

BANDED MONGOOSE

(MUNGOS MUNGO)

CONSERVATION STATUS: LEAST CONCERN*

WE ARE MAMMALS
with a lifespan of 10 years
in the wild, 17 years
in captivity



Origin: Africa.

Diet: Beetles, earthworms, slugs, snails, termites, frogs, crabs, fallen fruit, birds, eggs, rodents, snakes.

Predators: Birds of prey, wild dogs, jackals, hyenas, snakes.

Habitat: Open grasslands, brushlands, woodlands and rocky country.



*The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016. Downloaded 25.08.20.



Height

30-45cm with a 15-30cm tail



Weight

1.5-2.5kg



Top Speed

20mph

DID YOU KNOW?

Mongoose are very possessive over their food, they will not share and will eat it straight away. To crack open hard shells like eggs and snails, they will throw the object between their hind legs onto a rock.

They sleep at night and are active during the day. They can travel up to 5 miles a day foraging for food.

When a predator approaches a pack of mongooses, they bunch together and move as a group to create the appearance of a much larger animal. The mongooses at the front often make lunges towards the predator.

ADAPTATIONS

They have long, curved claws on their front feet to help with digging and scratching.

REPRODUCTION

After a gestation period of 2 months, 2-6 babies (pups) are born. The pups are born blind and hairless and will remain underground for the first 4 weeks. At around 10 days old their eyes will begin to open and at around 4-5 weeks they will begin to leave the den and accompany the adults on foraging expeditions. By around 9-10 months old the females will be ready to reproduce. Reproduction is often synchronised within a pack of mongooses so that females give birth within a few days of one another. All the members of the pack will then help to care for the babies.

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE MONGOOSE