

Chacoan peccary ... an endangered living fossil!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
WILD PIG, PECCARY,
AND HIPPO TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 3-4 feet

Height: 2 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 70-90 lbs



Dry plains



South America

IUCN
ENDANGERED
CITES I

< 3,000
in the wild

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 47.49.3 (99) in 21 AZA institutions (2019)

Species coordinator: Jim Haigwood, San Diego Zoo Safari Park

jhaigwood@sandiegozoo.org; (760) 747-8702 ext 5205

Social nature: Highly social; can be kept in single-sex (male or female) or fully mixed groups, although management during the breeding season is needed to ensure known parentage of offspring.

Mixed species: Successfully mixed with rhea.

Housing: Less destructive than most pig species. They tolerate high temperatures, but require access to a mud wallow or shallow pool to assist with cooling. Supplemented heat should be given below 40° F.

Medical notes: Generally robust. Husbandry training can be hindered by their skittishness, but they will learn with keeper dedication.

Special requirements: Introducing new herd members, especially females, is usually anti-climactic.

Keeper resources: Although larger than the collared peccary, this species is more tractable and can be worked in free contact. Workload is generally light, depending on the exhibit features.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

<http://www.azaunulates.org/>

Why exhibit Chacoan peccaries?

- Provide much-needed space to enable the primary *ex situ* population of this endangered peccary to grow to a sustainable level.
- Highlight the importance of saving habitat: this peccary was known only from fossils until 1972, when living individuals were discovered in Paraguay's remote (but now threatened) Chaco.
- Exhibit one of the top 100 (#72) EDGE mammals (Evolutionarily Distinct, Globally Endangered).
- Create a naturally dynamic exhibit by holding a large group of this frequently active species.
- Educate visitors on the evolving roles of zoos by connecting your peccaries with the ongoing conservation and research program in Paraguay.
- **TAG Recommendation:** Zoos are urged to replace collared peccaries with Chacoan peccaries.

Stewardship Opportunities

Proyecto Taguá (Estancia Toledo, Paraguay) & Chaco Center for Conservation & Research (CCCI).

<http://www.cccipy.org/>



Photos by B. Huffman. Published May 2019.