



Angolan Colobus

Colobus angolensis polycomos

Range: An African primate, native to Kenya, Tanzania, Zaire, Northeast Angola, Burundi, Uganda, Zambia, and Rwanda

Habitat: Prefer densely forested areas, but can venture into cultivated areas in search of food

Diet: Primarily leaf eaters, the complex stomach system of the Colobus allows it to eat vegetation that other monkeys can't digest.

Lifespan: 20-30 years

Description: A mid-sized monkey, the Angolan Colobus generally weighs between 13-30 lbs. It's easily identifiable by the striking black and white fur present on both males and females. The long

white fur, present on the shoulders, tail, and head flare out and help break up the otherwise black outline of the body. The word "Colobus" stems from the Greek word for "mutilated." Because unlike other primates, Colobus do not have thumbs.

Breeding: It is theorized that a majority of the breeding takes place during the rainy season. The social structure of a Colobus troop consists of one dominant male and several females, therefore, battles over mates rarely occur. A female colobus usually gives birth to a single baby after a gestation period of 140-220 days. The infant is born with white fur. The female members of the troop frequently handle the newborn, often switching from female to female. This amount of handling can cause infant mortality rates to be high, despite the high level of care provided by the female. The young monkey is nursed by its mother for about a year. During that time, it will play with its mother and other juveniles until it reaches maturity.

Behavior/Adaptations: Colobus are highly arboreal (tree dwelling) and do not often go down to the ground. They are extremely good jumpers and can cross distances of 50 feet through the trees. They can be seen bouncing and swinging on tree branches, as well as falling and using their long limbs to grab branches for support. Angolan Colobus live in highly social troops. The number of individuals that make up a group can range from 5 to over 100! Social grooming helps to reinforce group bonds.

Predators: Humans, Leopards, Birds of Prey

Conservation: Due to hunting for their beautiful fur and increased habitat loss, Colobus numbers have dwindled dramatically in the last 100 years. They have disappeared from many areas of their original range and are now listed as an Endangered Species.

Interesting Facts:

- The complicated digestive system of the Colobus allows it to eat mature or toxic leaves that other monkeys cannot digest.
- Local traditions in Africa say that the Colobus are weather predictors. They stop calling and grow silent when bad weather is approaching!

Information taken from the following sources:

www.awf.org/content/wildlife/detail/colobusmonkey

<http://olobus.wildlifedirect.org/2008/12/>

www.theprimata.com/factsheets.html

www.lowryparkzoo.com/bio_primate_angolan_colobus.php