

Golden Lion Tamarin

Leontopithecus rosalia



Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Primates*

Family: *Callitrichidae*

Characteristics: Golden lion tamarins are small monkeys 6 to 10 inches in length and about one pound weight with a 12 to 15 inch long tail. They have orange golden fur with a brown tail and forepaws. Different from other monkeys, thumbs are not fully opposable. A thick, gold mane covers ears and frames a dark, almost bare face. Males and females are similar in size and appearance.

Behavior: Arboreal, diurnal animals sleeping in tree holes, they move without using tails by jumping and climbing. Social bonds are maintained by grooming and sharing of food but only in their family group. Using scent marks and songs for establishing territory, they defend it furiously. Signs of aggression are open mouth, arched back and staring. They live in extended family groups led by a dominate mated male/female pair. Juveniles play chasing and wrestling with each other.

Reproduction: Mating season takes place from September to March, the warmest and wettest time of the year. Pregnancy lasts 4.5 months and typically results in two babies but can range 1-3. Father provides a lot of parental care but entire group also helps. Babies are weaned at about 3 months. 50% die during the first year of life.

Diet:

Wild: Omnivore eating fruit, flowers, nectar, eggs, insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds.

Zoo: Marmoset diet, fruits, vegetables, and greens

Conservation: In the early 1970's there were as few as 200 golden lion tamarins in the wild. They were upgraded from "critically endangered" to "endangered" in 2003 following intensive conservation efforts. About one-third of the wild population today originated from golden lion tamarins raised in human care. Their habitat, the coastal state of Rio de Janeiro, is home to the quickly disappearing Atlantic forest on which golden lion tamarins depend.

FYI: Also known as the golden lion marmoset
Main predators are wild cats, birds of prey, and snakes.
Named for their manes; they are not related to lions.



Range & Habitat:
Atlantic coastal forests of
southeastern Brazil.



Lifespan: up to 20 years in
captivity, 8 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: move
quadrupedally through trees
and can spring and leap
between branches and vines.

IUCN Conservation Status:
Endangered



1. Smithsonian National Geologic Park
2. Wikipedia Encyclopedia (Photo/Map)
3. Soft School Home Education Resources (Home Schooling Data)