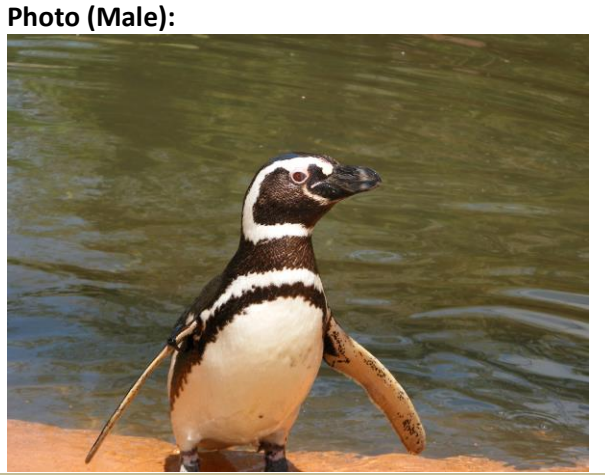


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Order: Sphenisciformes
Scientific Name: *Spheniscus magellanicus*

Family: Spheniscidae
Common Name: Magellanic Penguin

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Islands and coasts of Southern South America (breeding range), at sea in the Southern Atlantic ocean for the winter.

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Winter at sea, coastal for breeding

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 Birds can handle colder weathers with wind breaks or shelters

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other Birds can tolerate high temperatures with access to cold water and shade.

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

Captive Dietary Needs:
 Smaller whole fish, dietary supplementation of thiamin and vitamin E needed for thawed frozen fish.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males and Unknown, but records indicate that they can live for as many as 30

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Females: years or more.

Life Expectancy in Captivity:

Males and
Females:

Birds that survive the first year can be expected to live around 8 years, but many captive raised birds survive into their twenties and the oldest birds are in their thirties.

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:

Males
and
Females:

According to studbook data, males and females may be reproductive at just under 3 years of age, although first reproduction at five years old is more common for both sexes.

Courtship Displays:

Very typical penguin behaviors: Males exhibit “ecstatic displays” vocalizing to draw females, there is some bowing and pursuing, and other males will join in and potentially fight at this time, females will join and bonded pairs will produce a pair call that will alert other birds to their bond.

Nest Site Description:

Magellan penguins breed under bushes or in burrows. In captivity, they will adapt to a number of different types of artificial burrows or nest boxes. They line the nest cup with small twigs or grasses and small stones.

Clutch Size, Egg Description:

They usually lay two eggs.

Incubation Period:

39-42 days

Fledgling Period:

~ 60 days, but may be longer in the wild depending on food provisioning and health.

Parental Care:

Both parents care for the chicks.

Chick Development:

Chicks remain in their burrows for the first 3-4 weeks, chicks in general do not crèche as other penguin species. Parents do distinguish between first chick and second chick and penguin managers should be careful to offer significantly more food to ensure both chicks are getting enough nutrition.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild:

Magellan penguins are colonial nesters and usually live in small groups during the non-breeding season.

Social Structure in Captivity:

Usually held in small colonies.

Minimum Group Size:

At least six individuals

Maximum Group Size:

In captivity, limited by the size of the exhibit.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:

Yes

Comments:

Can be habituated to several different species, but can be hard on smaller waterfowl and care should be taken when introducing more aggressive or larger species to exhibits with penguins that low level stress is not

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affecting penguin's behaviors.

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: Magellan penguins are susceptible to a host of diseases, including West Nile encephalitis, aspergillosis and avian malaria. Staff should be trained to monitor for these diseases. Male Magellanic penguins have been known to fight to the death in the wild and can do considerable damage to each other in captivity if there is inadequate space and nest sites available.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Magellanic penguins are interesting exhibit birds that can tolerate living outdoors in a North American climate. They are a species whose conservation work can be highlighted and promoted easily to the public. While they present different and unique challenges to the penguin manager to accommodate the species, they are nevertheless highly entertaining and engaging for zoo visitors and keepers alike.

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