

# Soemmerring's gazelle

... your giraffe exhibit's best friend!

ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS  
ANTELOPE AND  
GIRAFFE TAG



## Why exhibit Soemmerring's gazelles?

- Add interest to your giraffe exhibit with this active and strikingly-marked gazelle – all the better to interpret how giraffes and other animals share warning signals!
- Reinforce the *ex situ* safety net for this species: numbers in the wild have dropped over 30% in the past 20 years, and only one wild population (of ~200 animals) is protected.
- Highlight the biologically diverse but politically unstable Horn of Africa region, and educate visitors on the ensuing conservation concerns: overgrazing by livestock, uncontrolled hunting, and military conflicts.
- Use the distinctive “pronking” behavior of these gazelles to explain why showing off can be a good thing when it comes to avoiding predators.

### MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 4-5 feet

**Height:** 3 feet at shoulder

**Weight:** 80-100 lbs



Grassland



Horn of Africa

IUCN  
VULNERABLE

<5,000 in  
the wild

## Stewardship opportunities

Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute:  
Horn of Africa Conservation Center

<http://www.stlzoo.org/conservation/wildcare-institute/conservationinthehornofafr/>

## Care and Husbandry

**RED Program:** 12.27 (40) in 5 AZA (+1 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

**Species coordinator:** Nicole Becker, Saint Louis Zoo

[becker@stlzoo.org](mailto:becker@stlzoo.org); (937)307-4759

**Social nature:** Best kept in breeding herds (one male, several females).

Small bachelor herds usually work. Sufficient space needed to avoid aggression between individuals (both males and females).

**Mixed species:** Frequently housed with giraffe. Successfully mixed with medium- and large-sized antelope, ostriches, cranes, and storks.

Males may show aggression to males of other species.

**Housing:** Indoor housing required below 45°F. Tolerant of high temperatures if shade provided.

**Medical notes:** Neonate mortality very high; hand-rearing is common.

**Special requirements:** Weight gain can be an issue in mixed species exhibits; specialized feeders may be required to restrict access to particular feeding areas.

**Keeper resources:** Typical daily husbandry. Responds to tonal training for shifting. Hand-rearing requires greater investment of resources.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



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