

# Lesser kudu ... because lesser is more!



## MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 4-6 feet

**Height:** 3-4 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 125-230 lbs



Dry woodland



East Africa

IUCN  
NEAR  
THREATENED

118,000  
In the wild

## Why exhibit lesser kudu?

- Wow visitors with the delicate beauty of these antelope: females and young are fawn in color, while males become a rich purple-grey with maturity and grow marvellous corkscrew horns.
- Highlight the imperilled fauna of the Horn of Africa, and share how community conservation projects (which we strongly encourage you to support) are combatting threats to wildlife such as overhunting and livestock overgrazing.
- Use the striking white markings of this sexually dimorphic species to interpret both camouflage (for females) AND showiness (for males).
- Enhance existing savanna exhibits by adding these socially dynamic and active antelope: they mix well with many other species.
- Compare this exotic antelope to native white-tailed deer: both raise their white flag-like tail when fleeing from danger.

## Stewardship Opportunities

Northern Rangelands Trust (Kenya)

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

## Care and Husbandry

**YELLOW SSP:** 60.66.2 (128) in 19 AZA institutions (2017)

**Species coordinator:** Lauren Harster, Saint Louis Zoo  
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**Social nature:** Females are very social, and can be exhibited with a single breeding male. Bachelor herds work well with young males, but former breeding males often cannot be kept with other males.

**Mixed species:** A very versatile species, successfully mixed with many large and small ungulates (gazelles to giraffes), as well as ostrich, storks, and cranes. May hybridize with other spiral-horned antelope.

**Housing:** Very heat-tolerant if provided with shade. Heated shelter required below 40°F. Barriers need to be at least 8 feet tall.

**Medical notes:** Susceptible to hypomagnesemia and hypocalcemia. Some animals require regular hoof care. Anesthesia can be challenging.

**Special requirements:** Females can be kept in a herd situation in large stalls, although a separate stall is needed for the herd bull.

**Keeper resources:** Typical cleaning for a large antelope. May be flighty, especially if housed on large acreage; animals generally calm down when managed in a barn with a regular routine.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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

