



# Common Name Horned Puffin

**Scientific Name:** *Fratercula corniculata*

FAMILY: Alcidae

ORDER: Charadriiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Studbook

## 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, an average of 50 F; can be in colder short term as long as the entire colony can get in the water.

## 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: ~40-45 days

Fledgling Period: ~40-45 days



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



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

# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

**Billing:** Adults in pairs stand facing, with bills side by side, and waggle heads while opening and closing bills. Although Billing occurs during courtship, it continues through the reproductive season and may be observed between neighbors and individuals of the same sex. During Billing, the male sometimes grabs feathers on the female's neck. Between Billings, partners occasionally bow toward each other, and sometimes male ends Billing by grabbing the female's leg above the tarsus. **Head-Jerking:** As in the Tufted Puffin, uses Head-Jerking in courtship. In contrast to the Tufted Puffin, may use Head-Jerk, in less exaggerated form, in other contexts as well. Head-Jerking observed in groups of birds on water, when not directed to a particular bird; spectators of a courting pair sometimes follow them and Head-Jerk. During Head-Jerking, the individual utters a sort of op sound during prolonged Head-Jerking utters a rhythmic op-op-op-op.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

In the wild, the most common nesting habitat for Horned puffins is rock crevices in talus. This differs from other puffin species that are known for creating tunnels and burrows in the ground. Depending on geographic location nest sites can be situated in talus, among beach boulders, or found in earthen burrows. Nests are usually constructed by using the feet, and sometimes bill, to excavate soil, debris, etc. from rock crevices or burrows. Nesting materials, such as dry grasses, small twigs, and sometimes feathers, are gathered using its 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 ~6-7 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

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

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

**Minimum Group Size: 6**

**Maximum Group Size: 20 or more**



## 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 the 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. Th 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



## COMPLETED BY:

**Name: Sara Perry**

**Date: 9/17/2017**