

# Roan antelope ... ready for a masquerade!

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS  
ANTELOPE AND  
GIRAFFE TAG



## MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 6.5-7.5 feet

**Height:** 4-5 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 450-650 lbs



Savanna



Africa

IUCN  
LEAST  
CONCERN

<60,000  
in the wild

## Why exhibit roan antelope?

- Put on a costume party! Flashy headbands can encourage kids (and adults!) to learn through play how the tasseled ears, arcing horns, and facial markings function in visual communication.
- Add “oomph” to large exhibits with one of the largest species of antelope.
- Discuss how niche partitioning allows so many herbivores to coexist in African savannas: roan antelope feed on tall grasses, and actually avoid areas where the grass is less than six inches high.
- Share the cautionary tale of the blaubok – a close relative of the roan antelope’s that was hunted to extinction by the mid 1800’s.
- Buck the East African trend and focus on West Africa savannas, a shrinking ecosystem with rarely-seen species such as roan, kob, red-fronted gazelle, and red-flanked duiker.

## Stewardship Opportunities

Giant sable (TAG *in situ* focus species) program

<http://angolafieldgroup.com/palanca-negra/>

## Care and Husbandry

**YELLOW SSP:** 53.79.1 (133) in 7 AZA (+ 2 non-AZA) institutions (2018)

**Species coordinator:** Andi Kornak, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
[amk@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:amk@clevelandmetroparks.com) ; (216) 635-3373

**Social nature:** Gregarious; a typical herd has one male and multiple females.

Females maintain a strong hierarchy, and large open spaces are needed when introducing new females in order to mitigate aggression. Bachelor herds have been successful.

**Mixed species:** A large, dominant species, often housed separately. Large enclosures are key to successful mixing with other hoofstock.

**Housing:** Hardy; can be exhibited in freezing temperatures if provided with heated indoor housing overnight. Bumper bars and secondary barriers are needed to prevent fence damage from horn-butting.

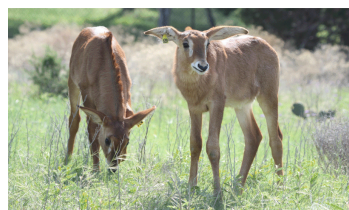
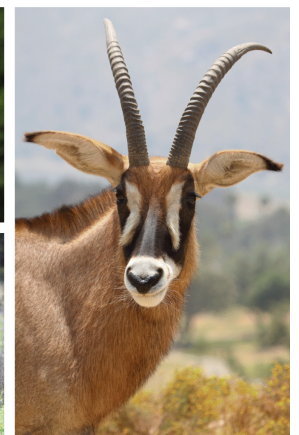
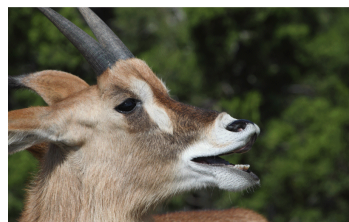
**Medical notes:** Generally healthy. Susceptible to common hoofstock parasites and diseases.

**Special requirements:** Appropriate space is needed to establish a herd territory with enough flight distance from other species, zoo staff, and guests to minimize stress and aggressive behaviors.

**Keeper resources:** Protected contact recommended for these large, powerful, and territorial animals. Compact fecal pellet piles make cleaning easy.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published June 2019.