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Amazing Animals
Fact sheets

Raptors

Raptors are identified as Birds of Prey that capture their food using their feet. They have three distinguishing features:

large talons (or claws) used for hunting
very keen eye sight to target prey
sharp hooked beak for the tearing up of prey once caught

Andean Condor

Habitat
Andean Condors prefer open grasslands and alpine areas up to 5,000m (16,000ft) in elevation and in rocky mountain areas were they can spot carrion from the air. They are found in the Andes Mountains of South America.

Diet
Condors are scavengers or carrion feeders. They have been known however to take live prey like newborn animals. They are not designed to hunt as their talons are blunt and not sharp like other raptors.

Breeding
Condors mate for life and become mature around 6-8 years of age. They have one chick every other year and the young can not fly until they are around 6 mths of age. They will rely on their parents for at least two more years. Do not build a nest, laying their egg on bare ground in a cave or on a ledge.

Australia Zoo Andean Condor profiles

Chief
Chief was born at Taronga Zoo in November 2006 and raised by his parents who still reside there with his three other siblings. Chief can be seen daily in the 12pm Wildlife Warriors show in the Crocoseum, where he wows the crowd with his 3 metre wingspan as he glides over the water. In his demonstration, real-looking carcass props are used for him to gather treats from, which he loves. Chief is a very playful boy who loves attention from his keepers and his favourite toys are cardboard boxes and anything he can pull on. Condors are long-living with a lifespan of up to 50 years, so we look forward to being mesmerised by this new world vulture for many more decades.

Endangered Species!
Very low numbers are left in the wild. Raptors are at risk of extinction within the next ten years.

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