**Scientific Name:**
Propithecus verreauxi coquereli

**Other Names:**
Tsibahaka (Native Malagasy name)

**Range:**
North-western Madagascar

**Habitat:**
Dry evergreen and deciduous forests to spiny deserts

**Average Size:**
- Length
  - Body: 16 1/2 – 18 in.
  - Tail: 22 – 23 1/2 in.
- Weight: 8 – 8 ½ lbs.

**Description:**
Black face with a white patch across the muzzle and small, naked ears. Mostly white body with maroon patches on the chest and front of thighs and forelimbs.

**Lifespan:**
Unknown

**Diet:**
- In the wild: Dry leaves, fruit, flowers, bark, and buds
- In the Zoo: Fruit, vegetables, protein biscuits, and browse

**Gestation:**
162 days

**Weaning Age:**
6 months

**Sexual Maturity:**
3 ½ years

**Predators:**
Birds of prey, snakes and humans

**Population Status:**
Endangered

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**Conservation**
The Coquerel's sifaka is the most threatened of the four subspecies of the Verreaux's sifaka. They are found in only two reserves in Madagascar, the Ankara Fantisika Nature Reserve and Bora Special Reserve, both of which are damaged yearly by fires set by farmers. They are listed as an endangered species and given special protection in these preserves, but the level of protection varies depending upon the reserve. Although they are sometimes hunted for food and used in the pet trade by locals, the most significant cause of this lemur's decline is loss of habitat. Forest fires, overgrazing by livestock and cutting down forests continue to cause rapid decimation of their populations.

The Sacramento Zoo partners with the Duke University Primate Center and the American Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Madagascar Faunal Interest Group to breed this species and educate the public on how they can help these and other animals in the wild. Recycling programs, ecologically responsible practices and wild preserve funding are all part of the Zoo's conservation efforts.

**Behavior**
Like all other sifaka, this species is diurnal, spending 30 to 40 percent of the day searching out leaves, buds, and flowers in the forest. They eat 98 different plant species, with 12 of these species forming 2/3 of their diet. Although they are famous for hopping bipedally (on two hind legs) on the ground, this lemur is mostly arboreal and can often be seen leaping from one tree to another. They live in small social groups numbering 2 to 12, with age and gender composition varying widely. Females are dominant over males, giving the females preferential access to food and mates.

Sifaka are territorial with home ranges of 10 to 22 acres. Both males and females scent mark the branches within their home ranges with throat and anal glands.

**Reproduction and Breeding**
During the breeding season of January through March in Madagascar, the females present themselves to the males by rolling up their tails. Females choose which male to mate with, and may even breed with a few. Males fight
for dominance only during breeding season. The offspring are born in August and September and are carried by the females for up to six months, at which time the youngsters are weaned and forage for food with the rest of the group. They cling to their parent’s abdomen for the first three to four weeks and then change to riding on the back for up to five months. Females can have one offspring every one to two years.

**Amazing Facts**
These lemurs can jump across a 33 foot gap in the trees!

The name “sifaka”, pronounced ‘Sheef – auk’, comes from the distinct call all troop members give!

Almost 1/3 of all lemur species alive 1,500 years ago (when people first colonized Madagascar) are now extinct!