

Zoo Placental Mammals

Order Carnivora

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Lynx rufus

- Mainly meat-eaters, but some omnivores and a few herbivores
- Adaptations for pursuing and consuming prey
- Distinguishing features: long canines and carnassial teeth
- Most have acute vision with forward facing eyes, well developed sense of smell and acute hearing
- Reproductive strategies include delayed implantation and induced ovulation

Canoidea Dog-like Forms



- Similar to Dogs
- Long snout
- Large canines
- Teeth for crushing, all-purpose omnivore teeth
- Non-retractable claws
- Long legs

Family Ursidae Grizzly Bear

- Range includes Alaska, western Canada, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington in high mountain wooded areas, tundra and sub-alpine regions
- A subspecies of the brown bear, they are called "grizzly" due to the silver tipped guard hairs
- 4" long front claws and pronounced shoulder hump where powerful muscles attach are adaptations for digging
- Typically solitary, but will congregate to fish for salmon during spawning
- CA state animal and the symbol on our state flag; although it is extinct in the state
- Our two females were orphaned in Montana and rescued from euthanasia by the Zoo
- Listed as Endangered
- Grizzlies play an important role in managing the health of an ecosystem by distributing seeds through their scat, regulating ungulate populations and mixing topsoil when digging.



Ursus arctos horribilis

Family Ursidae Black Bear

- Found throughout North America from Canada to Mexico in large forested areas
- Smallest of the North American bears and most widely distributed bear species
- Short, non-retractable claws provide for excellent tree climbing and tearing apart stumps and logs in search of insects. They will climb trees to escape danger.
- Solitary animal with exception of mothers and her cubs
- Den up depending on local weather conditions and availability of food during winter months
- Omnivores; will feed on a wide variety of food, including nuts, berries, roots, fruits, insects, eggs, fish, mammals, and carrion
- American black bears can be distinguished from brown bears (includes grizzlies) by their smaller size, their less concave skull profiles, their shorter claws and the lack of a shoulder hump.



Ursus americanus

Family Canidae Mexican Gray Wolf

- Once ranged widely from central Mexico throughout the southwestern U.S. Now, range is restricted to southeastern Arizona and parts of New Mexico and northern Mexico in mountain woodlands, grasslands and scrublands
- Carnivorous; they hunt cooperatively so that they can take out prey much larger than themselves.
- Smallest species of gray wolf, distinguished by its smaller, narrower skull and its darker pelt
- Lives in packs of 4 – 8 individuals, including alpha male and female
- Critically Endangered, wolves were hunted, trapped, and poisoned to near extinction in the U.S. by the mid-1970s
- 5 remaining wolves in the wild were rescued and were used to start a captive breeding program; in 1998 eleven wolves released into wild; now there are ~100.



Canis lupus baileyi

Family Ailuridae Red Panda



Ailurus fulgens

- Found eastern Himalayas and southwest China in mountain forests
- Specialized bamboo feeder; small, bony projection on their wrists that helps them grip bamboo stalks
- Descend tree headfirst; rotates its ankle to control its descent
- Territorial, marking with urine and a weak musk-smelling secretion from their anal glands.
- Distantly related to the giant panda more closely related to raccoon and weasel
- Endangered, do not survive well in fragmented habitat

Family Mustelidae North American River Otter



Lontra canadensis

- Larger mustelid, found in rivers, lakes and coasts over most of Canada and the US
- Eats fish, crawfish, frogs, snakes, lizards, and insects; occasionally will take ducklings or other small aquatic mammals
- Usually solitary
- Becoming more rare due to habitat loss, pollution, and trapping
- Known for being playful; slide down river banks on their bellies into the water
- Induced ovulators with altricial young

Family Mustelidae Wolverine



Gulo gulo

- Found N Canada, Alaska, Nordic Europe, W. Russia, and Siberia in boreal forests, taiga, alpine and tundra
- Wolverines do not hibernate but are well adapted for winter existence; long, dense oily fur; the fur is hydrophobic and resistant to frost
- Reputation for ferocity and ability to kill prey many times larger than itself
- Opportunistic omnivores; they have special upper molar in the back of the mouth that is rotated 90 degrees allows them to tear off frozen meat
- Use anal scent glands to mark territory with musk; nickname "skunk bear"
- Solitary except for the breeding period
- Induced ovulators and delayed implantation

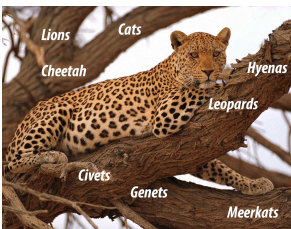
Family Otariidae California Sea Lion



Zalophus californianus

- Found in coastal waters from along the west coast of North America
- Social marine mammals with streamlined bodies and paired flippers
- Blubber aids in buoyancy and insulation
- Visible ear pinnae and rotatable hind flippers distinguish sea lions and fur seals from the other two families
- Very agile swimmers; can also run on land due to the flexibility of the hind flippers
- Zoo's sea lions are blinded from injury and disease in the wild and no longer able to survive on their own. They were rescued by the Marine Mammal Center and given a second chance at the Zoo.

Feloidea Cat-Like Forms



- Similar to cats
- Shortened snout
- Larger canines
- More specialized lower molars - carnassials
- Retractable claws (exception: Cheetah)
- "Small cat" vs. "large cat"

Family Herpestidae Slender-tailed Meerkat



Suricata suricatta

- Found in semi-arid, open country, commonly hard or stony ground, savanna and grasslands, widely distributed in southern Africa
- Small, social mongoose, with darker stripes along tan fur, with a dark mask
- They build burrows and have complex social behavior through a maternal hierarchy system
- Often rest sitting back on their haunches in an upright position, will often see "scouts" scanning for danger on top of mounds and rocks
- Omnivorous, and have ability to catch venomous prey such as scorpions and snakes

Family Eupleridae Fossa



Cryptoprocta ferox

OFF EXHIBIT

- Largest carnivorous mammal endemic to Madagascar
- Prefers pristine undisturbed forests that are more humid than dry
- Cathermal and usually solitary
- 50% of diet is lemurs, rest is small mammals, lizards and birds
- Agile climbers with semi-retractable claws and flexible ankles to climb down tree head first
- Tail makes up ½ length of body
- Plantigrade gait gives them extra balance and stability while maneuvering amongst the trees

Felidae Family - Cats



Panthera leo

- Adaptations for pursuing and consuming prey
- Most have acute vision with forward facing eyes, well developed smell and acute hearing
- Tapetum lucidum enhances visual sensitivity in low light especially at night
- Wide peripheral vision
- An obligate carnivore that must eat meat in order to thrive
- “Big cats” have elastic segment of hyoid bone allowing them to produce a roar versus “small cats” have boney hyoid and purr

Family Felidae African Lion

- Member of the big cat subfamily; large, tawny, muscular cat found in Africa in open grassland areas
- Only cat species to form social groups, called prides, with one male, females and cubs
- Cooperatively hunt large hoofstock such as zebras, wildebeest, African buffalo, and antelope; mainly females doing the hunting
- Sexual dimorphism, with males having a thick mane that can be tan to black; thought to be protective in territorial fights with other males
- Distinct roar can be heard over miles; advertises territory and gathers pride together
- SSP species



Panthera leo

Family Felidae Sumatran Tiger

- Smallest of 5 tiger subspecies, males being about 350 lbs, also with the darkest coat color
- Prefers deep jungles, found on the island of Sumatra off the coast of Malaysia, probably less than 600 remaining
- Diet consists of wild pig and sambar deer; 90% of the time the cats fail to catch their intended prey
- SSP species; classified as Critically Endangered by IUCN and is on Appendix I of CITES
- Zoo supports the AZA Tiger Conservation Campaign, which support wild tiger conservation efforts and raise awareness about wild tigers



Panthera tigris sumatrae

Family Felidae Snow Leopard



Panthera uncia

- Within large cat subfamily; smaller species with thick white fur and large black rosettes, long, thick tail for balance
- Found in steppes, forests and rocky terrain at higher altitudes in central and southern Asia; only strictly alpine cat; very secretive and rarely seen
- Wide range of prey, from birds, hares, and rodents, to sheep, goats, wild asses and yak
- Endangered and highly prized for its fur
- Has elastic hyoid bone but does not roar, but still designated with other big cats
- SSP species, classified as Endangered by IUCN and on Appendix I of the CITES
- Zoo has had successful breeding history of snow leopards, producing 42 snow leopards since 1958 and supports the Snow Leopard Conservancy

Family Felidae Fishing Cat

- In the small cat subfamily; this medium cat is spotted with a grayish coat, and a short tail
- Semi-webbed toes for fishing near rivers, lakes and streams; besides fish, will eat frogs, snakes, crayfish, shellfish, insects, water birds and small mammals
- Native to Southeast Asia
- SSP species



Prionailurus viverrinus

Family Felidae
Bobcat

- Ranges from southern Canada to northern Mexico, including most of the continental United States found mostly in wooded areas
- Crepuscular
- Territorial and largely solitary
- May have several dens, one main den and several auxiliary dens, in its territory



Lynx rufus