



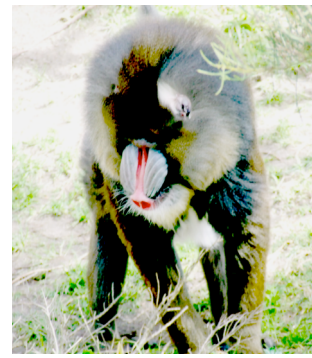
# MANDRILL

## PRIMATA

**Family:** Cercopithecidae

**Genus:** *Mandrillus*

**Species:** *sphinx*



**Range:** Cameroon to Guinea.

**Habitat:** high moist forest of low level trees and forest floor

**Niche:** diurnal, terrestrial, omnivorous

**Wild diet:** fruits, leaves, roots, seeds, nuts, fruit, greens and invertebrates

**Zoo diet:** fruits, vegetables, monkey chow

**Life Span:** (Wild)

(Captivity) up to 46 yrs

**Sexual dimorphism:** M nearly twice that of F

**Location in SF Zoo:** Primate Discovery Center

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## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

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The Mandril has a stocky, powerful body and muscular arms. Males have massive heads that appear too large for their bodies. They have white cheek whiskers, a yellow beard, and a dark brown crest on the crown of the head. Coat is an olive-brown irregularly barred pattern with pale under parts; adult males have a blue to purple naked rump which is duller in females and juveniles. The male's muzzle is large; the nose and lips are bright red with blue ridged swellings running lengthwise on either side while their beards are golden. The bright facial coloration also shows up on the mandrills' rear. Male canines may reach 2 inches in length or more.

<b>Weight:</b>	M 44 - 61.6 lbs
	F 24.2 lbs
<b>HBL:</b>	M 2.2 - 3.2 ft
	F 1.6 - 2.2 ft
<b>TL:</b>	2.8 - 4.8 in

Females and juveniles are similar in coloration but duller, and females have longer muzzles. The bright red pigment is dependent upon male hormones. The blue coloring requires a similar hormone, but once established it becomes structural and permanent.

Mandrills walk on their fingers and toes, so that the palms of their hands and soles of their feet do not touch the ground.

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## STATUS & CONSERVATION

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Mandrills are most closely related to and share a habitat with Drills *Mandrillus leucophaeus*. Conservation organizations are working with the Cameroon government to establish a national park in the Bakossi Mountain range to protect the habitat from illegal logging and the bush-meat trade. Bush-meat is the hunting of wildlife species for food and trade. The illegal bush-meat trade is the most critical threat to both drills and mandrills.

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## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

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Males emit vigorous smacking sounds while copulating and grooming of females. Use facial colors as threat signals along with a penetrating stare to intimidate a male rival and to establish domination. To denote submission they lower their body and show their rear.

A group of mandrill typically roams over 5 miles a day while foraging for food. Their actual range may cover as much as 20 square miles. Much of their time is spent on the forest floor, but they do climb to the middle layer of the trees to sleep. Their social organization is harems: consisting of up to 14 members (about 5 females and young) and one adult male. During the dry season several harems may join into larger troop of up to 200 members. Males are constantly alert for predators and will place themselves between family and intruder, growling and displaying their teeth. If this behavior does not suffice to scare off the intruder, the male will work himself into a frenzy, jumping up and down. Bright red spots will appear on his wrist and ankles while his chest will turn a vivid blue. It is believed that this color change is produced by a specialized circulatory function.

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## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

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The dominant male has access to all the females in his harem, and he is most likely to father offspring. He mates randomly with the females when they are in estrus. During estrus, the female's sex organs become swollen, indicating that she is ready to mate. Juvenile females will usually stay with the troop they are born into while juvenile males leave and spend most of the time on their own, though they do forage with the troop.

Estrus: polyestrus men. 33 days	
Gestation: 167-176 days (5 - 7 months)	Sexual Maturity: 4-5 yrs
# of Mammae: 1 pr	Weaning Age: 6-12 months
# of Young: 1	Weight at birth:

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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Different theories have been advanced for mimicry of facial and anogenital areas: some believe that facial coloration is a sexual reinforcer, others believe that its role in aggressive encounters is more significant, still others believe that the colors are simply to call attention to the group on the otherwise dark jungle floor. It may be that all three theories may be true.

### Sources:

### Last Revision: 11/94

### Present Revision: 3/08

Brainard, ed. 1983 / Encyclopedia of Wildlife 1974 / Grzimek 1990; Kavanagh, 1983 / MacDonald, 1984 / Napier 1985 / Nowak, ed. 1991 / Stephen, ed. 1974

<http://www.thebigzoo.com/http://www.sandiegozoo.org/>

<http://wonderclub.com/>