

Weid's Marmoset



Scientific Name:

Callithrix kuhli

Range:

Rainforests of Brazil

Habitat:

Tropical and sub-tropical forests

Average Size:

Length: 8-13 inches

Weight: 13-25 ounces

Lifespan:

Up to 16 years

Diet:

Wild: Tree sap, fruit, insects, flowers and nectar

Zoo: Produce, eggs, marmoset mix, monkey biscuits

Reproduction:

Gestation: 4 ½ months

Litter size: two

Appearance:

Also known as black-tufted marmosets, these little monkeys are generally black with silver 'highlights' and a ringed tail. Their face is white and the head has black ear tufts.

Predators:

Birds of prey, Jaguars, Jaguarundis, Ocelots and snakes

Population Status:

Stable



About the Animal

Weid's Marmosets belong to a group of primates known as short-tusked marmosets. The 'tusks' referred to are the small canines that are specially adapted for gouging holes in the bark of gum trees. The marmoset then eats the thick liquid, known as 'gum' that oozes from the hole.

Marmosets are the most primitive of monkeys. Their 'thumbs' are not opposable and digits have claws rather than nails. The tail is not prehensile.

Mating and Reproduction:

Unlike many of the larger monkeys and apes, females are the dominant animal in the group, and

a male 'harem' travels with her. During breeding season she mates with several of the males. When offspring are born, there is no way of knowing which male is the father, thus all the males participate in the care of the infants. Only the dominant female breeds, but the dominance hierarchy is always changing. Weid's Marmosets can give birth twice a year.

Amazing Information:

This species of marmoset is known to travel with Golden-headed Tamarins. Tamarins tend to 'hang out' in a different level of the tree than the marmosets, so there is no competition for food. By traveling together, these two species have twice the number of eyes watching out for predators!



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