

Thomson's gazelle ... the Serengeti classic!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
ANTELOPE AND
GIRAFFE TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 3.5 feet

Height: 2-2.5 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 30-55 lbs



Savanna



East Africa

IUCN
NEAR
THREATENED

150,000
In the wild

Why exhibit Thomson's gazelles?

- Spark recognition among guests with the iconic East African "Tommie" gazelle with its bold markings and constant activity. Sparring within bachelor groups is especially exciting.
- Have cheetahs? Interpret predator-prey dynamics on the savanna with this prime prey species renowned for its evasive maneuvers.
- Give existing African grassland exhibits "oomph" with a large herd of these small antelope. They mix well with other hoofstock and ground birds.
- Compare the movements of local songbirds with wildlife abroad: in the Serengeti, Thomson's gazelles undertake large-scale annual migrations as they follow the rains (and ensuing grasses).
- **TAG Recommendation:** Institutions interested in Thomson's gazelles should consider whether a gazelle species of higher conservation priority (e.g., red-fronted gazelle) could fulfill their needs.

Stewardship Opportunities

Northern Rangelands Trust (Ltungai Conservancy)

<http://www.nrt-kenya.org/ltungai/>

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 69.134 (203) in 13 AZA (+4 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Matt Gelvin, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
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Social nature: Highly gregarious. Female groups of several dozen animals can be kept with a single male. Bachelor groups successful.

Mixed species: Generally mix well; pugnacious for their size. Have been housed with a wide range of hoofstock (other antelope, giraffe, rhino) and ground birds. Hybridization risk with other gazelles.

Housing: Tolerant of both dry and humid conditions. Acclimated animals can be displayed outside to nearly freezing if provided with heated shelter. Exhibit barriers should be tall to ensure containment.

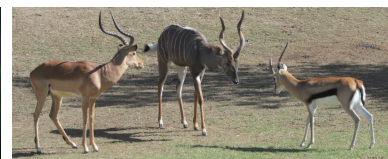
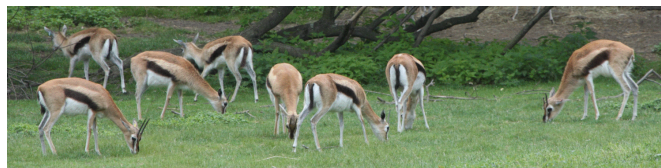
Medical notes: Few medical concerns.

Special requirements: Breeding institutions require options for separating yearling males from the herd sire. In a herd setting, multiple sources of food and water are recommended.

Keeper resources: Group housing simplifies daily care. Keepers must be patient and calm as this species can be fractious when confined. A consistent routine is highly recommended.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published May 2019.