

# ANIMAL PRAGMATICS



**'BIG FIVE'**

The 'Big Five' and 100+ other interesting animals  
in Dutch and Belgian animal parks  
presented with a haiku flavour

Harry Hauptmeijer

# **Animal Pragmatics**

The 'Big Five' and 100+ other interesting  
animals in Dutch and Belgian Zoos  
presented with a haiku flavour

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Challenge the existing to achieve the best

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# **Animal Pragmatics**

## **Introduction**

Animals Pragmatics shows the “Big Five” and 100+ other interesting animals in Dutch and Belgian animal parks. It is made with a tourist look with an understanding of sustainability and preservation, while at the same time enjoying our ‘wildlife’. Animal Pragmatics strives to answer the most frequently asked questions in zoos.

My thanks go to the Dutch and Belgian animal parks and to the many dedicated animal keepers and volunteers with their infectious enthusiasm and who are always ready to explain and give information. An extra motivation to compose Animal Pragmatics.

Animals Pragmatics is written as a hobby. It is “fun” to observe animals and to puzzle with words to write appropriate haikus. It is my wish that you pick up this book once in a while, enjoy reading and watching and be inspired to go (even more often) to the educational and beautiful Dutch and Belgian animal parks.

Harry Hauptmeijer



## 1. Safety - the highest priority

Visitors, staff and  
Members should all return home  
Safely and healthy

Everybody should  
Be concerned with safety and  
Alert each other

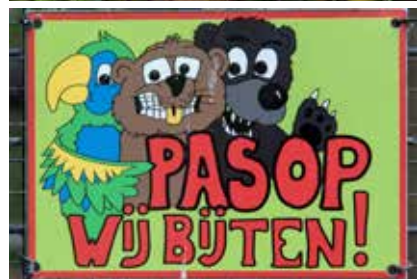
When visiting zoos  
We are very much aware  
Of health and safety

Zoos feed animals  
Kids are not on the menu  
Watch and keep kids safe

Super dangerous  
Animals need more warnings  
And safety measures

We need a culture  
Of intervention and to  
Develop these skills

Safety is mainly  
Advanced by our attitude  
And our behaviour





Elephant, Lion  
Buffalo, Leopard, Rhino,  
Who's your favourite?

This most impressive  
Group of animals is the  
Most endangered too

Threats are everywhere  
Our survival is intense  
We need your support

We are Africa's  
Economic power house  
Tourists adore us

Our habitat is  
Natural, no cities, streets,  
Only green, brown, blue

## 2. The 'Big Five'





### 3. Lion

King of the jungle  
Is powerful and mighty,  
Master of his field

Beautiful creature  
With impressive face and manes,  
While roars carry far

This social figure  
Lives in prides, the ladies  
Are slim and faster

The King defends his  
Territory, the ladies  
Hunt, care for the cubs

The cubs are lovely,  
We love to take them home  
But that is naive!

Intimidating  
Fearless, proud, paralysing  
A strong pride leader

Lying and sleeping  
Listening, playing, hunting  
That's a lion's life





## 4. Elephant

Famous for my tusks,  
Trunk and memory, I am  
Grey and very large

My immense power  
And wisdom make me feel too  
Strong for this jungle

When I blink my eyes  
I look adorable and  
Accessible too

My feet are heavy  
And sensitive, I don't crush  
The weak and small ones

We are family  
In the morning sun our tusks  
Are bright and shining

My trumpet reaches  
The far end of the jungle  
That's my message

I love the water  
And my special shower too  
Please, watch and enjoy





## 5. Leopard or panther

This proud jungle cat  
Is very muscular and  
A great tree climber

I use my tail to  
Balance, by my strong jaws I  
Carry my prey up

My yellowish coat  
Covered by black rosettes makes  
Me well camouflaged

I run fast, swim, leap,  
Jump high, and can handle a  
Wide array of prey

Accelerating,  
Very silent and deadly,  
No prey can escape

Savannah, grass and  
Woodlands, rain forest, I am  
Very adaptive

Me resting over  
Tree branches or rocks is your  
Favourite picture





## 6. Rhinoceros

Huge ancient creature  
One or two horns, big and grey,  
Thick skin and dinky tail

I live in grass lands,  
Rainforests and like water  
Wallow in the mud

The companionship  
Of rhinos and oxpeckers  
Does benefit both

Do not poach my horn,  
It is not for medicine,  
Pleasure or money

My horn is nail or  
Horse hoof stuff, without any  
Mystical feature

My food is grass, leaves,  
Vegetation, which I eat  
In my solitude

My world shrinks quickly  
Extinction is forever  
Animals matter





## 7. African Buffalo

My face looks friendly  
My temper is dangerous  
Be always alert!

My artistic horns  
Are deceiving, my weight is  
High, my power great

I live in grasslands,  
Forests, savannahs and swamps  
I do graze quickly

We live in a herd  
And like to spar for play while  
Our calves may join

Our sound signals are  
Simple but clear, the females  
Set our directions

Young calves are hidden  
In grass and bush, older ones  
Live in the herd center

My horns are called a  
'Boss', which explains everything  
about my nature





## 8. Giraffe

I am as tall as  
One can get; overseeing the  
Glory of the world

White coat with brown spots  
An amazing piece of art  
Graceful and gentle

My head in the sky  
There is no limit to eat leaves  
I use my long tongue

With my long neck and  
Legs I stand far above all  
Other animals

If you enter my  
Domain, I use my strong legs  
To kick with power

I do not sleep much,  
Whip my head to fight giraffes  
Spread my legs to drink

I give birth standing  
Up, my baby drops on the  
Hard ground and gets up...





## 9. Chimpanzee

My behaviour is  
Complex, we apply helpful  
Tools like stones and sticks

We solve conflicts and  
Reconcile, we form frequent  
Best coalitions

Our sharp yell and strong  
Macho image does not stop  
Us to harmonize

Using sign language  
And sounds we communicate  
Adoption is familiar

Our common disease  
Is hydrophobia which  
We are working on

Our main food includes  
Fruits, leaves, bugs; we like you  
To watch us eating

We are very close  
To the human race but still  
Have large steps to go

