



Ring-Tailed Lemur

Lemur catta



What is the history of my relationship to man?

Outside of its diminishing habitat and other threats, the Ring-tailed Lemur reproduces readily and has fared well in captivity. For this reason, along with its popularity, it has become the most populous lemur in zoos worldwide, with more than 2000 in captivity.]

Habitat / Climate

We inhabit deciduous forests, dry scrub, montane humid forests, and gallery temperatures within between (19 °F) and (118 °F).

Where am I from?

Southern and southwestern Madagascar, We have ranges further into highland areas than other lemurs. We favors gallery forests, but such forests have now been cleared from much of Madagascar in order to create pasture for livestock. Depending on location,



Who are my relatives?

We belong to Lemuridae, one of four lemur families. We are the only member of the Lemur genus. The Ring-tailed Lemur is diurnal and semi-terrestrial. We are the most terrestrial of lemur species.



Other family members:

pro simians
Verreaux's sifcaka
Aye-aye

Breeding

From mid-April to mid-May
In the wild one offspring is the norm, although twins may occur.

How am I born?

Gestation lasts for about 135 days. Our infants have a birth weight of (2.5 oz) and are carried ventrally (on the chest) for the first 1 to 2 weeks, then dorsally (on the back).

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

We begin to eat solid food after two months and are fully weaned after five months. Maturity is reached between 2.5 and 3 years. We typically live 16 to 19 years in the wild and 27 years in captivity.

Breeding Season

A	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
N	E	A	P	A	U	U	A	E	C	O	E
	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C

What kind of family life do I have?

As with most lemurs, females socially dominate males in all areas including feeding priority. Dominance is enforced by lunging, chasing, cuffing, grabbing and biting. Females have a distinct hierarchy while male rank is correlated with age.

Names for:

Adult male-Male
Adult female-Female
Young- Young
Group:- Troop

What do I eat and when do I eat?

We are an opportunistic omnivore primarily eating fruits and leaves and our diet includes flowers, herbs, bark and sap. We have been observed eating decayed wood, earth, spider webs, insect cocoons, arthropods (spiders, caterpillars, cicadas and grasshoppers) and small vertebrates (birds and chameleons).

Who are My Predators

The Ring-tailed Lemur has both native and introduced predators. Native predators include the Fossa, the Madagascar Harrier-hawk, the Madagascar Buzzard and the Madagascar Ground Boa predators include the Small Indian Civet, the Domestic Cat and the Domestic Dog.



Comments:

Several factors threaten Ring-tailed Lemurs. First is habitat destruction. Forests have been cleared to produce pasture and agricultural land. Fires from the clearing of grasslands. Another threat to the species is harvesting either for food (bush meat) or pets.