to attend this spectacular and epic event, contact Chrissie Jackson, who is the Head of the US Delegation for membership and St. Petersburg event information. Her e-mail is [cjackson@conservationforce.org](mailto:cjackson@conservationforce.org).

Chrissie has been the Head of the US Delegation for more than a decade and will pass the baton to Bob Model of the Boone & Crockett Club in St. Petersburg. Bob is the Chairman and Past President of the Boone & Crockett Club, the initiator behind President Bush’s Executive Order to Facilitate Hunting and his 10-year plan, and he is one of the leading founders of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners forum.

Boone & Crockett is rightfully one of the most respected hunting conservation organizations in America. Conservation Force will continue its own role and leadership as I am the President of the Sustainable Use Commission and serve on the Executive Council (Board) of CIC. We can think of no American organization with greater entitlement to Head the US Delegation than Boone & Crockett, nor can there be a more spectacular occasion than at St. Petersburg. In hunting speak, we have acquired a trophy.

The US Delegation of the CIC has its annual General Meeting on the Sunday morning of the Dallas Safari Club Convention. For information on its time and location, contact Ben Carter at [Ben@biggame.org](mailto:Ben@biggame.org). For membership information, contact Chrissie Jackson.



**JOHN J. JACKSON, III**  
*Conservation Force*



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John J. Jackson, III

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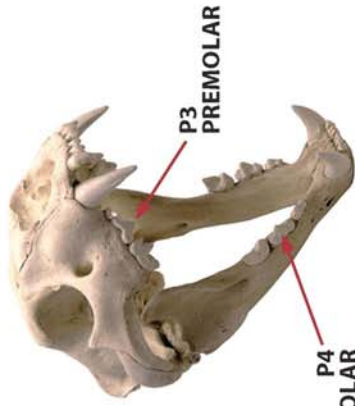
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## Teeth



All 30 permanent teeth are visible between 15–17 months, sharp and white. At 3–4 years, all teeth are fully erupted and mostly white. Only a small amount of wear on incisors and canines. Little to no wear on premolars noted above.

By 5–6 years there is obvious wear on the canines, incisors, and all premolars. Canines are now yellow at the base and the longitudinal ridge is often chipped. Uncommon to have more than one canine broken or missing.

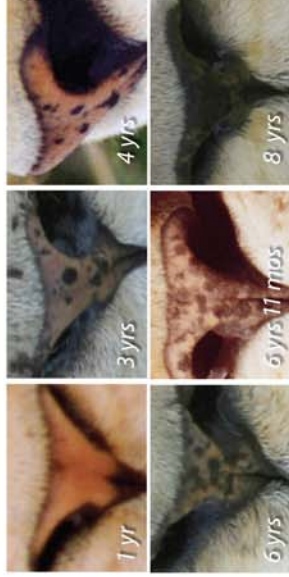
From 7–9 years all teeth show wear, with it being most obvious on the canines and incisors. The incisors show the most wear on the upper and lower outermost tooth, some often missing. Nearly all teeth yellowed and canines commonly broken.

## Leg Markings



Due to scent marking conspicuous dark markings develop on the back hind legs. Most often found on breeding resident males between 3–7 years, they are most prominent between 4–5 years and taper off with age.

## Nose Pigmentation



After about 3 years of age, the fleshy part of the nose begins to freckle or become liver spotted. As the lion ages, more pigmentation appears until the nose is entirely black by about 8 years. A general rule of thumb is that by 6 years noses are >50% black.

# Pocket Guide to Aging Lions

by Karyl Whitman, PhD

## CONSERVATION FORCE

on behalf of Conservation Force  
www.conservationforce.org

It is best to use a combination of traits to estimate a lion's age. A large degree of variation exists in the expression of each trait, therefore relying on only one factor can be misleading. The most reliable estimate will be the composite of five key areas: the mane, teeth, leg markings, nose color and facial characteristics.

## Mane Trends

As this one male shows at different ages, between 1–3 years, the mane around the neck is longer and darker than on the shoulders, but by 3–4 years the areas are similar in length and color. The chest continues to darken with age. After 4 years, the chest and shoulders are often darker than the forehead and contrast significantly with the hair around the face. By 5–6 years the mane begins to fill in the area around the shoulder. Beyond 7 years, manes slowly lose condition.



## Traits NOT to use

A swayed back, donkey-skin coat color or elbow tufts are not related to old age.



Sway back on cub



Straight back, no elbow tufts



Elbow tufts



Donkey-skin



## Immature: 3 and 4 years

3 and 4-year-old males are not mature. Their skeleton will continue to grow for another year. The chest is more broad than a 2-year-old, but does not have the breadth or bulk of a 5-year-old. Mane development is highly variable. The 'mohawk' is visible on the forehead and the shoulder area and area behind the ears has not filled in yet.



**Nose Pigmentation:**  
3 yrs: 15-30% nose black;  
4 yrs: 25-50%

**Mane:** Mohawk & shoulder patch present.

Chest and shoulder can be darker than neck and forehead.

**Teeth:** Typically white with minimal yellowing. Little wear except for slight chipping on the longitudinal ridge on the back of the canines—if any teeth are not fully erupted he is younger than 3 years.



Adapted from: Whitman, K.L., & Packer, C. 2007. A Hunter's Guide to Aging Lions in Eastern and Southern Africa, Safari Press, Long Beach, CA.

## Mature: 5 and 6 years

5 and 6-year-olds are in their prime, fully grown, and massive, especially in the shoulders. Foreheads and chest are broad and manes usually are well developed.

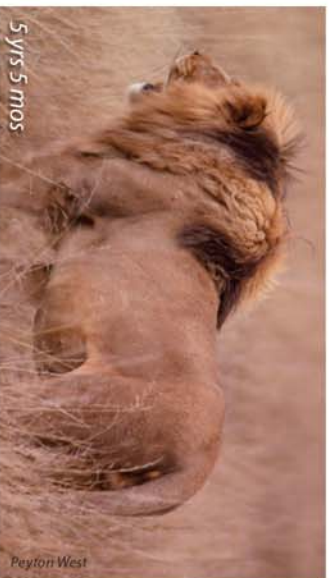


**Nose Pigmentation:**  
5 yrs: ~ 50% of nose is black (range 35-60%)  
6 yrs: ~60% of nose black (range 37-85%)

**Teeth:** Canines are yellow at the base, light at the tips, and the back ridge is slightly worn or chipped. Unlikely to have more than one canine broken. Incisors are still fairly white, rarely missing, and will show a small amount of wear.



Chest often dark.



5 yrs 5 mos

Peyton West

**Mane:** By 5½ years the forehead section is fully filled between and behind the ears. By 6½ years, the mane is fully developed: the shoulders are filled in and the mane is nearly continuous from the ridge of the back to the chest.

## Aged: 7+ years

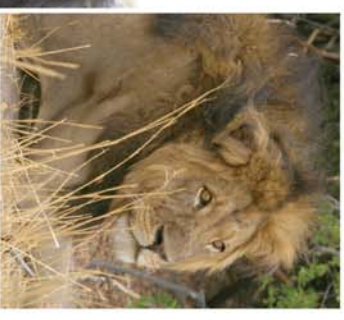
Fully mature and massive, muscle tone declines with age so they may appear smaller than younger males. Hair on the muzzle begins to thin by about 7 years and becomes progressively "pock-marked". Mane fully developed with ends mostly smooth but begins to look fuzzy around 7 years. Greater than 8 years, the mane loses condition, may thin, hair ends split, and length shortens as lion loses condition.



Muzzles and flanks can be heavily scarred.

Whisker spots more difficult to discern >9 yrs and lions begin to look slack-jawed in expression.

**Teeth:** Conspicuously yellow teeth, with all showing heavy wear. Canines often broken and incisors may be missing.



**Nose Pigmentation:**  
7 yrs: ~50-85% black  
8 yrs: 75-100% black  
10 yrs : 100% black