

## Black Footed Penguin



photo from:

<http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/AnimalDetails.aspx?enc=n3f4wmcSJMrwxCRIJTbjw==>

**Description:** Although we don't have penguins in the aquarium, they are amazing creatures. Contrary to popular belief, penguins are not mammals, but birds. Like all birds, they lay eggs. Penguins are great parents. The male and female mate for life and take turns keeping the egg warm until it hatches. They are excellent swimmers, using their wings to swim and feet to steer. Penguins keep extra warm because they have two layers of feathers. However, when they are in the sun, they can overheat, so they pump blood to their wings and feet so heat can escape.

**Where they are Found:** Black footed penguins are not found in snow and ice. They are found in cold currents along the coast of South Africa.

**Feeding:** These birds eat anchovies and other small fishes.

**Conservation:** Many penguins face endangerment due to oil spills, overfishing, and habitat loss.

**WOW!!** Wild penguins eat up to 14% of their body weight each day. For an average 150 pound person that would be like eating 21 pounds of food a day!!