

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Sphenisciformes
Scientific Name: *Pygoscelis papua*

Family: Spheniscidae
Common Name: *Gentoo Penguin*

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Sub Antarctic Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Coastal/Majority of life spent at sea

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 -4.5 to 7 °C (24 to 45 °F)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other Below 7 °C (45 °F)

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Penguins eat a variety of fish and crustaceans. See the Penguin Care Manual for detailed nutritional information.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 20 + Females: 20 +

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 30 + Females: 30 +

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2-5 Females: 2-5

Courtship Displays: Bowing, Hissing, mutual vocalizations/displays

Nest Site Description: Rock Nests

Clutch Size, Egg Description: Usually 2 white eggs a season

Incubation Period: 36-38 days

Fledgling Period: Approx. 3- 3.5 months

Parental Care: Parents regurgitate to chicks until fledging at approximately 3-3.5 months

Chick Development: Altricial

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Colonial

Social Structure in Captivity: Colonial

Minimum Group Size: 10

Maximum Group Size: Depends on exhibit

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

Optimal Habitat Size: Enough space should be provided so they can walk, swim, and perch. Dedicated breeding areas, back of house support are needed. Birds need to be able to avoid or escape any territorial disputes especially during breeding season. Adequate pool space is also important. See Penguin Care Manual minimum standards for water and land size.

Management Challenges: Air and water quality, aspergillosis, aggression during breeding

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

REFERENCES:

AZA Penguin Animal Care Manual

http://www.nagonline.net/Feeding%20Guidelines/feeding_guidelines.htm

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