

Somali wild ass ... who are you calling a donkey?!



Why exhibit Somali wild asses?

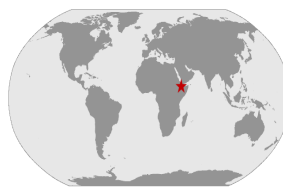
- Conserve one of the most endangered mammals on earth. This species is one of the top 100 (#66) EDGE Species (Evolutionarily Distinct, Globally Endangered) – fewer than 600 survive in the wild.
- It's all in the name! Visitors love hearing about, reading about, and talking about Somali wild asses! Expect extended visitor time at the exhibit!
- Display an exciting, active, and dynamic species that shows lots of social interactions.
- Tell the story of the familiar donkey's domestication, and share with your visitors just how special its wild ancestor is.
- Involve guests in distinguishing between wild asses and donkeys - just like field researchers do to census numbers and determine the risks of hybridizing (a major threat to wild populations).

MEASUREMENTS

Length: 6.5 feet
Height: 4 feet at shoulder
Weight: 600 lbs



Desert



Horn of Africa

IUCN
CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED
CITES I

<200 in
the wild

Get involved with stewardship!

Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute:
Horn of Africa Conservation Center

<http://www.stlzoo.org/conservation/wildcare-institute/conservationinthehornofafr/>

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 29.43.1 (73) in 10 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2017)
Species coordinator: Yaraila Rodriguez, White Oak Conservation Center
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Social nature: Typical herds are comprised of one male and several (3-5) females, plus their young offspring (less than 2 years old). Single-sex groups (males or females) also work well.

Mixed species: Successfully mixed with addax, aoudad, and dromedary, as well as ostrich, guineafowl, and ground hornbills. Wild asses can be aggressive, and care should be taken when introducing other species.

Housing: Can tolerate any temperature above 40° F. Animals can be exhibited outside in below-freezing temperatures (weather permitting) if heated indoor stabling is provided at night.

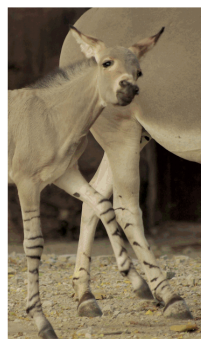
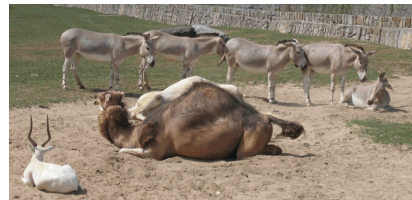
Medical notes: Generally hardy and robust with few medical issues. Enterolith screening is needed in some collections (potentially diet- or water-related).

Special requirements: Coarse substrates minimize the need for hoof care.

Keeper resources: Typical cleaning of exhibit and holding areas for an equid species. Rubbing posts and areas of sand for rolling in are well-used.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by M. Fischer, J. Havlová, B. Huffman, K. Reed, and T. Thier. Published March 2017.