

Barasingha ... a regal deer that loves getting muddy!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
CERVID TAG

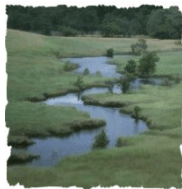


MEASUREMENTS

Length: 6 feet

Height: 4 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 300-550 lbs



Wetlands



India & Nepal

IUCN
VULNERABLE
CITES I

<5,000 in
the wild

Why exhibit barasingha?

- Take advantage of marshy terrain! Barasingha are also known as swamp deer, and are well-adapted to water-logged habitats.
- Incorporate a language lesson using the impressive six-pointed antlers of males (which make great biofacts): their name is Hindi for twelve (barha) horns (singha).
- Connect visitors with actual conservation: protective measures in Kanha National Park have allowed the hardground barasingha to recover from 60 deer in 1966 to more than 500 today.
- Reinforce the conservation messages at your tiger and Indian rhino exhibits with this rare deer from the same Indian grasslands, facing similar threats of habitat loss and poaching.
- Forge community ties with fencing and boxing clubs: barasingha fight with their antlers and by rearing up and "boxing" with their front legs.
- Participate in one of the original thirteen SSPs!

Stewardship Opportunities

IRF's Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program

<http://www.rhinos.org/indian-rhino-vision-2020>

Care and Husbandry

RED SSP: 26.29 (55) in 4 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Matt Gelvin, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
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Social nature: Gregarious. Multi-male groups are possible if sufficient space is provided. Rutting occurs seasonally (in autumn); males vocalize with impressive "bugles" at this time.

Mixed species: Successfully housed with other medium-sized ungulates including axis deer, hog deer, sika, and blackbuck. Given sufficient space, barasingha have been safely mixed with rhino and gaur.

Housing: Fine in hot weather if given access to water and shade; fairly cold-tolerant. Barasingha can swim, so water barriers inadvisable. Large pastures allow for herding and rutting behavior.

Medical notes: Robust, with few health concerns.

Special requirements: Water features, such as ponds or mud wallows, should be provided.

Keeper resources: Easy husbandry. Docile when hand-raised; females have been successfully used in contact yards. Birth intervals are predictable as females are monestrous (a single estrus each year).

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published May 2019.