



Common Name Tufted Puffin

Scientific Name: : *Lunda cirrhata*

FAMILY: Alcidae

ORDER: Charadriiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Provisional

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE Pacific and Arctic Ocean
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

HABITAT

- FOREST Pelagic, Marine
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER



TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From ° 30F to °70 F

The ideal air temp is 40-60 F; can be in colder in the short term as long as the entire colony can get in the water. An average of 50 F.

DIET

- FRUGIVORE
- NECTIVORE
- CARNIVORE
- OMNIVORE
- PISCIVORE
- FOLIVORE
- INSECTIVORE
- OTHER

Captive dietary needs: Whole food items recommended (small fish, invertebrates, silversides, lake smelt, capelin, small herring, salmon smolts, sand eels/lances, krill, squid, clams). Consumes about 25% of body weight daily.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy

Maximum
Longevity

Within AZA 20+ years

In the Wild 20+ years



Within AZA 20+ years

In the Wild 20+ years



BREEDING INFORMATION



AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males 3-5 years



Females 3-5 years

Incubation period: ~45 days

Fledgling Period: ~45 days



CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



1 egg; usually dull or creamy white color and may show faint markings or spots



COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

In the wild, mating occurs mostly on water. Prior to copulation, the male follows the female at a distance of several meters. During the chase, he stretches and lifts his neck, directing his bill straight up, opens and closes his bill in a slow manner, and “jerks” his head in a fast motion. Sometimes male bends his neck and puts his head back. The behavior continues for about 1 minute. By opening and closing his bill, a male is thought to expose to a female the bright mouth-lining and expanded pink rosettes in the corners of the mouth. Eventually, a female assumes a hunched, low-to-the-water posture with her head and neck held close to her body. On approaching a female, a male increases the frequency of “jerking” and exaggerates it. Male demonstrations are followed by billing when males and females face each other and repeatedly rub their bills together. During billing, the male might grab the female by the neck and/or back, a light grabbing by foot web is also observed. Then a male approaches a female with lifted and slightly opened or flapping wings, followed by copulation 30–60 s in duration. During copulation, the male raises off water, flaps its wings, and may or may not continue jerking its head, while the female sinks so that only her head remains above water. After mating, the female dives and surfaces within a few meters of the male and finally flies 2–5 m away. At the end, both mates flap their wings.



NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

In the wild, the most common nesting habitat for Tufted puffins is earthen burrows. Tunnels and nests are usually constructed by using the feet, and sometimes the bill, to excavate soil, debris, etc. from the earth. Nesting materials, such as dry grasses, small twigs, and sometimes feathers, are gathered using their bill and brought back to the nest site. Nest construction varies. In a zoo or aquarium environment, exhibits are designed to depict natural habitats. Rockwork and substrate on exhibit and/or artificial nest boxes are used.



CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chick growth and development can be highly variable depending on parental care and depends on daily food intake.



PARENTAL CARE

Both sexes incubate the egg. Parents brood the chick for ~1-4 days until the chick can thermoregulate. Both sexes feed the chick during daylight hours. Parents do not provide any parental care post-fledging.



MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



SOCIAL STRUCTURE

In the wild: Colony

In Captivity: Ideal to have an equal sex ratio and a range of ages in population

Minimum Group Size: 6

Maximum Group Size: 20 or more

Comments: Other alcids, oystercatchers. Can out-compete auklets



OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

Min. pool depth 7 feet, average exhibit size 1,350 sq. ft, with average rock cliff height of 14 feet. Average pool volume 25,000 gallons. 75% of colony should be able to occupy water at one time. Generally have 1/3 land area to 2/3 water surface area.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Aspergillosis; aggression toward conspecifics and other species, especially during breeding season. Can often defend more than one nest tunnel in captivity

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Need full spectrum lighting. An exhibit should be designed to encourage natural behaviors of swimming, diving, resting, feeding in the water, walking, climbing, nesting, porpoising, rafting, bathing, and preening.

REFERENCES

Birds of North America



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