



## International Trade in Lion Hunting Trophies

Humane Society International / Humane Society of the United States

February 2007

Humane Society International conducted an analysis of lion (*Panthera leo*) trophy trade data using the UNEP-WCMC CITES Trade Database (<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/citestrade/trade.cfm>) on 15 February 2007. Data contained in this Database are from the annual trade reports submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) ([www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)) by Parties to that Convention. The lion (*P. leo*) is listed on CITES Appendix II which means that trade is allowed but is regulated by the Parties.

The findings are as follows:

- In 2005, the most recent year for which trade data are available, South Africa reported exporting 322 lion trophies (Table 1), most of which (206 or 64%) were captive-bred (Table 2).
- The number of lions exported as trophies in 2005 is more than 21 times the number in 1982; the first year for which data on lion hunting trophy export are available is 1982 when 15 lion trophies were exported from South Africa (Table 1); the number of lion trophies exported steadily increased over the following ten years, reaching 164 in 1992; the number of lion trophies exported remained stable for the following ten years until 2002 and 2003 when South Africa increased exports dramatically to 231 and 235 lion trophies, respectively; in the past two years for which data are available, South Africa again increased exports to 325 and 322, respectively.
- The number of captive-bred lions exported from South Africa as trophies in 2005 is more than five times the number in 1994 (Table 2); 1994 is the first year on record for the export from South Africa of captive-bred lions as trophies; 41 captive-bred lions were exported as trophies in 1994; in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, South Africa reported exporting 206 captive-bred lions as trophies.
- Between 1975 and 2005, 69 countries imported lion trophies from South Africa (Table 3); the United States imported more lion trophies from South Africa than any other country in all years on record; in 2005, the United States imported 59.6% of these lion trophies; Spain and Germany also import many lion trophies from South Africa.
- Between 1975 and 2005, 41 countries imported captive-bred lion trophies from South Africa (Table 4); the United States imported more captive-bred lion trophies from South Africa than any other country in all years on record; in 2005, the United States imported 58.3% (120 of 206) of these lion trophies; Spain, Portugal and Germany also import many captive bred lion trophies from South Africa.
- From 1994 to 2005, South Africa reported exporting 877 captive-bred lions as trophies; most of these (57.5% or 504) were imported to the United States.

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2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 USA • 1-301-258-3010 • Fax: 1-301-258-3082

E-mail: [hsi@hsihsus.org](mailto:hsi@hsihsus.org) • [www.hsihsus.org](http://www.hsihsus.org)

**Table 1: Gross export trade report, lion trophies from S. Africa, 1975-2005, all sources, as reported by South Africa to CITES**

Year	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Quantity	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	13	19	8	10	88	19	65	77	164	130	231	118	52	110	85	124	154	164	231	235	325	322	

**Table 2: Gross export trade report, lion trophies from S. Africa, 1975-2005, captive-bred source, as reported by South Africa to CITES**

Year	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
Quantity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	14	20	10	3	20	33	73	108	129	220	206

**Table 3: Gross import trade report, lion trophies from South Africa, 1975-2005, all sources, as reported by other countries to CITES, in order of number imported in 2005**

Country	Quantity																														
	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	8	11	6	6	50	12	37	32	52	56	117	71	10	66	32	67	88	96	129	136	200	192
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	18	63	21	21	17	6	8	9	19	15	25	35	31	31	34
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	10	2	9	13	14	10	25	10	23	4	8	5	7	4	6	3	9	13
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	4	2	3	4	1	1	0	2	1	6	2	4	8
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	5	1	3	4	11	4	0	0	2	3	4	0	6	4	4	7
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	2	7
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	0	3	6
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	10	5
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	5	4	4	7	1	4	4
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	1	6	2	3
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	3
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	4	4	1	3
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	9	0	1	3	3	7	7	4	2	1	1	0	1	0	5	5	8	2
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	6	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	2
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	8	2
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	1	0	1	1	2
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	1	4	0	2	4	2
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	2
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cote d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	1
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tanzania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	1	0
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	3	1	2	0
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	3	0	0	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	4	3	3	1	5	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	0	
China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greece	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0

Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	3	2	7	1	2	1	3	3	3	0	1	2	4	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	1	0	1	4	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Morocco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
New Caledonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Peru	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Romania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Singapore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
Slovenia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Taiwan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Uruguay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	
Venezuela	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	13	19	8	10	88	19	65	77	164	130	231	118	52	111	85	124	154	164	231	235	325	322

**Table 4: Gross import trade report, lion trophies from South Africa, 1975-2005, captive-bred source, as reported by other countries to CITES, in order of number imported in 2005**

Country	Quantity																													
	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	13	10	6	3	17	23	45	54	63	125	120
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	2	7	4	21	26	21	27
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	8	
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	9	7
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	6
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	2	5
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
France	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	4
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	3	
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	3	0	3	
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	2	
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	4	2
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Estonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	8	1	
United Arab Emirates	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Australia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	
Belgium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	5	0	4	0
Switzerland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Colombia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	

