

# Pronghorn ... the American "antelope"!

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS  
ANTELOPE AND  
GIRAFFE TAG



## MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 4.5 feet

**Height:** 3 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 65-130 lbs



Prairies



North America

IUCN  
LEAST  
CONCERN  
(CITES I)

<200 peninsular  
in the wild

## Why exhibit pronghorns?

- Celebrate our local biodiversity by displaying the last surviving species of the Antilocapridae, a mammalian family endemic to North America.
- Participate in a recovery program close to home: AZA maintains a priority insurance population of the critically endangered peninsular pronghorn.
- Engage guests with these "antelope" from the familiar song "Home on the Range" (even though pronghorns aren't true "antelope" at all!).
- Let visitors get hands-on with the unusual horn sheaths of pronghorns - they are keratinous like horns, but are shed annually like antlers!
- Seek partnerships with local running groups: pronghorn are the fastest land animals in North America, able to cover 6 miles in 9 minutes!
- **TAG Recommendation:** Contact the SSP for guidance regarding which pronghorn program is best suited to your facility's climate.

## Stewardship Opportunities

Peninsular Pronghorn Recovery Project

Contact Melodi Tayles: [mtayles@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:mtayles@sandiegozoo.org)

## Care and Husbandry

**RED SSP** (peninsular): 25.26 (51) in 7 AZA institutions (2019)

**Species coordinator:** Melodi Tayles, San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
[mtayles@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:mtayles@sandiegozoo.org) ; (760) 855-1911

**CANDIDATE Program** (generic): 34.61 (95) in 21 institutions (2014)

**Social nature:** Herd living. Harem groups with a single male are typical. Bachelor groups may be successful in the absence of females.

**Mixed species:** Pronghorn are frequently exhibited with bison. They have also been housed with camels, deer, cranes, and waterfowl.

**Housing:** Peninsular pronghorn are heat tolerant and do well in windy conditions, but heated shelters recommended where temperatures fall below 40°F for extended periods. Generic pronghorn are better suited to colder climates. Barriers should be at least 6' tall, although pronghorn often go under, rather than over, fences.

**Medical notes:** Susceptible to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease.

**Special requirements:** Contact the SSP for subspecies suitability.

**Keeper resources:** Interactive management with young parent-reared animals results in calmer, more tractable adults. However, fully hand-reared males may be aggressive to people when mature.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published May 2019.