

RANGE

Central, Eastern, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

HABITAT

Open grassy woodlands, savannah, grass steppe, and semi-arid areas potentially miles from water.

SIZE

Weight: 20–50 lbs full grown.

Large, tall, and very slender: have a greyhound-like build. Adults have a white moustache and whiskers. Their body fur is reddish gray with pale legs and stomach. They also have a light band on the forehead and a dark dorsal stripe. The eyes and nostrils are very close together.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Around 20 years, both in captivity and in the wild.

DIET

Omnivores. Grubs, small insects and reptiles, fruits, leaves, roots, young birds and eggs

REPRODUCTION

- Males display a bouncing behavior before mating
- Gestation period is 7 ½ to 8 months; and sexual maturity is reached at 4 years
- Females give birth to one baby (between December and February) that stays with the mother for 3 months. Females are very protective of the young.

BEHAVIOR

- Live in “harems” in the wild: with one adult male, many females, and their young.
- Groups may consist of ten to forty members
- Males sit on two feet, using their tail as balance, and watch for predators.
- Females and young have a restrained vocabulary of hoots and chirrups, as well as low whistles, and a repeated guttural cough. Males will make a burring alarm note or bark.
- Are diurnal and mostly quadrupedal. They are almost exclusively terrestrial, only using trees as shelter from predators.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The fastest primate on earth: can run up to 35 miles per hour. They have often been mistaken for cheetahs when running.
- They raise all four feet off the ground to show pleasure or excitement.
- Can store as much food in its cheeks as they can fit in their stomach.

STATUS:

- CITES lists them as not necessarily threatened, but that trade must be controlled in order to preserve the species.
- No special status on the US Federal or IUCN Red lists.
- Very susceptible to drought and changes in rainfall
- Killed for meat and because of crop devastation

REFERENCES

- www.sfzoo.org/generated/animals/67/1.jpg
- http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Erythrocebus_patas.html



photo: Kara Bussabarger

Order:	Primates
Family:	Cercopithecidae
Genus:	Erythrocebus
Species:	patas