

Plains zebra ... popular, but populous.



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 7-8 feet

Height: 4 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 380-700 lbs



Savanna



Africa

IUCN
LEAST
CONCERN

~650,000
in the wild

Why exhibit plains zebras?

- Satisfy visitors with views of this well-recognized African species that does well in multi-species exhibits with other ungulates.
- Share the story of the human-driven extinction of the quagga, the southernmost form of plains zebra which lost the stripes on its body.
- Highlight the diversity of “zebras” by comparing the distinctive stripe patterns of the three species, and inform guests about the critical conservation needs of both Grevy’s and mountain zebras.
- Generate revenue with popular plush and zebra-print merchandise.
- **TAG Recommendation:** The equid spaces occupied by plains zebras are needed for the conservation-concern Grevy’s zebra and mountain zebra programs. Zoos are urged to switch away from plains zebras where possible.

Stewardship Opportunities

Support TAG-priority Grevy’s zebra conservation through the Grevy’s Zebra Trust

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

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 77.191.1(269) in 53 AZA (+14non-AZA) institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: John Register, Houston Zoo Inc.

jregister@houstonzoo.org ; 713-533-6682

Social nature: Highly social. Typically housed in a harem group with one male and multiple females. Large group sizes are possible.

Mixed species: Have been housed with many other species, including giraffe, rhino, numerous antelope, and large ground birds such as storks and ostrich. Aggression is sometimes a challenge.

Housing: A hardy species that can acclimate to most temperature conditions. Provide access to supplemental heat below 35-40°F. Open spaces with some visual barriers work well.

Medical notes: Generally robust. Hard, dry substrates are best for hoof health and reduce the need for hoof trims.

Special requirements: Few. The husbandry for this species is well-established and similar to other equids.

Keeper resources: Standard workload. Large feces make for easy cleaning. Individuals can be aggressive and are typically worked in protected contact.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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

