**Scientific Name:**
*Eulemer mongoz*

**Other Names:**
None

**Range:**
Northwestern Madagascar and the Comoro Islands of Moheli and Anjouan

**Habitat:**
Primary and secondary dry forests and scrub brush

**Average Size:**
Length:
- Body: 14 in.
- Tail: 19 in.
- Weight: 2.8 - 3.5 lbs.

**Description:**
Male: Darker than females with gray-brown fur and rust-colored cheeks and beard
Female: Gray blending into brown on the back and rear. Face is dark gray with white cheeks and beard

**Lifespan:**
In captivity: 30 years
In the wild: Unknown

**Diet:**
In the wild: Fruit, new leaves, nectar (especially from the kapok tree)
In the zoo: Fruit, vegetables, monkey chow and hibiscus and camellia flowers when available

**Gestation:**
4 months

**Sexual Maturity:**
Male: 2 ½ years
Female: 2 ½ years

**Predators:**
Birds of prey and fossa

**Population Status:**
Critically Endangered

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**Conservation**
The Ankarafantsika Reserve is the only protected area in Madagascar for the mongoose lemur. It is under heavy pressure due to forest clearance for pasture, charcoal production and croplands. The exact limits of the mongoose lemur’s distribution in other areas of Madagascar are unknown due to the forests in the region being highly fragmented. This species is protected both by law and local customs on the Comoro Islands where they were introduced roughly 200 years ago. The influx of Malagasy people (coming from mainland Madagascar) who have different customs than the local Comoro tribes, has led to an increase in the hunting of these lemurs for food. The wild population is estimated to be between 1,000 and 10,000. There have only been a few good population studies completed.

**Behavior**
This Malagasy species tends to live in small groups of three to four consisting of a mature pair and its immature offspring. Larger groups are found on the Comoro Islands, suggesting that the typical small group sizes and pair-bonding are influenced by food availability and climatic changes. Overall, mongoose lemurs are considered cathemeral, meaning active part of the day and part of the night. In the rainy season, they are active during the daytime, and in the dry season they are active at nighttime.

The lemur’s home ranges are small and overlap one another. Although intergroup encounters are rare, they are the source of great agitation, vocalizations and scent markings. The alarm call is interspersed with grunts like a pig, sometimes with the entire group giving the call in unison. This species frequently travels with brown lemurs.

Like all lemurs, mongoose lemurs primarily communicate by scent marking. They have a tapetum lucidum, the reflective layer behind the eyes used to enhance small amounts of light in the darkness.

**Reproduction and Breeding**
Mongoose lemur females cycle every 37 days only during a specific time of the year. In North America, it is between the months of November and March. One to two offspring are born at a time, and the females can give birth each year. All infants are born with female coloration and, if they are...
male, they change to male coloration within six to eight months. The infants are carried around the mother’s waist like a fanny pack and are weaned between five and seven months. There is a specific contact call and response from the infant to the mother.

**Amazing Facts**
Because nectar makes up part of its diet, mongoose lemurs are important pollinators!

All lemurs are found on Madagascar, which separated from Africa 50 - 100 million years ago!

Roughly one-third of all lemur species that existed are now extinct!