

Yellow-backed duiker ... a giant among dwarfs!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
ANTELOPE AND
GIRAFFE TAG

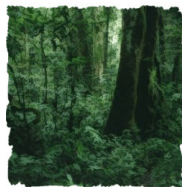


MEASUREMENTS

Length: 4 feet

Height: 2.5 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 100-175 lbs



Rainforest



Africa

IUCN
NEAR
THREATENED
CITES II

>150,000
in the wild

Why exhibit yellow-backed duikers?

- Awe visitors with tales of carnivorous antelope! Although duikers typically eat fruit, they will feed on carrion and may even hunt small animals.
- Capitalize on the attempts of guests to say their unpronounceable name! Duiker (rhymes with *biker*) is Dutch for 'diver' - a great interpretive opportunity to describe how these antelope flee danger by "diving" into undergrowth.
- Showcase rainforest diversity by adding this species - the largest dwarf antelope - to existing exhibits housing okapi, bongo, or even primates.
- Connect the erectile yellow dorsal patch of this species to other visual signals used by animals in your zoo (e.g., the tails of white-tailed deer, the manes of warthogs, and crests of cockatoos).

Stewardship Opportunities

Okapi Conservation Project - Ituri Forest

<http://www.okapiconservation.org>

Bush Meat Crisis Task Force

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

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 49.49 (98) in 29 AZA (+6 non-AZA) institutions (2018)

Species coordinator: Matt James, Dallas Zoo

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Social nature: Typically solitary, or in pairs accompanied by recent offspring.

Males can be territorial and should not be housed together.

Mixed species: The TAG strongly recommends mixing this species with bongo and okapi to maximize space use. Has been housed with other antelope (including smaller duikers), colobus, guineafowl, and cranes.

Housing: Avoid extremes of heat and cold. It is recommended that enclosure containment be solid to at least 3 feet to provide a visual barrier.

Hiding spots and alcoves are needed, as this species can be fractious.

Medical notes: Lumpy jaw can be an issue; avoid coarse hay. Regurgitation is a concern during chemical immobilization, even after fasting.

Special requirements: Few - husbandry is well-established.

Keeper resources: Use of latrines makes cleaning easy. A consistent desensitization program—including crate and target training, touching as much of the body as possible, and exposure to noises and unfamiliar people—greatly helps in minimizing flight responses.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman, L. Kirkman, and S. Metzler. Published November 2019.