

Bontebok ... a handsome antelope with a remarkable story!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
ANTELOPE AND
GIRAFFE TAG



Why exhibit bontebok?

- Connect visitors with the concept of extinction: the bontebok nearly followed in the footsteps of the now-extinct quagga and blaubok due to overhunting. Only 17 bontebok survived in 1830.
- Convince visitors that their actions can make a difference! This species was saved by a few South African farmers who set aside land for bontebok.
- Add an eye-catching species to your collection: this glossy antelope has rich purpley-brown flanks and bright white markings.
- Boost your cute quotient - and interpret camouflage and age-related color changes - with adorable pale brown bontebok babies.
- **TAG Recommendation:** The bontebok is not represented in other regional zoo programs and is a priority SSP for the AZA hartebeest subgroup.

MEASUREMENTS

Length: 5 feet

Height: 3 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 125-250 lbs



Grassland



South Africa

IUCN
VULNERABLE
CITES II

<2,000
in the wild

Stewardship Opportunities

Support the hirola, a critically endangered relative of bontebok and *in situ* focus species for the TAG: Northern Rangelands Trust—Ishaqbini Conservancy

<http://www.nrt-kenya.org/>

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 27.31 (58) in 15 AZA (+ 4 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Lissa McCaffree, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
lmccaffree@sandiegozoo.org ; (760) 492-4486

Social nature: Gregarious - usually housed as a harem group. Females form strict hierarchies. Multiple males cannot be housed with females (highly aggressive). Bachelor groups have been successful.

Mixed species: Large spaces help minimize aggression to other species; giraffe, plains zebra, and medium-sized hoofstock successful.

Housing: Best suited to moderate climates. Heated shelter needed where temperatures fall below 45°F for extended periods. 8 foot fencing suggested. Hillocks are focal points for natural surveying behavior.

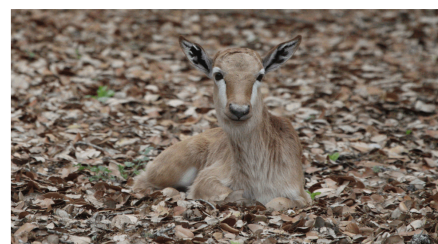
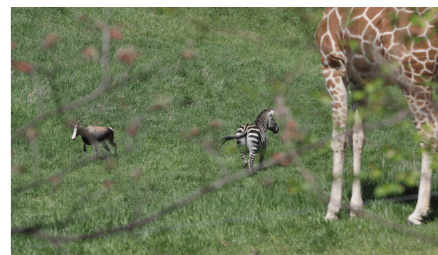
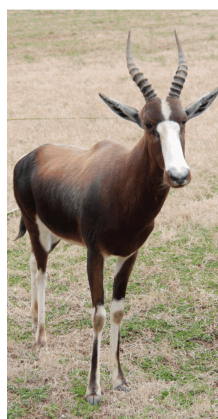
Medical notes: Narcotic-assisted restraint is often accompanied by muscle tremors; bontebok are also prone to renarcotization. Drop-floor chutes work well for restraint. Potential carrier of MCF.

Special requirements: Copper deficiency can be a concern. Poor coat condition may be a sign that supplementation is needed.

Keeper resources: Easy care. Browse and substrate piles are popular enrichment. Hierarchies can make introductions challenging.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published May 2019.