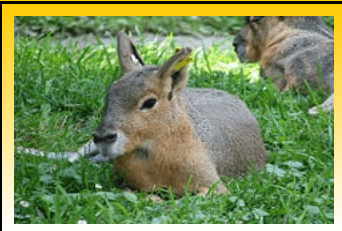




Patagonian Cavy

Dolichotis patagonum



What is the history of my relationship to man?

Patagonian Cavies, also called Maras are often kept in zoos, or as pets. Patagonia's that were raised from birth among humans are very social with humans, though if they are not accustomed to humans they may begin to become active at night in order to avoid socialization.

Habitat / Climate

Terrestrial Pampas
Dry grassy rocky areas

Where am I from?

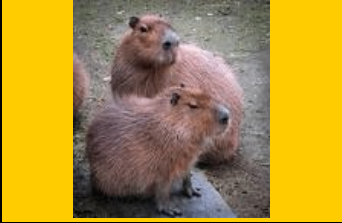
The Patagonian Cavy lives in Central and Southern South America. Maras inhabit arid grasslands and scrub desert. Maras like to live in burrows and will occasionally inhabit burrows that already exist from other animals. See Current Threats below for information on habitat loss.



Other family members:

Chinchilla
Squirrel
Capybara

Who are my relatives? The Patagonian Mara is from the Family Caviidae, which includes cavies and guinea pigs and larger relatives such as the capybara. Maras are the fourth largest rodent in the world after the capybara, beaver, and porcupine. Though the Mara may look like a rabbit, the rabbit is not actually a rodent and therefore not as closely related to the Mara as one might expect.



How am I born? Inside the den the female prepares a nest in which she gives birth to two or three young after a gestation of about three months days. Her four nipples are situated on the sides of her body and this enables her to suckle her young while sitting on her hind legs with her front legs extended forward. The offspring are independent after a few weeks, and reach sexual maturity at about two months.

Breeding

2 per litter up to 4 litters per year

Breeding Season

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live

In captivity, Maras normally live 5-7 years but have been known to live for up to 10 years.

What kind of family life do I have ?

This diurnal creature feeds on grasses and other plants and lives in small groups of ten to fifteen individuals. It is a swift runner and makes leaps of up to six feet. It digs its den in the ground, or else uses the burrows of other animals, such as armadillos. Maras are monogamous, which means that they mate for life. The male always follows the female on guard for rival males and predators.

Names for:

Adult male-
Adult female-
Young- Pups
Group:- creche

What do I eat and when do I eat?

The Patagonian Cavy eats grasses and other plants.

Who are my predators?

Habitat Loss and sharing of territory with European Hares



Comments: