



# Southern Ground Hornbill

***Bucorvus leadbeateri***

FAMILY: Bucorvidae

ORDER: Bucerotiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Signature

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

## HABITAT

- FOREST
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

## CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER



## TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 40° F to 110° F

## DIET

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

Carnivore meat diet (Natural Balance), Mouse, Soaked dog food, Mealworms, Crickets.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

	Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity	
Within AZA	X	>30 years	♂
In the Wild	X	35-40 years	
Within AZA	X	>30 years	♀
In the Wild	X	35-40 years	

# BREEDING INFORMATION

## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males: >10 years



Females: 4-6 years of age

**Incubation period:** 40 days

**Fledgling Period:** 3 months

## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION

1-3 eggs per clutch, with only one chick surviving. Shell white and pitted, Ovoid in shape, elongate and pointed at one end, 60-100g, 1st laid egg larger than 2nd.



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Only dominant group male and female copulate, and form long-term bonds. Males initiate copulation by forcefully preening the female's head and neck, pushing her down. Female assume a crouched position as the male steps on her back. Male grasps her nape with his bill.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Nests usually consist of a cavity in trees, stumps, wine barrels, or rock holes. The pair will use the same nest for many years, but for new pairings it is best to have multiple options for the female to choose from.



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Hatch blind, featherless, with pink skin and beak grey with white tip. By day 3, skin has turned purple. At 7 days, eyes begin to open, the chick is fully pinned, and throat is bare and partially inflated. At 21 days, pins begin to open and legs are strong and well developed. Day 30 chicks are fully feathered, with wing and tail feathers continuing to develop. At 3 months, chicks fledge. Can catch own food by 6 months of age. Chicks remain with family group until reaching maturity for females, and indefinitely for males.



## PARENTAL CARE

Fed by mother until old enough to consume larger items, inside the nest cavity.

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# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**In the wild:** A dominant adult male and female pair and their offspring. Males can stay in family group indefinitely, but females leave around 4-6 years of age. Breeding pairs display dominance with threat behaviors and through refusal of food offerings.

**Within AZA:** A dominant adult male and female



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

**Comments:** Small ungulate (i.e. gazelles, duiker, kudu..), Vultures, Marabou Storks



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

Minimal size would be 20'x20'x12', but you would need a good enrichment plan. Optimal would be enclosed (for fully winged birds) and a large area (at least 30 yards by 30 yards) with 15 to 30 feet in height.

pair and their offspring. Female offspring can stay with parents for 3-4 years. Male offspring can stay indefinitely, but should stay until they are of breeding age 10-15 years.

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

**Maximum Group Size:** 11



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Need tall fences (>7') even if clipped. Should have inside holding space if temperatures drop below 32 degrees for an extended period of time. They spend a lot of time on the ground foraging. If kept in smaller areas, then a varied and more frequent enrichment is necessary.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

They are very smart, gregarious, and have a great conservation message which is great for exhibiting a family group.

## REFERENCES

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