

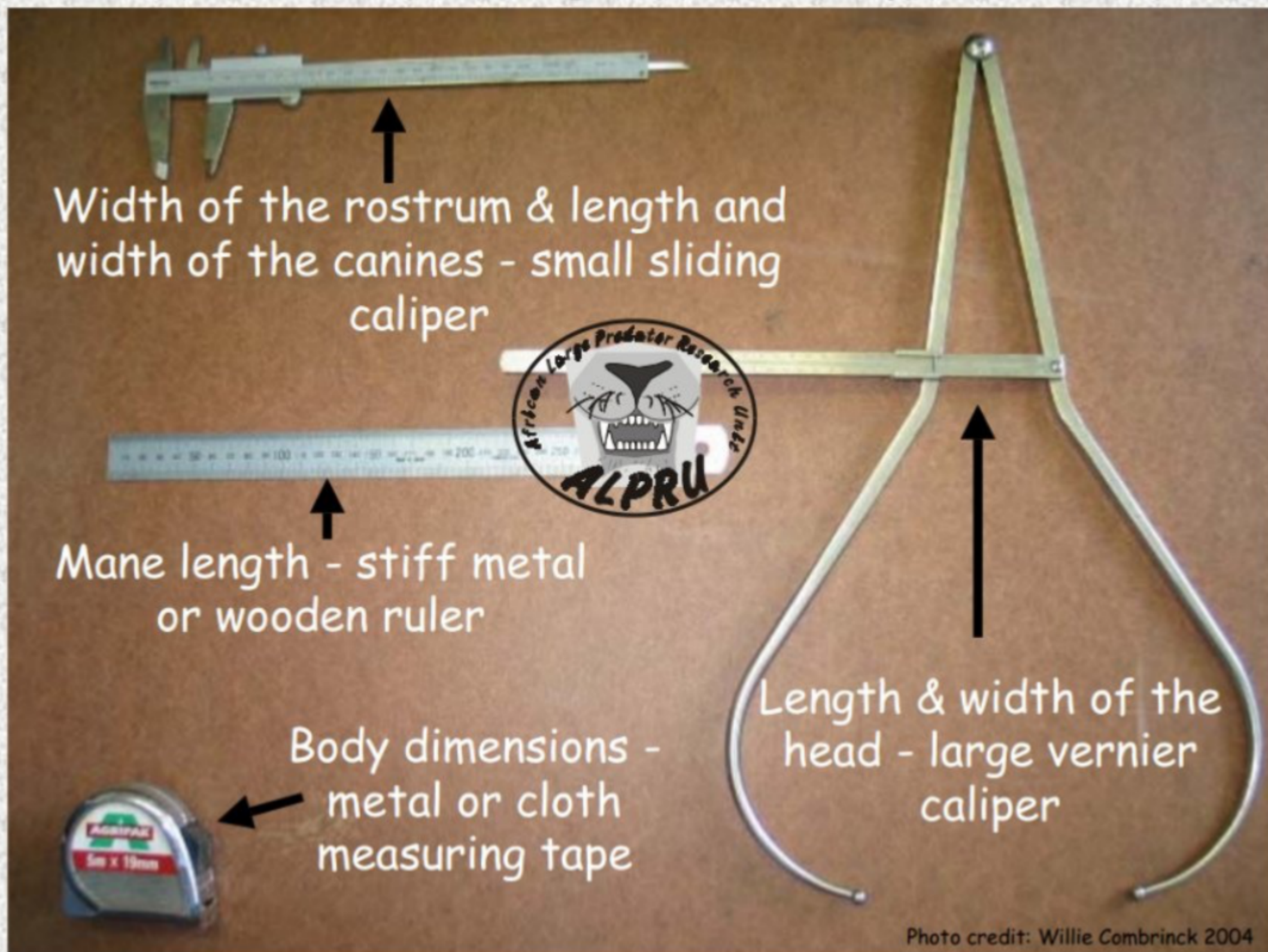
The African Large Predator Unit (Alpru) based at the University of the Free State has now developed a set of **standardised procedures for measuring lions and other predators.**

Headed up by H0 de Waal, Alpru is encouraging all researchers and hunters to take a bit of time when they have an immobilised predator and carry out some measurements. Alpru provides a standardised data sheet to fill out the measurements, and has an instructive set of pictures and diagrams explaining exactly where the 40-odd measurements should be taken.

Now here we have the most important things that we have to know about the Alpru measuring method.

Equipment

ALPRU Procedure 0 - equipment for measuring the bodies of large African predators

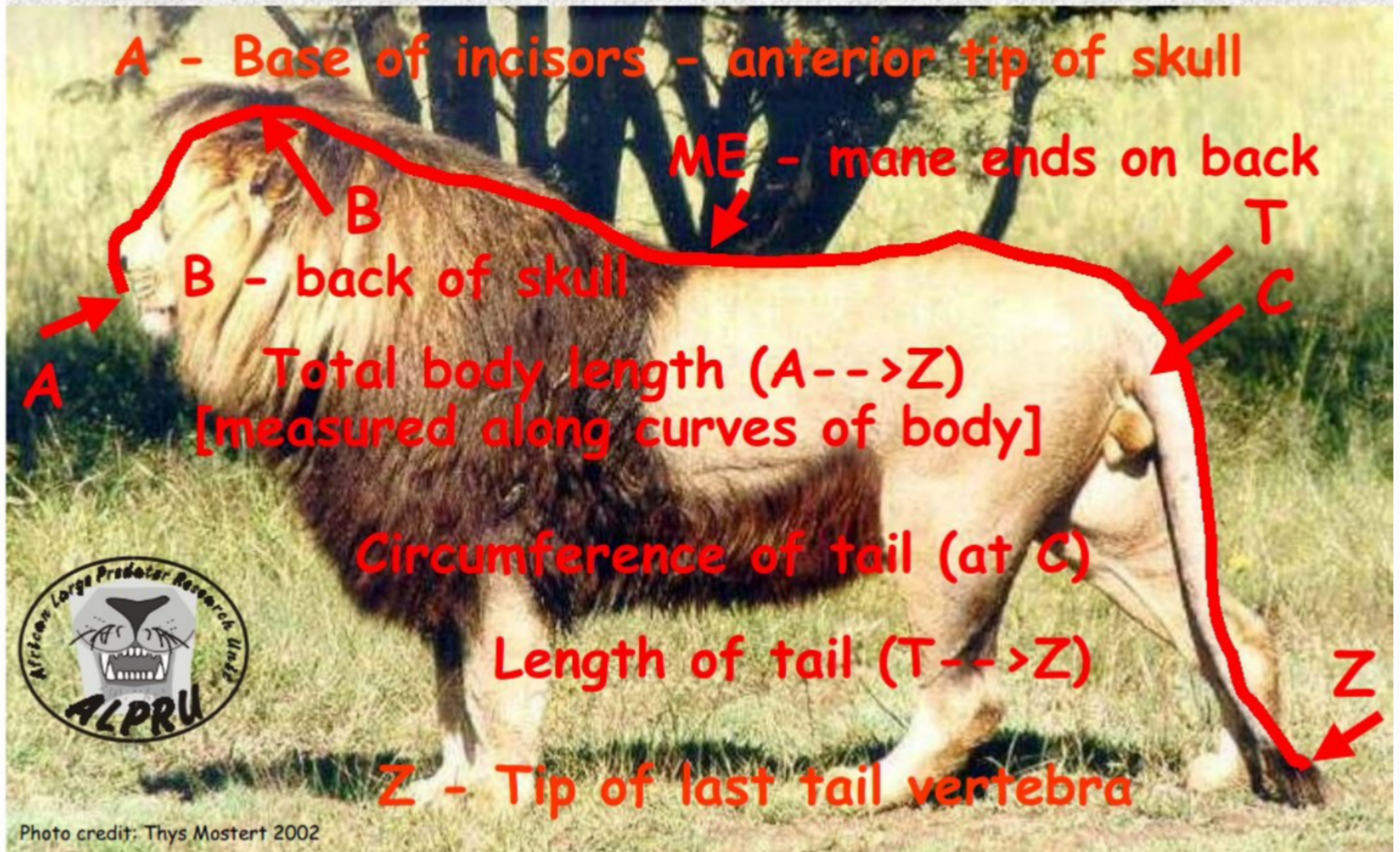


- So here we have standard a measurement equipment but still interesting.

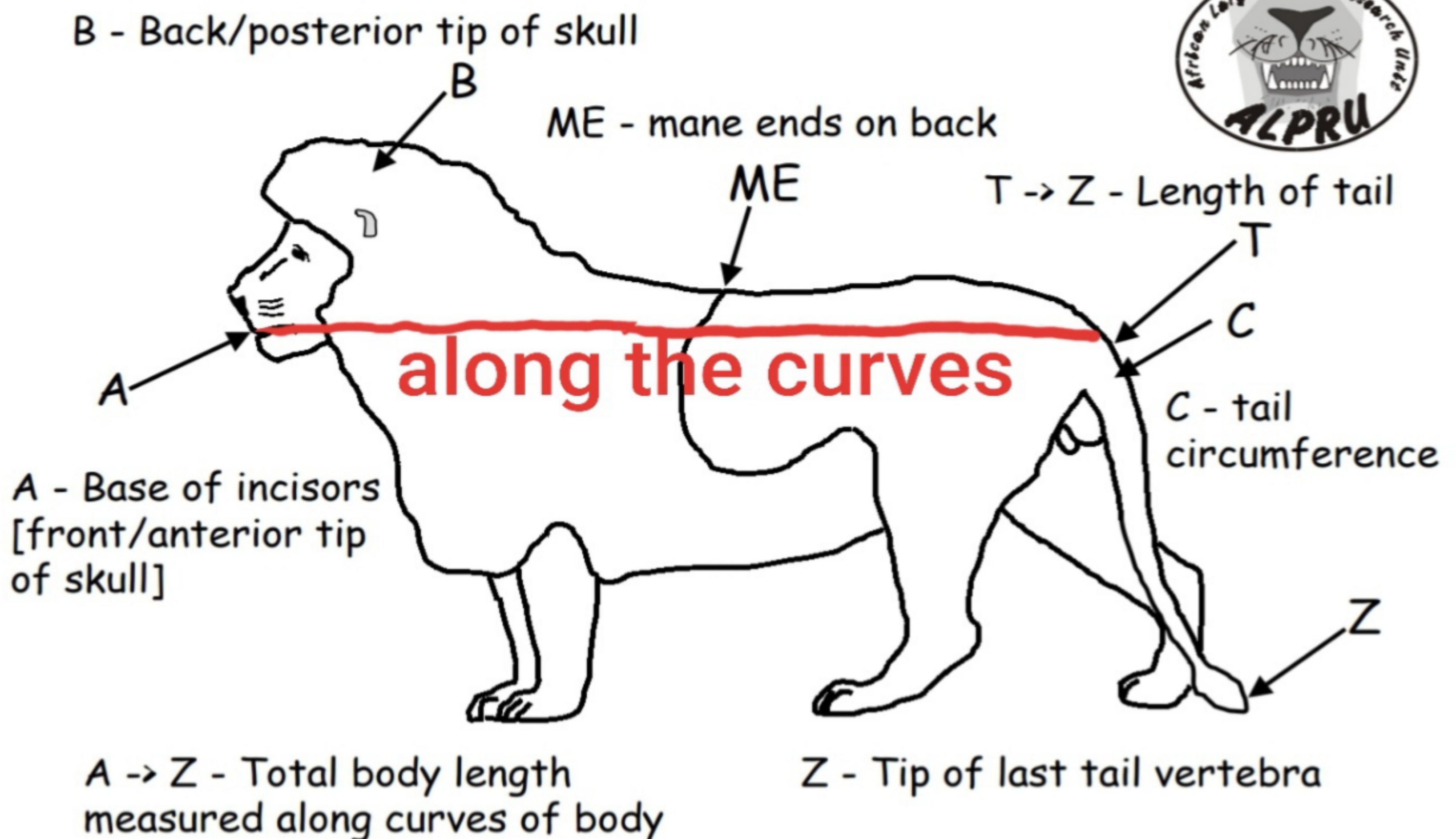
Length

The measurement is indeed very similar to the well known "along the curve" measurements. But it's a little bit different. The normal "curve measurements" starts from the NOSE to BASE OF THE TAIL. But it's not a straight line measurement because the curves of the body are included in the measurement. Curve measurements differ about 10-15cm generally said. Mean If a tiger/lion is 205cm "along the curves" he would be 190-195cm on straight line. **The ALPRU starts from the incisors of the lions, which is a bit behind the Nose.**

ALPRU Procedure 1 - measuring the length of the body and the tail of African lions (*Panthera leo*)



ALPRU Procedure 1c - measuring the length of the body and tail of African lions (*Panthera leo*)



- The Alpru Protocol is similar to the curve measurement. Therefore differences of about 10-15 cm (4-6 inches) are the norm. Note they even loose few cm by starting from the incisors because it is few cm behind the nose.

Other Areas of the Body

ALPRU Procedure 4 - measuring the chest and abdominal girths and the circumference and length of the tail of African lions (*Panthera leo*)

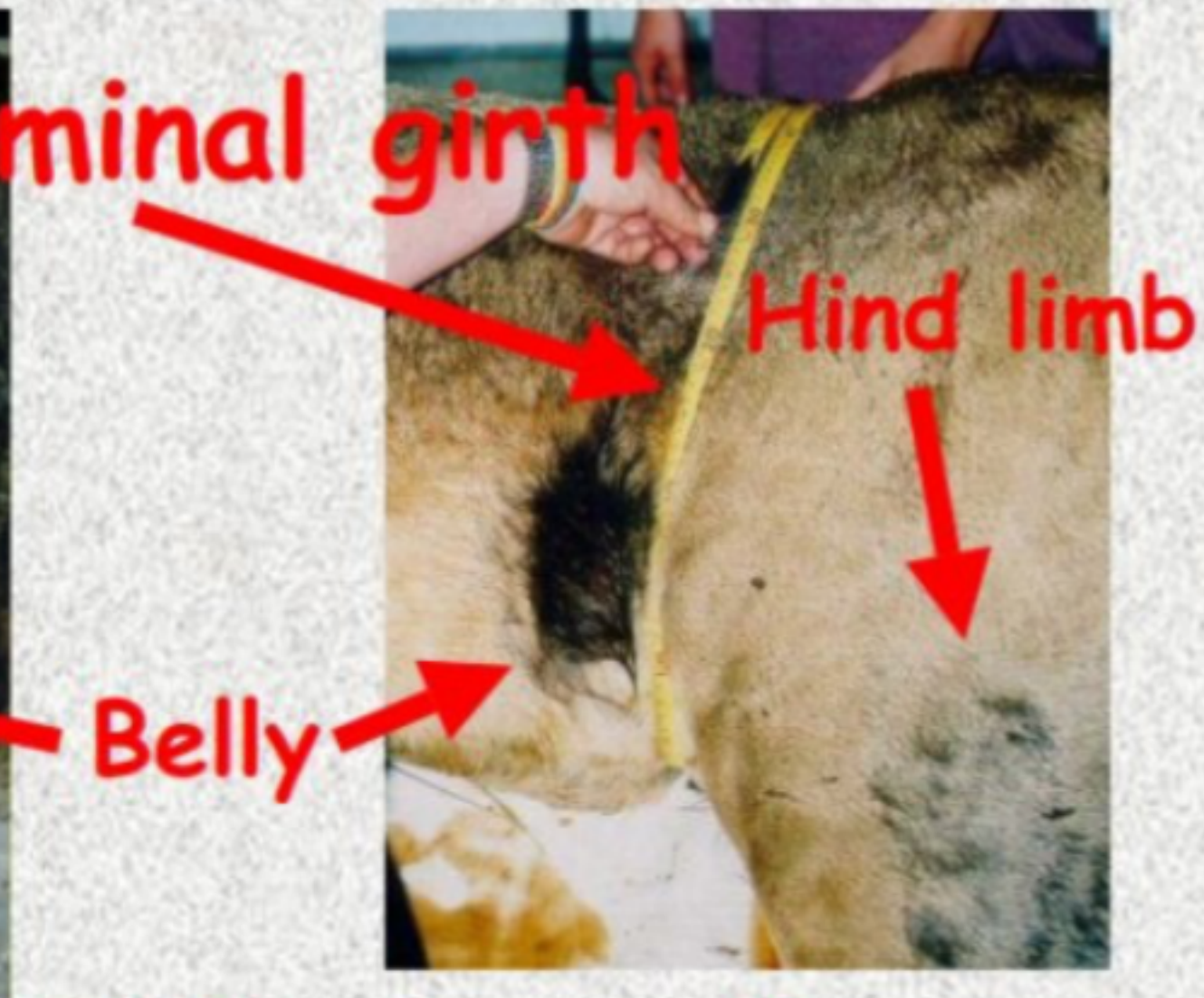


Photo credits: Daryl Barnes 2002

ALPRU Procedure 3 - measuring the four canines and the rostrum of African lions (*Panthera leo*)

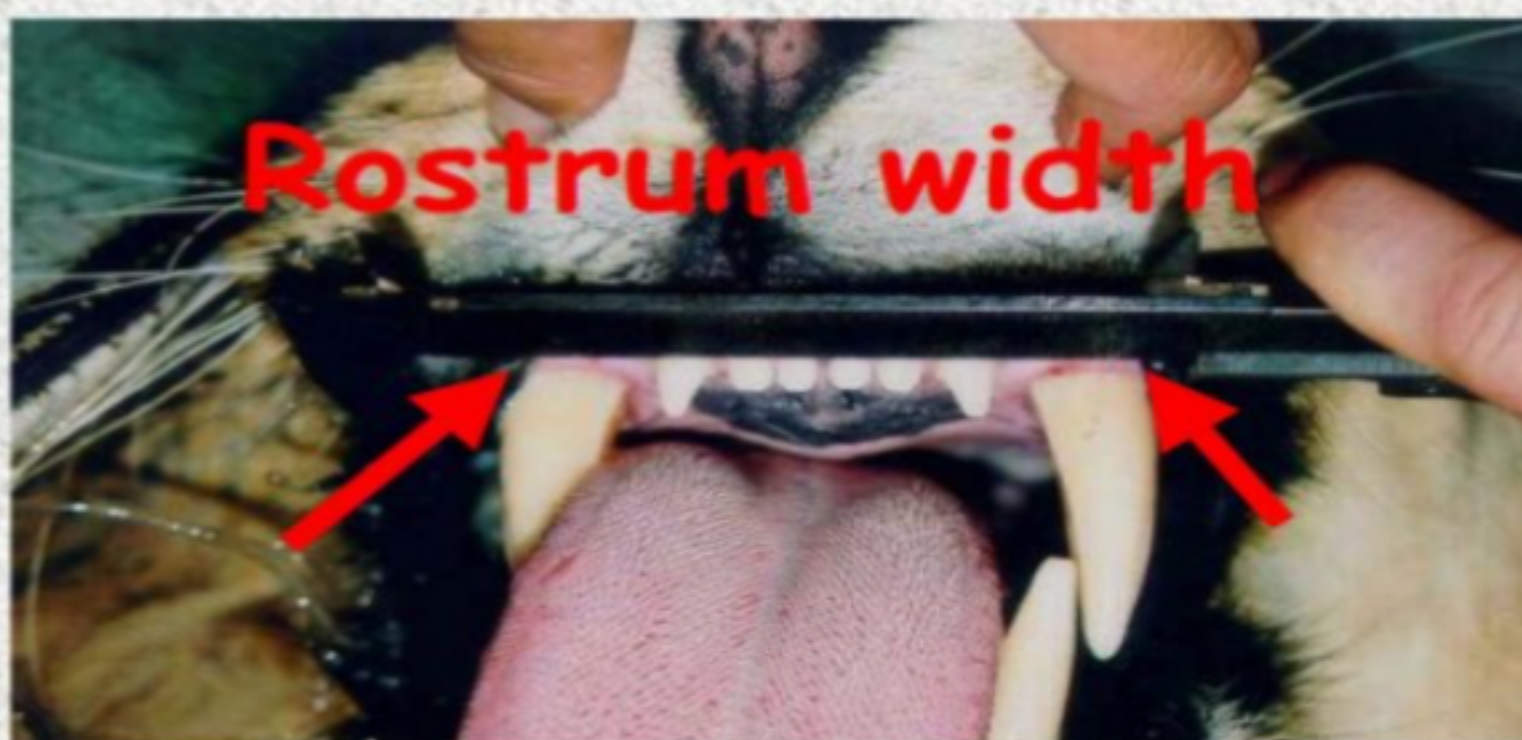


Photo credits: Daryl Barnes 2002

ALPRU Procedure 6 - measuring the front legs and the front paws of African lions (*Panthera leo*)

Paw length



Tip of longest digit, without claw

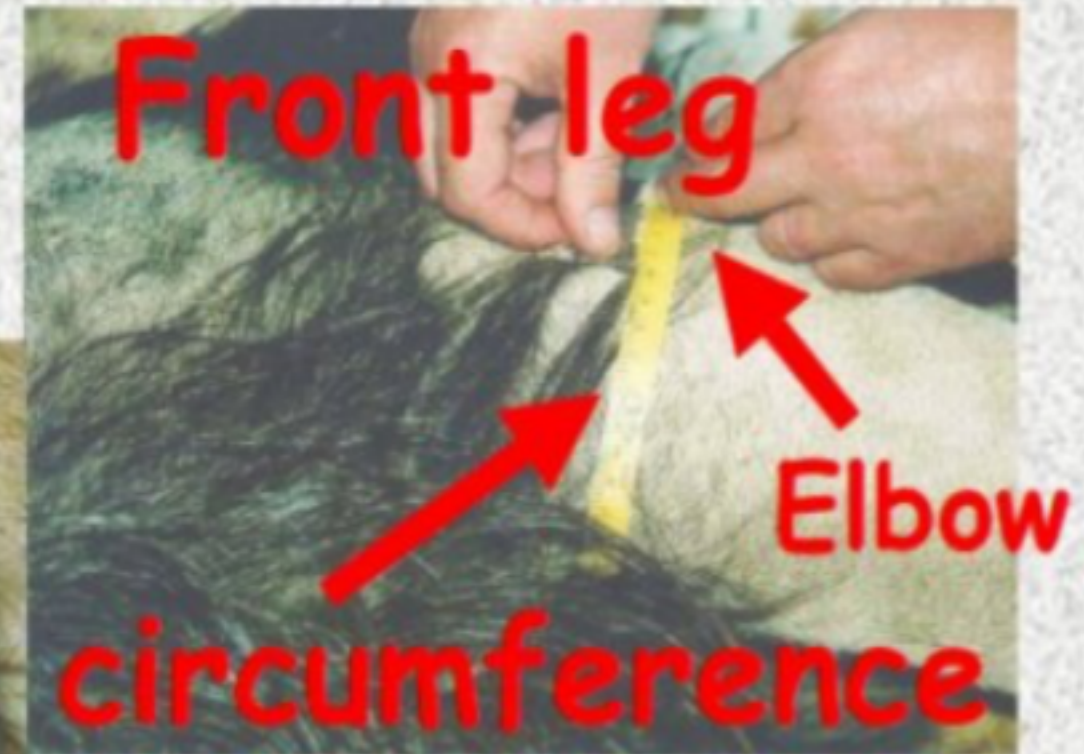
Tip of elbow



Front leg length



Paw width



Front leg

Elbow circumference



Photo credits: Daryl Barnes 2002

