Scientific Name:
*Potos flavus*

Other Names:
Honey bear, potto

Range:
Mexico and South America

Habitat:
Tropical rainforests

Average Size:
Length:
Body: 1 – 1 1/2 ft.
Tail: 2 Ft
Weight: 3 – 10 lbs.

Description:
Long, slender body with small head, short face, flattened ears, large eyes, and a long, prehensile (grasping) tongue and tail. Short, thick golden brown fur is dense and oily for water resistance.

Females are the same as males.

Lifespan:
In the wild: Up to 19 years
In captivity: Up to 24 years

Diet:
In the wild: Fruit, vegetables and nectar
In the zoo: Fruit, vegetables and omnivore biscuits

Gestation:
4 months

Offspring:
1 – 2 young

Sexual Maturity:
Male: 1 – 1½ years
Female: 2 years

Predators:
Large carnivores, snakes and birds of prey

Population Status:
Not Threatened

Behavior
Kinkajous are nocturnal forest dwellers that rarely come down to the ground. Their social structure is very open, with most living in small groups without a dominance hierarchy. They are sometimes seen alone or in pairs. When competing for food, kinkajous hiss, scream and bark at one another. They spend most of the day sleeping in tree hollows, although they occasionally sun themselves on tree branches.

In the evening, kinkajous begin to forage for food. Their long prehensile (able to grasp) tail aids their movement in the trees. They are agile climbers that move quickly from tree to tree in search of food. Mostly vegetable eaters, they sometimes eat eggs and baby birds. Kinkajous use their long (up to 5 inches) prehensile tongue to gather honey from bees’ nests and nectar from flowers.

Although they are not particularly territorial, they use scent glands on their throat, chest and stomach to mark nearby trees and branches. The scent helps them find their way and attract members of the opposite sex.

Reproduction and Breeding
As with most tropical rainforest dwellers, there is no particular breeding season for the kinkajou. The females are receptive many times throughout the year, announcing their availability with loud calls and scent markings on nearby branches and limbs.

The female alone tends to the young and remains away from the other kinkajous when she is with her offspring. Newborns have silver-gray fur that turns to golden-brown within a few months.

Their ears open in a week, but their eyes remain closed for almost three weeks. They remain in the nest during this time. Although their tails are functional at two months of age, mothers carry their babies by the throat for many months. The young begin eating solid food at this time and are fully weaned by the age of four months. They remain with their mother for up to one year before venturing out into the rainforest.
**Conservation**

Despite widespread habitat loss, human encroachment and other development in their rainforest habitat, the kinkajou is not listed as endangered. There appears to be no need for their products on the black market, and they are not widely used in the pet trade. Due to their nocturnal habits, however, they are rarely seen and exact population numbers cannot be obtained.

The Sacramento Zoo contributes to many rainforest conservation and restoration projects. Our rainforest meter accepts donations that are used to buy acreage for wildlife reserves. The Zoo continuously works to educate the public on conservation issues and offers everyday actions that can aid with these efforts.

**Amazing Facts**

A kinkajou’s tail can be longer than its body!

Their tail is used for extra grip, but it can also improve balance.

This mammal can live in altitudes of up to 8,000 feet!