

# Pygmy hippopotamus ... 100% hippo, in size SMALL!

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS  
WILD PIG, PECCARY,  
AND HIPPO TAG



## Why exhibit pygmy hippos?

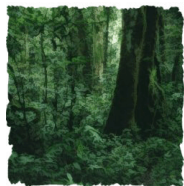
- Surprise visitors with a miniature version of one of the most recognizable mammals! Pygmy hippos are #28 on the list of EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct, Globally Endangered) mammals - the river hippo is their only close relative, making their endangered status even more critical.
- Provide ex-situ support for a species in desperate need of conservation measures (including captive breeding, as per the IUCN).
- In a financial crunch? A pygmy hippo is one-tenth the weight of a river hippo, and requires significantly less space and fewer resources.
- Captivate visitors with underwater viewing windows, which best show off the grace and amphibious adaptations of this species.
- Use these charismatic animals for interactive tours and keeper talks to connect with guests.

### MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 5 feet

**Height:** 3 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 500 lbs



Rainforest



West Africa

IUCN  
ENDANGERED  
CITES II

< 3,000  
in the wild

## Stewardship Opportunities

The Zoological Society of London's EDGE initiative includes several *in situ* pygmy hippo projects:

[http://www.edgeofexistence.org/mammals/species\\_info.php?id=21#projects](http://www.edgeofexistence.org/mammals/species_info.php?id=21#projects)

## Care and Husbandry

**YELLOW SSP:** 15.17 (32) in 12 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2016)

**Species coordinator:** Christie Eddie, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo  
[christiee@omahazoo.com](mailto:christiee@omahazoo.com) ; (402) 557-6932

**Social nature:** Primarily solitary. Can be maintained in pairs and sometimes larger groups, depending on individuals and space.

**Mixed species:** Primates, duikers, and fish have all been successful, so long as they are provided with refuge from the hippos. Aquatic and ground-dwelling birds may be harassed.

**Housing:** A tropical species that is not cold-tolerant. Enclosures should have water features large enough for submersion and ample land space, optimally with substrate.

**Medical notes:** Generally robust; infectious diseases rare. Dental issues and substrate-related foot problems are most common.

**Special requirements:** Sufficient space is needed to separate incompatible adults and isolate females when offspring are born.

**Keeper resources:** Heavy workload. Daily pool cleaning needed if no filtration is present; splattered feces frequently require scrubbing.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



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