

Arabian oryx ... back from the brink, thanks to zoos!



Why exhibit Arabian oryx?

- Share a strong pro-zoo message: the Arabian oryx was literally saved by zoos. This was the first extinct-in-the-wild species to be reintroduced to its native range from captive-bred stock!
- Enhance your visitors' experience during hot weather. Arabian Oryx are vocal, socially dynamic, and active throughout all but the hottest days, helping draw and hold guests' attention.
- Use the stunning looks of this species to interpret desert adaptation and visual communication. Or excite visitors' imaginations: this oryx may be the source of the unicorn legend!
- Don't have space for a herd? Help this program by holding a single male ... perfect for filling smaller exhibits, and with all of the above mentioned benefits!

MEASUREMENTS

Length: 5 feet

Height: 3 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 150 lbs



Desert



Arabian Peninsula

IUCN
VULNERABLE
CITES I

1,200 in
the wild

Get involved with stewardship!

Contact SSP coordinator for more information on
*a genetic comparison between populations
*work with oryx in Jordan.

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 20.50.1 (71) in 6 AZA institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Michelle Hatwood, Audubon Nature Institute
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Social nature: Herd-dwelling, but sparring/displacement are common. Females herd well together. Males are typically held singly except for breeding. Bachelor groups do not work well (small numbers have greater success).

Mixed species: Not known for mixing well with other species. Gazelles have been tried in large exhibits; some success with females of both species, but oryx tend to be aggressive to infant and male gazelles.

Housing: Extreme heat is not an issue and they tolerate low temps well. Heated areas recommended if weather drops below 40°F for extended periods.

Medical notes: Very robust with few issues. Horn breakage due to fence sparring (usually in males) can be curbed with enrichment, space, and sparring devices.

Special requirements: Often dig to create bedding areas or to reach underground water (including irrigation lines, but pipes are normally not damaged).

Keeper resources: Protected contact advisable. Normal daily servicing with added time to move dirt occasionally to fill in holes.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by M. Hatwood, B. Huffman & SirBaniYasPreserve. Published November 2019.