

Zoo Placental Mammals

Orders Rodentia, Lagamorphs, Pilosa

Placental Mammals Infraclass Eutheria

- Unborn young develop inside the mother's uterus
- Young has an umbilical chord attached to the placenta on the uterine wall
- Reproductive system has one uterus, two ovaries and one vagina, acting as the birth canal; different openings are used for urination and defecation
- When born, placental mammals are much more developed than marsupials



Order Pilosa Giant Anteater



Myrmecophaga tridactyla

- Found in Central and South America, in swamps, grasslands and forests
- Largest of the anteaters, with a long tubular snout and bushy tail
- Insectivorous; specialize in ants and termites, but will also eat worms, beetles, and sometimes fruit
- Use their sharp claws to open up termite or ant mounds. They never eat all the insects or destroy the whole nest, so that they always have something to come back to later
- Walk on their knuckles to protect their sharp claws
- Anteaters are excellent swimmers
- Vulnerable due to habitat encroachment
- SSP species

Order Pilosa Southern Two-toed Sloth



Choloepus didactylus

- Found in Northern South America in canopies of lowland and mountain tropical forests
- Because they spend most of their time hanging upside down, fur goes from stomach to back
- Teeth lack enamel and are evergrowing; they are worn down by their leafy diet
- Only descend from canopy to move to different tree or defecate in their middens once a week
- Herbivorous diet of leaves, shoots and fruit; slow metabolism, digestion and low body temperatures
- Hairs have longitudinal furrows and collect algae, giving a greenish tint; they may gain nutrients from algae
- Simple molars that grow continuously must be ground down by mastication

Order Rodentia Black-tailed Prairie Dog

- Found across the open plains of North America south to Northern Mexico
- Rodents have two upper and two lower chisel-like incisors that grow continually and are adapted for gnawing.
- Live in colonies up to 160 acres with multiple family groups of a male, several females, and young making up a "town"
- Got the name "dog" from their yippy warning vocalization; prairie dogs have a sophisticated communication system
- Black-tailed prairie dogs play an important role in prairie ecology. Their extensive burrows acts as homes for such animals as burrowing owls, snakes and badgers. They are a critical food source for many mammal and bird species, and the constant burrowing activity of prairie dogs works to loosen the soil, unearthing insects that birds eat



Cynomys ludovicianus

Order Rodentia Red-rumped Agouti

- Found in low-to-middle elevation rain forest of Central America and Northern South America
- Related to guinea pigs and look similar but have larger and longer legs
- Important seed dispersers; will bury surplus food
- Territorial; will mark their territory with urine
- Capable of opening Brazil nuts without tools



Dasyprocta leporina

Order Rodentia

Prevost's Squirrel

- Found in southeast Asia in the Thai Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo and surrounding islands in lowland and montane forests
- Also known as the tricolor squirrel
- Pair of continuously growing incisors worn down by gnawing
- Eyes adapted to vertical vision while climbing in the trees
- Solitary
- Important seed disperser



Callosciurus prevostii