

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Spheniciformes
Scientific Name: *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

Family: Spheniscidae
Common Name: Macaroni penguin

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Circumpolar; sub-Antarctic islands throughout S. Atlantic and Indian oceans

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Ocean

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:

Marine fish: capelin, smelt, silversides, herring; Supplements: seabird multi-vitamin (or thiamine and vitamin E)

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: 6 years Females: 5 years

Courtship Displays: Ecstatic display (vertical head swinging); mutual display (vocalization by one or both partners); Bowing (during nest relief or as part of mutual display); Mutual preening

Nest Site Description: In-situ: shallow scrape lined with a few small stones (some may nest on clumps of tussock grass and line nests with grass shoots when available); Ex-situ: crevices, depression or shallow tubs; river rocks are used to line nests

Clutch Size, Egg Description: Two eggs laid 3-6 days apart with extreme dimorphism (first egg 55-75% smaller than second egg); obligate brood reduction (only fledge one chick); eggs are spheroidal to elongate-oval, and white with a faint blue tinge

Incubation Period: 36 days

Fledgling Period: 60-65 days

Parental Care: Both sexes share egg incubation, and brooding and feeding chick

Chick Development: Chicks remain on the nest or close to the nesting area until fledging; chicks in captivity do not crèche as per the wild

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Colonial; highly social

Social Structure in Captivity: Colonial; highly social

Minimum Group Size: 10 individuals with a fairly balanced sex ratio (same-sex groups can be maintained for holding purposes)

Maximum Group Size: NA

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Compatible with other species of sub-Antarctic or Antarctic penguins only. Adequate nesting space needs to be available for all penguin species.

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.

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Management Challenges: Macaroni penguins (and other sub-Antarctic penguins) are susceptible to a fungal infection caused by *Aspergillus* organisms. Institutions housing macaroni penguins need to make provisions for climate controlled indoor facilities that maintain the appropriate air and water temperature, air and water quality, lighting (which encompasses the spectral quality, intensity and photoperiod); husbandry standards must be maintained (refer to the Penguin ACM for specifics).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Although the sexes appear very similar, males are heavier and larger, and have more robust bills than females.

REFERENCES:

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

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COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jessica Jozwiak

Date: 11/14/2014