

Collared Lemur

Eulemur collaris



Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Primates*

Family: *Lemuridae*

Characteristics: The collared lemur is named for its light reddish-brown beard. Males are brownish-gray in color with a dark stripe running the length of their back, a dark tail and tail tip, a lighter underside, and a cream to reddish brown beard. Females tend to have a reddish to brown coat and gray face with a reddish-brown beard. They are roughly the size of a large house cat weighing about 5.5 lbs. with a body length of 16 inches not including the tail. Their tail is about 22 inches ([Duke Lemur Center](#)).

Behavior: They remain in the trees, rarely descending to the rainforest floor, and live in family groups of 3-16 individuals with no clear dominance hierarchy ([Duke Lemur Center](#)). Collared lemurs are active during day and night, but will generally travel at night when there is less risk of being caught by a bird of prey. The territories of neighboring groups occasionally interact leading to hostile territorial encounters. The groups territories that span 17-50 acres and are maintained through vocalizations and scent marking.

Reproduction: Breeding seasonally, mating will occur from June- July. They usually give birth to 1 infant between September- November after a 120-day gestation. Both parents will help to raise the young, possibly contributing to lower infant mortality rates. The infants will leave the nest after 1-2 weeks. The infants begin to wean off the mother when they are 3-4 months old ([Smithsonian](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Fruit, young leaves, and flowers, with bark, and soil mixed in during the dry season

Zoo: Primate chow, nuts, fruit, and vegetables

Conservation: According to [IUCN Red List](#), the collared lemur is endangered. The population has been reduced by over 50 percent over the last 24 years. The 3 major threats to the population are illegal logging, mining and fire. These lemurs are part of the SSP in captivity.

FYI: Lemurs have two tongues! Their secondary tongue rests below their primary, lacks taste buds, and is used to remove debris from the tooth comb ([Smithsonian](#)).

-The Malagasy people of Madagascar believed lemurs contained the souls of their ancestors and therefore are considered sacred ([San Diego Zoo](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Found on Madagascar in small populations in moist tropical and montane forests along the coast in southeastern Madagascar.



Lifespan: up to 36 years in captivity, 20-25 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: They have a specialized claw on the second toe of their hind feet for brushing through long fur.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Endangered

