

# MONKEY, PATAS

## **RANGE:**

Central, Eastern, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

## **HABITAT:**

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

## **SIZE:**

- Large, tall, and very slender: have a greyhound-like build.
- Weigh 20-50 lbs full grown.
- 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:**

<http://www.sfzoo.org/generated/animals/67/1.jpg>

[http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Erythrocebus\\_patas.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Erythrocebus_patas.html)

# theZOO

LOUISVILLE



photo: Kara Bussabarger

Order:	<b>Primates</b>
Family:	<b>Cercopithecidae</b>
Genus:	<b>Erythrocebus</b>
Species:	<b>patas</b>