

## COTTON-TOP TAMARIN

updated March 2017



! Status: critically endangered

<b>Range</b>	Colombia
<b>Habitat</b>	Lowland rain forests and mountain forests on the slopes of the Andes, with a tendency to occupy the small branches of the upper canopy, rarely descending to lower areas
<b>Diet (wild)</b>	Sap, gum, as well as fruits, nuts, and nectar, occasionally insects and small reptiles, frogs, and rodents
<b>Diet (captive)</b>	Monkey chow, fruits
<b>Description</b>	Length: 7–8 inches; tail: additional 10–11 inches; weight: 1 pound. A small monkey with a crest of long, white hair from forehead to the nape of the neck that flows over the shoulders. The back is brown; underparts, arms and legs are whitish to yellow. Rump and inner thighs are reddish orange and the tail is reddish orange toward the base, and blackish toward the tip. Non-opposable thumbs, and the nails of the digits are claw-like except for the first digit on each toe.
<b>Lifespan</b>	Wild: 10 years. Captivity: 7–16 years
<b>Reproduction</b>	The female gives birth, usually twins, after a gestation period of 140–150 days, and are about 20 percent of the weight of the mother at birth. The father and other members of the group care for the youngsters, returning them to the mother for nursing. The babies can move on their own in 18–24 days, although the father allows them to ride on his back until about three months of age. They are weaned in 8–10 weeks. They are usually monogamous. The male has a courtship display in which he dances and shows off his mane while standing upright. In the wild, pregnant females and suckling young have only been observed between January and June. Males reach sexual maturity at about 24 months and females around 18 months.
<b>Behavior</b>	Cotton-top tamarins live in groups usually dominated by one mated pair and their offspring. Groups average 3–9 individuals but can be as large as 19. Larger groups may break up into smaller groups as group size increases. Individuals in these groups are not necessarily all related. In addition to the dominant mated pair and their young, there may be transient individuals, probably young animals of both sexes. Cotton-top tamarins are diurnal with keen eyesight, hearing, and smell for hunting and detecting danger. They travel 2–4 miles a day foraging for food and seek sleeping spots high in the forks of trees.
<b>Our animals</b>	1 female. Born: 05/1996
<b>Cool stuff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSP at PPZ. Cotton-top tamarins are currently classified as critically endangered and are one of the rarest primates in the world with only 6,000 individuals left in the wild. It is thought that up to 40,000 cotton-top tamarins were caught and exported for use in biomedical research before 1976 when CITES gave them the highest level of protection and all international trade was banned.</li> <li>• Cotton-top tamarins have over 30 calls, including chirps, shrill calls, squeaks, and other bird-like calls, including specific calls associated with food preferences.</li> <li>• Cotton-top tamarins have been extensively studied for their high level of cooperative care, as well as altruistic and spiteful behaviors. Communication between cotton-top tamarins is sophisticated and shows evidence of grammatical structure, a language feature that must be acquired.</li> </ul>

Phylum  
ChordataClass  
MammaliaOrder  
PrimatesFamily  
CallithricidaeGenus  
Saguinisspecies  
*S. oedipus*