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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Crocodilians

The Crocodilian family includes, Crocodiles, Alligators, Caimans and Gharials. Australia Zoo is home to three of these species - Saltwater Crocodiles, Freshwater Crocodiles and American Alligators.

Learn More About Australia Zoo Crocodile Research

Saltwater Crocodile

The saltwater crocodile, also known as the estuarine or Indo-Pacific crocodile, is the largest of all living reptiles. This apex predator is formidable, opportunistic and adaptable, with a considerable range it is found in suitable habitats from northern Australia through Southeast Asia to the eastern coast of India.

Habitat

The Saltwater Crocodile is usually found in deep, dark murky water. It may inhabit fresh or saltwater but is most commonly found in the brackish estuary areas of Northern Australia.

Diet

Saltwater Crocodiles take a wide variety of prey, although juveniles are restricted to smaller items such as insects, amphibians, crustaceans, small reptiles and fish. The larger the animal becomes, the larger its prey items are. Although a large male crocodile could take on a food item as large as a 1 tonne Water Buffalo, the majority of their diet consists of relatively small prey items such as crustaceans, fish, turtles, small mammals and birds.

Breeding

Around breeding season, which usually takes place during the wet season, large male crocodiles will patrol their stretches of water protecting their territory from intruding males. When Saltwater Crocodiles are courting one another, they will rub their heads and bodies together. Mating takes place in the water. Between 4-6 weeks after mating, the female will lay 40-60 eggs in her nest. The nest may be up to 80cm high and is made of vegetation broken off by the female's teeth and scraped together with her hind legs.

Australia Zoo Saltwater Crocodile profiles

Agro

This bloke is awesome; weighing in at over 600kgs and measuring over 15ft, this is one impressive croc. Agro was captured from the wild back in 1988. He was removed from Cattle Creek in north Queensland to protect him from being shot dead by hunters.

Agro is now very happy protecting his territory here at Australia Zoo. Not only is Agro protecting his waterhole, he is also extremely protective of his lovely female. The love of his life is Cookie, a large female of 10ft who was caught in exactly the same area as Agro, so these two were probably a bit of an item in the wild. She has a beautiful nature, and is the quietest and gentlest of all our crocodiles. Agro and Cookie are a perfect couple, they get on like a house on fire.

Maintaining the original waterhole that Agro and Cookie lived in at Australia Zoo was probably our most nerve-racking job. Mowing their enclosure was like a sport-you did not stop sweating. The entire time you were working it was hot-but because of nerves, not the weather!. You knew somewhere in that dark, dirty water Agro was lining you up. Agro hunted the lawnmower just like he would an animal in the wild. To date Agro has beaten us on four occasions. Yep, we have had to replace four lawnmowers because Agro has successfully attacked and killed them. (The machines, not the people!)

Many people ask why Agro hates the lawnmowers so much. Well basically, it is a really annoying sound that he sees as a threat to his territory. Agro will do anything to drive the lawnmower out of his territory and protect his

family from this threat.

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