Hyacinth Macaw Fact Sheet

Name: Sloppy Joe
Age: About 26 Years Old
Current Location: Inside the ambassador animal building
Diet: His diet changes daily, with different fruits and vegetables, but he always gets parrot chow, banana, carrot, sweet potato, and a brazil nut each day
Size: He weighs about 3 pounds.

Hyacinth Macaw Facts

- Hyacinth Macaws are the largest species of parrot in the world. Their wingspan can range from about 40 to 50 inches long!
- They are native to central South America and prefer to live in semi-open habitats and forests
- Macaws are very intelligent and social birds, often gathering in flocks of 10 to 30 individuals!
- They are monogamous, meaning that they choose a partner or mate for life.
- In the wild, macaws eat a variety of fruits, nuts and seeds which helps with seed dispersal throughout their habitat
- Macaws have very powerful beaks that they use to crack open tough seeds and nuts, such as Brazil nuts and palm nuts. However, they also use their beaks to help them climb.

Mission: Utica Zoo creates unique experiences and promotes public appreciation of wildlife through education, conservation and recreation.
**Conservation Message**

**Endangered Status:** Endangered

The two biggest threats to Hyacinth Macaw populations are loss of habitat and illegal hunting and trapping. These threats are shared by multiple species of parrots in South America.

Farms and urban development have taken over much of their habitat. If there is less available habitat for macaws, that also means that there is less food and nesting areas. Without macaws, there would be a huge drop in seed dispersal which would reduce the amount of new plants and trees growing in the area.

Hyacinth macaws are very large, very loud, and can be very destructive, but they are highly sought after in the illegal pet trade. However, macaws are an incredibly demanding pet. They often become very attached to their owners and it can be difficult to find someone to care for them if you are planning to travel without your parrot. Macaws are also a lifelong companion; parrots can sometimes live longer than people and many owners have to make arrangements for their parrots when they can no longer care for them.

Always be sure when adopting any pet to choose a private breeder or shop that only has captive bred animals!


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