

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Galliformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Tragopan caboti*

**Family:** Phasianidae  
**Common Name:** Cabot's Tragopan

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None



**NATURAL HISTORY:**

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other Endemic to China.

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

**Circadian Cycle:** Diurnal  Crepuscular  Nocturnal  Other   
 Most active in the early morning and late evening, though not necessarily inactive during the daytime.

**Cold Tolerance:** To 70° F  To 60° F  To 50° F  To 40° F   
 To 30° F  To 20° F  Other  Can tolerate temperatures well below freezing if provided dry and sheltered roosting sites.

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other  Access to shade must be provided if temperatures are over 90°F.

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

**Captive Dietary Needs:**  
 Cabot's Tragopans are primarily vegetarian, foraging for leaves, nuts, and seeds in the early morning and late afternoon. They also ingest various invertebrates in their native range. In captivity, this species is maintained well on a pelleted pheasant diet supplemented with chopped fruits, vegetables,

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and assorted greens. Mazuri Gamebird Maintenance and Breeder pellets, fed seasonally, serve as good bases for a complete diet. Invertebrates such as mealworms and crickets may also be offered.

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: Undocumented. Females: Undocumented.

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: 10-15 years. Females: 10-15 years.

### BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 2 years Females: 2 years

**Courtship Displays:** Typically starting behind a piece of deadfall or a rock, the male Cabot's Tragopan bobs his head repeatedly as a pair of fleshy bright blue horns above the eyes are engorged and revealed. The bright blue, red, and orange patterned bib is simultaneously unfolded over the breast. The bird then beats his wings and after fanning his tail, rears his body upward quickly and pursues the hen.

**Nest Site Description:** Females nest up to 30 feet off of the ground in large trees. In a captive environment, Cabot's Tragopan hens will nest in a simple open-topped plywood box measuring 18" x 18" x 12" lined with shavings and pine straw. The nesting basket or box should be installed off the ground in an elevated location with limited disturbance.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** Females lay between two and five buff-colored eggs dappled with small dark brown spots.

**Incubation Period:** 28 days

**Fledgling Period:** Chicks are capable of flying within the first several days of life.

**Parental Care:** Female incubates eggs and raises broods on her own. After incubation of a clutch commences, the male typically joins a group of other males or seeks mating opportunities with different hens.

**Chick Development:** Cabot's Tragopan chicks hatch at around 34-39g and are very well feathered. Chicks are capable of flying within the first several days of life. They are slow-growing young birds and typically do not reach adult weight until after six months of age. Juveniles being parent-reared are independent at about 4 months. Males begin to show male coloration by five to six months of age, but young of both sexes are not sexually mature until their second year. Hand-rearing for this species is straightforward as chicks easily accept Mazuri Gamebird Starter pellets, ground hard-boiled egg, and finely chopped greens.

### CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** The Cabot's Tragopan is considered monogamous although males may mate with additional females after incubation of the original clutch progresses.

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**Social Structure in Captivity:** In captivity, this species is best kept as a breeding pair. A breeding pair will typically live harmoniously throughout the year, but the behavior of the male should be observed closely during introductions and breeding season. Breeding trios may also be kept successfully.

**Minimum Group Size:** One pair.

**Maximum Group Size:** One male and two females.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes

**Comments:**

This species can be successfully mixed with a variety of different bird groups as they are generally placid. In zoos, they are usually displayed in mixed avian flights with perching birds.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** 100 sq ft/bird

**Management Challenges:** Historically, the species has had infertility issues. Select breeders in Europe and Canada have been successful implementing artificial insemination techniques with these birds.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Like other tragopan species, Cabot's Tragopans are highly arboreal and require height and ample appropriately-sized perching to feel comfortable in an exhibit.

Exhibits should include ample cover, which is easily accomplished with grasses, bamboos, and evergreen shrubs and trees.

Cabot's Tragopans can be long-lived and will breed readily if kept properly. Individual birds, as in other tragopan species, are known for taming to the point that favored food items are taken from the hands of their caretakers.

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