

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Strigiformes
Scientific Name: Bubo bubo

Family: Strigidae
Common Name: Eurasian Eagle-Owl

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Habitat varies greatly.](#)

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other [It is recommended to provide a fan or misters during warmer temperatures.](#)

Diet: Frugivore Carnivore Piscivore Insectivore
 Nectivore Omnivore Folivore Other (Add Below)

Captive Dietary Needs:
 Food is usually chopped up into pieces for training or given as whole prey: bird of prey diet, mice, rat, chicks, quail, chicken

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: Around 20 years Females: Around 20 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 25+ years Females: 25+ years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2-3 years Females: 2-3 years

Courtship Displays: Vocalizing

Nest Site Description: Nests are usually in crevices between rocks, sheltered cliff ledges, cave entrances, or abandoned nests of other large birds. These owls have also made nests on the ground.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2-4 eggs, laying intervals 3 days

Incubation Period: 34-36 days by female

Fledgling Period: Flying at 7 weeks

Parental Care: Young brooded by female for two weeks, male feeds female and young. After 3 weeks, young are able to feed themselves at nest and parents bring food to nest. Parents help chicks learn to hunt until they are independent around 20-24 weeks.

Chick Development: Chicks are altricial with white, buffy down. They are eating on their own around 3 weeks. Chicks start to move outside of nest around 5 weeks. They are independent at 20-24 weeks.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Eagle owls are primarily solitary except during the breeding season. These owls are typically monogamous.

Social Structure in Captivity: Male/female pair or individual.

Minimum Group Size: 1

Maximum Group Size: Pair with chicks until the next breeding season.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: No **Comments:** Not aware of mixed species exhibit.

Optimal Habitat Size: Refer to Owl Care Manual.

Management Challenges: [Click here to enter text.](#)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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REFERENCES:

Holt, D. W., R. Berkley, C. Deppe, P. L. Enríquez, J. L. Petersen, J. L. Rangel Salazar, K. P. Segars, K. L. Wood, and J. S. Marks (2020). Eurasian Eagle-Owl (*Bubo bubo*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (J. del Hoyo, A. Elliott, J. Sargatal, D. A. Christie, and E. de Juana, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.

Delgado, M. M. & Penteriani, V. 2007. Vocal behaviour and neighbour spatial arrangement during vocal displays in Eagle Owls (*Bubo bubo*). – *Journal of Zoology* 271(1): 3–10. DOI: 10.1111/j.1469-7998.2006.00205.x

Photo Credit: Carolina Raptor Center

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