

Lechwe ... a sure way to make a splash!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
ANTELOPE AND
GIRAFFE TAG

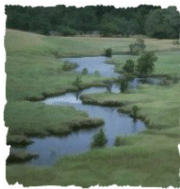


MEASUREMENTS

Length: 4.5-6 feet

Height: 3-4 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 110-300 lbs



Wetlands



Southern Africa

IUCN
LEAST
CONCERN
CITES II

~213,000
In the wild

Why exhibit southern lechwe?

- Maximize space use in exhibits that have large water features with these semi-aquatic antelope!
- Interpret the lechwe's many adaptations to flooded habitats, including elongated hooves, oily pelage, and powerful hindquarters.
- Highlight the vast wetland habitats of south-central Africa, home to lechwe as well as river hippos, waterfowl, cranes and storks, crocodiles, and the last large population of African wild dogs.
- Share the unusual mating system of lechwe, known as lekking. Males hold tiny clustered territories (each just 30 feet in diameter) and compete for prime real estate to woo females!
- **TAG Recommendation:** Institutions interested in southern lechwe should first consider the higher conservation priority Nile lechwe.

Stewardship Opportunities

Support the conservation of the Nile lechwe, an endangered and declining relative of the southern lechwe, through WCS in South Sudan

www.wcs.org/where-we-work/africa/southern-sudan.aspx

Care and Husbandry

Candidate Program: 8.23 (31) in 1 AZA (+2 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Mel Hall, Disney's Animal Kingdom

Melissa.A.Hall@disney.com

Social nature: Highly gregarious. Can be maintained in multiple-male mixed groups, although management during the breeding season is needed to ensure known parentage of offspring.

Mixed species: Generally mild-mannered. Successfully housed with a variety of other hoofstock, as well as pelicans and other birds. High risk of aggression and hybridization with other *Kobus* antelope.

Housing: Provide supplemental heat below 45°F. Soft natural substrate and water features are recommended to minimize foot issues and promote natural behaviour. Refuges and hides help reduce stress.

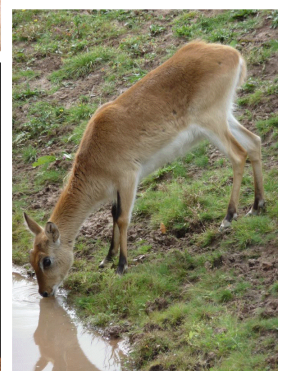
Medical notes: Prone to overheating and capture myopathy during immobilizations due to tendency to run after darting.

Special requirements: Facilities are encouraged to hand-rear female calves to reduce nervous tendencies and improve management.

Keeper resources: Can be fractious. Keepers need to be mindful of flight distances and should establish a consistent routine.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by D. Blackburn (main image), M. Covey, B. Huffman, & P. Rose. Published June 2019.