Scientific Name: 
_Pithecia pithecia_

Other Names: 
Pale-headed saki, Guyanan saki

Range: 
South America, including northern Brazil, Surinam, Guyana, French Guiana and Venezuela

Habitat: 
Evergreen, coastal, secondary, savanna, palm and gallery forests

Average Size: 
Male:  
Length, including tail: 29 in. 
Weight: 3 ½ lbs.  
Female:  
Length, including tail: 26 in. 
Weight: 2 lbs.

Lifespan: 
In the wild: Estimated at 10 - 15 years 
In captivity: 15 - 20 years

Diet: 
In the wild: Fruit, seeds, flowers, leaves, insects, and small birds and bats  
In the zoo: Fruit, vegetables, seeds, mealworms, and Zupreem monkey chow

Gestation: 
Estimated at 145 days

Sexual Maturity 
24 - 36 months

Description: 
Male: Black body with a white face and a black nose  
Female: Brownish-gray body with off-white tear marks running from the eyes to the corners of the mouth

Predators: 
Birds of prey and large cats

Population Status: 
Vunerable

Conservation 
White-faced sakis are hunted for their meat and for their bushy tail, which is used as a duster. Deforestation, leading to loss of habitat, continues to be the main threat for this species.

Behavior 
White-faced sakis prefer solid limb supports in the lower to middle canopy levels of the rain forest, although they are occasionally found on the ground or emergent layer. They are seen mostly in monogamous pairs but have been known to form larger, temporary groups when food sources are plentiful. These monkeys are quadrupedal (using all four limbs) walkers and leapers. In Guyana, their rapid hopping has earned them the name “Flying Jacks”. Sakis are very vocal with a variety of chirps, high-pitched whistling and a loud call used for territorial spacing. When threatened, white-faced sakis display by shaking tree limbs with their whole bodies, puffing themselves up so that they look bigger, and emitting a growling sound.

Reproduction and Breeding 
These sakis are sexually dichromatic (the males and females are colored differently) which is a rare trait among Central and South American primates. All infants are born with the female coloration. Males change into their adult coloration at two months of age. The infant is carried in the flexure of the female’s thigh for the first few weeks of life and will gradually begin to ride on the mother’s back. Males have also been known to carry infants for short periods of time. Females will have only one offspring each year.

Amazing Facts 
White-faced sakis do not have a prehensile tail!  

These sakis spend most of their time 10 to 50 feet up in the rain forest! 

The long, thick coat of this monkey helps keep it dry from the heavy rains!