

### **Penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*)**

- African penguins are also called Jackass penguins due to the species' call sounding much like that of a mule. African penguins are also referred to as Black-footed penguins for their black feet, or Cape penguins.
- Unique coloration sets African penguins apart from the other 18 penguin species with pink coloration around the eyes, a black breast-band and belly spots.
- African penguins breed at 25 islands and four mainland sites in Namibia and South Africa. Only seven islands now support 80 percent of the entire global population of this penguin species.
- Breeding and nesting take place on land. African penguins then enter the sea, where they can remain for up to four months before returning back to land for the next breeding season.
- In terms of nesting, African penguins often build nests in burrows that are dug in guano or sand. However, African penguins have also been known to create nests in depressions under large boulders or bushes. African penguins reach sexual maturity between 4-6 years old.
- African penguins are a marine species typically found in seas within 25 miles of shore. African penguins will go to shore to breed, nest, molt, and rest.
- African penguins feed primarily on pelagic schooling fish, such as anchovies, pilchard and herring. This species is endangered due to human impacts such as unsustainable fishing practices, environmental changes affecting fish species and oil spills which damage the penguins' food supply, as well as injuring the birds.
- The size of an adult African penguin is typically 60-70 centimeters in height and roughly 6-8 pounds in weight.
- African penguins are a Saving Animals From Extinction (S.A.F.E.) species, as determined by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. This means that they are a species requiring immediate conservation intervention for their survival.