

Cape Seahorses



Did you know?



○ Where do they live?

The Cape Seahorse, or Knysna Seahorse, is found in only three brackish water estuaries in the Cape Province of South Africa. A fourth group used to exist, but by 2002 the fourth population had disappeared.

○ They are tiny

They are tiny, growing to a maximum of 5 inches (12cm) in height and have a distinct shorter nose and smaller crown. Baby Cape Seahorses are barely 0.3 inches (1cm).

○ Camouflage color

They don't stick to one color! The most common is a mottled brown, which is good for camouflage, however others can be seen with white, yellow, green, orange, beige, black or even a dark purple coloring.

○ What do they eat?

They feed primarily on small crustaceans that they find in the sea grass and vacuum them up through their snouts. They have no stomach and digest food so quickly they have to eat almost non-stop!

○ 200 babies at once!

Like all seahorses, the females deposit eggs into the male's specialized pouch, where he fertilises the eggs and remains pregnant. Cape Seahorses produce up to 200 babies at once!

○ Endangered species

It is the first type of seahorse to be declared as endangered due to being poached for the ornamental fish industry, accidentally trapped in fishing nets, poisoned by pollution and bothered by recreational activities such as swimming and boating.



Cape Seahorses can be found here!

