

# Mueller's Grey Gibbon

*Hylobates muelleri muelleri*

**Class:** *Mammalia*

**Order:** *Primates*

**Family:** *Hylobatidae*

**Characteristics:** Coloration varies from grey to brown with ring of bright fur around face. Top of head and chest darker than body. Length 17-25 in; wt 8-17 lb. Have buttock pads, long canine teeth, no tail. Basal part of thumb extends from wrist rather than palm, allowing extended range of movement. Long gibbon arms for brachiation through trees. Males and females similar in morphology.

**Behavior:** Diurnal, arboreal rain forest dwellers. Spend most of the day foraging in trees. Live in monogamous pairs in groups of three or four. Occasionally change partners. Males and females are social equals. Communication is through singing, grooming, and social play using gestures, facial expressions, and body posture. Defend family territory with long, loud singing, and chasing intruders. Physical violence is rare. Travel mostly in trees moving quickly by swinging from branch to branch extending long arms over head to hook hands onto branches. Walk upright with hands over head for balance on ground though prefer brachiation through trees. Not good swimmers, avoid open water.

**Reproduction:** Reproductive patterns not studied but thought to be similar to other gibbon species. Reach sexual maturity at 8-9 years with 2-3 years between births. Breed throughout the year. Single offspring after 7 month gestation will cling to mother night and day, beginning brachiation at 6 months. Weaned about 24 months. Males active in defending and grooming young ([Safe Project](#)).

## **Diet:**

Wild: Frugivores – preferring fruits high in sugar; immature leaves and insects.

Zoo: Monkey chow, leaf eater biscuits, fruits, and vegetables.

**Conservation:** Population trend decreasing from illegal pet trade and deforestation due to expansion of oil palm plantations and logging. Most common predators are arboreal snakes and avians.

## **FYI:**

AKA: Mueller's Bornean Gibbon, Mueller's Gibbon



## **Range & Habitat:**

Found on the Indonesian island of Borneo living in tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen rainforests.



**Lifespan:** up to 44 years in captivity, 25 years in the wild.

**Special Adaptations:** Ball and socket joints, thumb extension and long arms allow speed and agility in arboreal brachiation.

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Endangered

