

RING-TAILED LEMUR

Lemur catta

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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal — primate (lemur)
NATIVE RANGE	Southern and southwestern Madagascar
HABITAT	Forest and scrubland
DIET	Omnivore: fruit, leaves, flowers, bark, sap
SIZE	Body 15–18 in; tail 22–25 in
WEIGHT	About 5 lb
LIFESPAN	Up to 16 years in the wild, up to 27 in human care
STATUS	Endangered (IUCN)
OUR LEMURS	Catherine (Cat), Jessica and Phil



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Ring-tailed lemurs spend more time on the ground than any other lemur, up to half of their day.
- Researchers have counted at least 28 different ring-tailed lemur calls.
- Troops are led by females, who outrank every male in the group.
- A walking lemur holds its tail high like a flag so the troop can see it.
- Lemurs “sun” by sitting upright with their arms out and bellies toward the morning sun.

Words to know

Troop: a group of lemurs that live together.

Matriarchal: led by females.

Omnivore: an animal that eats plants and animals.

Sunning: sitting with the belly toward the sun.

Think about it

1. What is a ring-tailed lemur's tail used for?
2. Who leads a ring-tailed lemur troop?
3. Why do lemurs sit with their arms out in the morning?
4. On what island do wild ring-tailed lemurs live?
5. How does a baby lemur travel in its first weeks?

Draw it

Draw a ring-tailed lemur. Color its tail with black and white rings and label its mask, tail and hands.

Draw here