



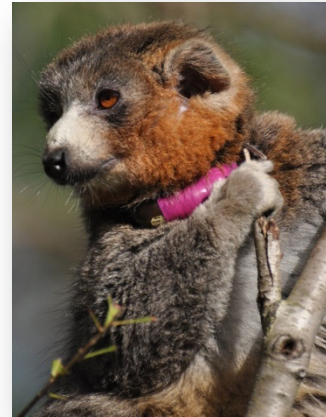
LEMUR  
CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION

[www.lemurreserve.org](http://www.lemurreserve.org)

### **Mongoose Lemur Description & Behavior:**

Adult Mongoose lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*) are small, weighing between 1.1 and 1.6 kg, or approximately 3 lbs. The species is sexually dichromatic, meaning that males and females have differently colored fur. They live in small family units centered on a male-female pair with one to four offspring.

This kind of lemur is neither diurnal (active during the day) nor nocturnal (active during the night). They follow an activity pattern termed cathemeral, which means they travel, feed, and engage in social interactions throughout the day and night. Activity levels vary depending upon the season and available light. This unusual behavior was first described in research by Ian Tattersall, a member of LCF's Scientific Advisory Council and curator emeritus at The American Museum of Natural History.



### **Diet:**

In the wild, Mongoose lemurs eat fruit, flowers, nectar, and occasionally beetles and grubs. Like other lemur species, they may be important pollinators and seed dispersers. At LCF, the Mongoose lemurs eat a mixture of fruit, vegetables, and a dietary supplement called primate maintenance biscuits. Flowers, leaves, and mealworms are also offered to them as enrichment.

Mongoose lemurs are one of only two lemur species found outside of Madagascar. They are also found in the wild on the Comoros islands of Moheli and Anjouan.

### **Habitat:**

Their natural habitat is tropical dry deciduous forest but they can also survive well in secondary. At LCF the mongoose lemurs avoid the tall and enjoy the live and laurel oak forests, and the secondary canopy of wax myrtle and gall berry.

## **Reproduction:**

In Madagascar, mongoose lemurs breed in May and June and give birth in October and November. In Florida, however, they breed between November and February, giving birth in April or May after a 125 day gestation period. The female usually gives birth to a single offspring each year but will have offspring in consecutive years.

## **Threats:**

The greatest threats to this species are habitat destruction and hunting. Slash-and-burn agriculture, clearing land for cattle, and charcoal production all result in reduced habitat for the mongoose lemurs. In addition, they are hunted for food, and for the luxury bush-meat market.

## **Conservation Status:**

The latest International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List assessment categorizes Mongoose lemurs as Critically Endangered. The mongoose lemurs at LCF are part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) cooperative breeding program to help safeguard the species against extinction.



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE PRIMATES OF  
MADAGASCAR THROUGH CAPTIVE BREEDING, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND  
EDUCATION.

