

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Sphenisciformes
Scientific Name: *Eudyptes chrysocome*

Family: Spheniscidae
Common Name: Southern Rockhopper 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; south Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans.

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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 32° F

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other 52° F

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Capelin, herring, smelt, silversides, Supplements: Sea bird multivitamin (focusing on Vitamin E and Thiamin).

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: +/- 20 years Females: +/- 20 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: +/- 30 years Females: +/- 30 years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 4 years Females: 4 years

Courtship Displays: Ecstatic vocalizations throwing head from side to side. Bowing can also be seen when greeting one another on the nest. In addition preening between mates is witnessed.

Nest Site Description: Nest can be found anywhere from the beaches to rocky cliffs and are small and circular in shape. Constructed from a variety of items such as twigs, bones, rocks and plants.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2 eggs, 3-5 days apart

Incubation Period: 32-36 days

Fledgling Period: 50-60 days

Parental Care: Male and female share egg incubation and chick feeding.

Chick Development: Chicks will be cared for by parents until fledging.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Colonial

Social Structure in Captivity: Colonial

Minimum Group Size: 10; Sex ratio should be close to even

Maximum Group Size: Limited by size of exhibit.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Suited to be housed with other Sub-Antarctic species with adequate nesting space for all birds in exhibit.

Optimal Habitat Size: Exhibit should accommodate space for natural behaviors such as breeding, swimming, and nesting. In addition quarantine and holding space should be available. For specific measurements see penguin care manual.

Management Challenges: Aspergillosis is a fungal health issue rockhopper penguins can encounter. Keeping daily records on humidity, air and water temp to ensure a proper environment based on the PCM recommendations can help deter this.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Photos taken at The Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium by Stephanie McIntosh Senior Aquarium Bird Keeper.

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REFERENCES:

BirdLife International (2015) Species factsheet: Eudyptes chrysocome. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 02/07/2015.

AZA Penguin Taxon Advisory Group. (2014). Penguin (Spheniscidae) Care Manual. Silver Spring, MD: Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Davis, Lloyd Spencer, and Martin Renner. Penguins. New Haven: Yale UP, 2003. Print

Boersma, P.D., and P.G. Borboroglu. Penguins: Their Natural History and Conservation. Seattle: U of Washington, 2013. Print.

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