

Okapi ... endangered, elusive, and eye-catching!

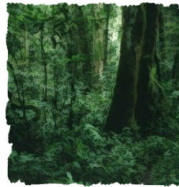


MEASUREMENTS

Length: 7 feet

Height: 5-6 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 400-700 lbs



Rainforest



Central Africa

IUCN
ENDANGERED

<50,000
in the wild

Why exhibit okapi?

- Stop guests in their tracks! With zebra-striped legs, chocolate-colored velvety fur, large ears, doe-like eyes, and a long blue tongue, the unusual appearance of okapi makes a lasting impression, inspiring guests to ask questions and learn more.
- Further your zoo's *in situ* conservation goals by supporting the Okapi Conservation Project, and share how helping communities is key to saving endangered wildlife. All okapi holders are expected to contribute to this project.
- Use this "forest giraffe" as the cornerstone of an African forest exhibit. This cryptic species stayed "hidden" from science until 1901; preserving its dense forest habitat remains key to its survival.
- Highlight your zoo's enrichment program by providing okapi with puzzle feeders and browse - their long prehensile tongues draw crowds and provide a venue to share the reasons we enrich!

Stewardship Opportunities

Okapi Conservation Project

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

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 56.56 (112) in 35 institutions (2018)

Species coordinator: Steve Shurter, White Oak Conservation Center
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Social nature: Typically solitary. Related females (or those introduced when young) may tolerate each other. Males should be housed separately and only introduced for breeding.

Mixed species: Frequently housed with duikers and large birds (cranes, hornbills). In larger (several acre) exhibits, successfully housed with various antelope, red river hogs (limited success), and ankole.

Housing: Not cold tolerant. Recommended access to heated indoor housing below 55°F, and should be kept inside below 40°F. Facilities should have enough stalls to separate all individuals.

Medical notes: Generally healthy. Common issues include digestive disorders, rotavirus, jaw abscesses, and overgrown hooves.

Special requirements: Fresh browse should be provided regularly to encourage natural behaviours and prevent oral stereotypies.

Keeper resources: Typical workload for a large ungulate. This species is readily trained into a chute for voluntary medical procedures.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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

