

African buffalo ... the undisputed boss of the savanna!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
WILD CATTLE AND
CAMELID TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 8-11 feet
Height: 5-6 feet
at shoulder
Weight: 750-
2,000 lbs



Savanna



Africa

IUCN
NEAR
THREATENED

401,000
In the wild

Why exhibit African buffalo?

- Inspire people to work together! African buffalo are great role models for cooperation: after fleeing from predators, they will return to save a member of the herd that is being attacked!
- Extend seasonal viewing in your African section with this heat-tolerant and cold-hardy bovid - one of the largest African mammals.
- Add to your portfolio of memorable guest experiences with this imposing species: visitors won't soon forget protected-contact interactions with one of Africa's most dangerous animals (which also happens to be easy to train)!
- Demonstrate how a species can adapt to various habitats: the African buffalo is one of the most widespread African ungulates, with marked differences between the savanna form (managed by the SSP) and forest buffalo.

Stewardship Opportunities

Northern Rangelands Trust (Kenya)
<http://www.nrt-kenya.org/>

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 38.53 (91) in 5 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2018)

Species coordinator: Jordan Schimming, Denver Zoo
jschimming@denverzoo.org; (720) 337-1614

Social nature: Highly gregarious, non-territorial. One breeding bull with multiple females (and space for offspring) is ideal.

Mixed species: Sufficient space is needed to mix this potentially ornery species. With space for animals to separate themselves, African buffalo have been housed with other hoofstock and ground birds.

Housing: Strong barriers are required - chainlink is not sufficient. Tolerant of weather extremes, including cold temperatures with snow if provided with supplemental heat below 45°F.

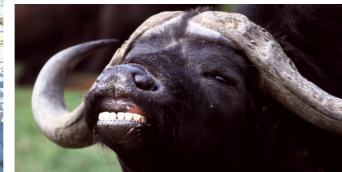
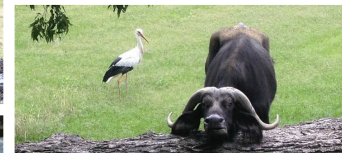
Medical notes: A generally healthy, hardy species. Susceptible to all domestic bovid diseases. Mechanical restraint and/or chemical immobilizations are recommended for handling.

Special requirements: During hot weather, mud wallows are suggested for skin care and cooling.

Keeper resources: Cleaning is simple due to large piles of feces. Keepers should work in protected contact, but this species trains well and is easily enriched with items that they can push around.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

<http://www.azaungulates.org/>



Photos by J. Baur, B. Huffman, K. Meeks, J. Schimming, J. Schmidt. Published December 2019.