

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Accipitriformes
Scientific Name: Gyps coprotheres

Family: Accipitridae
Common Name: Cape Vulture

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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

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 [Click here to enter text.](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

This species does well with a primary diet of whole prey items such as rats & rabbits. Also prepared meat diets and chunk meat. Larger groups will feed well on bigger whole prey items such as goat and pig.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 20 – 25 yrs Females: 20 – 25 yrs

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 25 – 30 yrs Females: 25 – 30 yrs

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 5 -6 yrs Females: 5 – 6 yrs

Courtship Displays: In captivity there is no obvious courtship displays. Males will take residence of a nest platform and then mutual nest building with a female will follow.

Nest Site Description: Platforms 4' x 4' with 6" to 12" rims, 6 ft to 15 ft off the ground.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: One

Incubation Period: 55 days

Fledgling Period: 140 days

Parental Care: Both parents will incubate, brood and raise the chicks

Chick Development: Chicks are hatched and are very altricial. Slow developing and very reliant on their parents.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Nest and roost in colonies.

Social Structure in Captivity: Nest and roost in colonies.

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: unlimited

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Can be mixed with similar sized vultures and larger Ciconiiformes such as marabou storks.

Optimal Habitat Size: A single pair require a minimum enclosure of 35' L x 35' W x 12' H

Management Challenges: Unpaired birds can be disruptive to nesting pairs. Although wild cape vultures can tolerate temps in the 30s or lower, in the northern hemisphere the nesting season begins in late October and runs through January making egg incubation and chick rearing nearly impossible where snow and cold is prevalent.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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REFERENCES:

Handbook of the Birds of the World Volume 2

African Birds of Prey, (Brown)

African Birds of Prey, (Pickford & Tarboton)

The Vultures of Africa, (Mundy, Butchart, Ledger & Piper)

Vultures, (Campbell)

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COMPLETED BY:

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