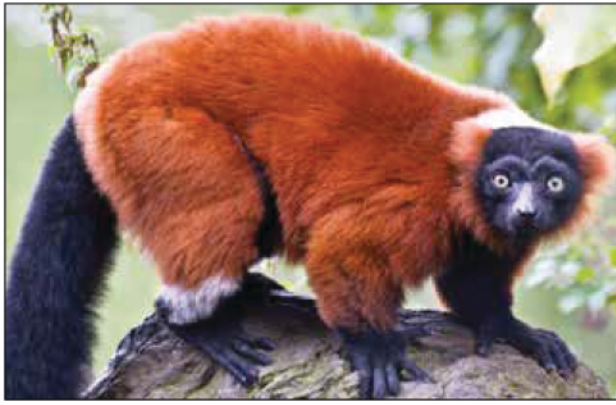


## RED RUFFED LEMUR

updated March 2017



<b>Range</b>	Masoala Peninsula in northeastern Madagascar
<b>Habitat</b>	Deciduous tropical forests
<b>Diet (wild)</b>	Fruits, leaves, nectar and seeds
<b>Diet (captivity)</b>	Monkey chow diet, fruits and vegetables
<b>Description</b>	Length: 20–22 inches; tail: additional 22–25 inches; weight: 7–10 pounds. Females are usually heavier. Slender bodied and long legged with a narrow, fox-like snout and small ears that are hidden by a ruff of hair. The soft, woolly body fur is a deep rusty red while their extremities, forehead, crown, belly and tail are black. They have a patch of white fur on the nape of the neck and may have additional white patches on the feet, digits or mouth.
<b>Lifespan</b>	Wild: 15–20 years. Captivity: up to 19 years
<b>Reproduction</b>	Gestation lasts for 90–102 days and they are the only primates the produce a litter of young, mostly commonly three. The female may build several nests for the young to use while foraging. Young are weaned around four months of age. They reach sexual maturity at about two years of age and breed at about three. Breeding season occurs May–July, but the female is in estrus for only a few days and fertile only one day during this time.
<b>Behavior</b>	Red ruffed lemurs warn each other with a complex system of at least 12 different vocalizations. These alarm calls can be low grunts, gurgling sounds or a cackle-like roar. Red ruffed lemurs can even recognize the alarm calls of their co-subspecies, black-and-white ruffed lemurs. Both species will cooperate in warning the other's group. Predators of red ruffed lemurs include snakes, raptors, large mammals and humans. A specialized claw on the second toes of their hind feet is used to brush their long, fluffy coat. Red ruffed lemurs have scent glands on their rump used for group identification. They also have acute senses of smell, vision and hearing.
<b>Our animals</b>	1 female, 1 male. Born: 04/1991(female); 05/2007(male). Birth place: San Diego Zoo (female); Palm Beach Zoo, Fla. (male)
<b>Cool stuff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red ruffed lemurs are the largest members of the true lemur family (Lemuridae).</li> <li>• Red ruffed lemurs (and all prosimians) lack extensive digit coordination, so they groom themselves and each other with their teeth (six bottom teeth that form the “toothcomb”).</li> <li>• Reproduction is costly for red ruffed lemurs. Despite being large lemurs, female red ruffeds have relatively short gestation periods and give birth to multiple offspring. To counter these reproductive costs, females leave their litters in nests or stashing locations, called parking, in the mother's core area. While mothers travel into the forest, community members of the core area care for the young. This form of alloparenting is commonly practiced in red ruffed lemur communities, reducing maternal reproductive costs.</li> <li>• Depending on the group size, a home range might stretch from 60–150 acres. Although every group has a core area, members move throughout the forest when foraging, covering up to ¾ mile in a day.</li> </ul>

Phylum  
ChordataClass  
MammaliaOrder  
PrimatesFamily  
LemuridaeGenus  
Vareciaspecies  
*V. ubra*