

Black and White Ruffed Lemurs



Scientific Name:

Varecia variagata variagata

Range:

Eastern Madagascar

Habitat:

Rainforest

Average Size:

Body Length: 27 inches
Body-Tail Length: 54 inches
Weight: 7 pounds

Lifespan:

About 30 years

Diet:

Wild: mostly fruit

Zoo: Monkey biscuits, various produce

Reproduction:

Gestation: 90-100 days

Litter size: usually 2, occasionally 1 or 3

Appearance:

This largest of the lemur species is easily recognized by its black face and white ruff. The tail is longer than the body and is mostly black – some individuals have a touch of silver.

Predators:

Unknown – likely predators: humans, dogs, raptors and fossas

Population Status:

Endangered



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All lemurs are ‘prosimians’ – ‘almost monkeys’. They are relatives of the earliest examples of primates left in the world. Only on the island of Madagascar, in the absence of both modern primates and predators, were lemur species able to become diurnal/crepuscular and large - like the ruffed lemurs.

Black and White Ruffed Lemurs are an arboreal species that are capable of amazing leaps and acrobatics. They most often live in extended family groups, with

younger females assisting in the infant raising duties, including babysitting.

Like all lemurs, the Black and White Ruffed Lemur is an endangered species whose habitat is disappearing at an alarming rate.

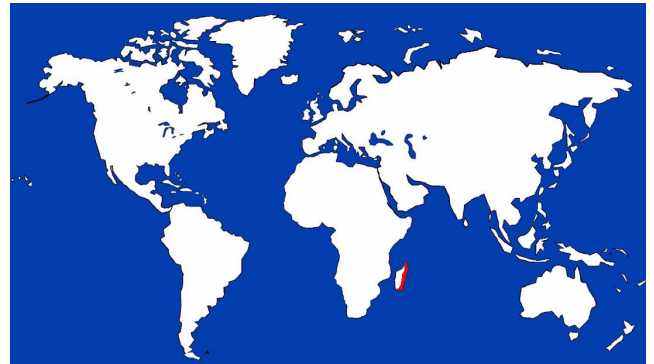
Mating and Reproduction

Mating in Black and White Ruffed Lemurs occurs in December to February. The gestation for these lemurs is unusually short: 90-100 days.

Litters are most often comprised of 2 infants, which the female carries in her mouth, depositing them in a safe and convenient spot while she eats. By the time the young are 5 weeks old, they are able to climb almost as well as an adult.

Amazing Information:

Black and White Ruffed Lemurs are extremely vocal. Using a variety of grunts, growls and screams, they are in almost constant communication with one another.



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