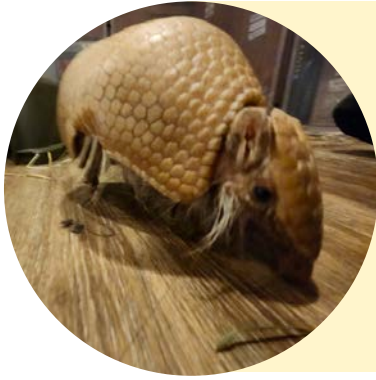




Brazilian Three-Banded Armadillo

Tolypeutes tricinctus



Segway

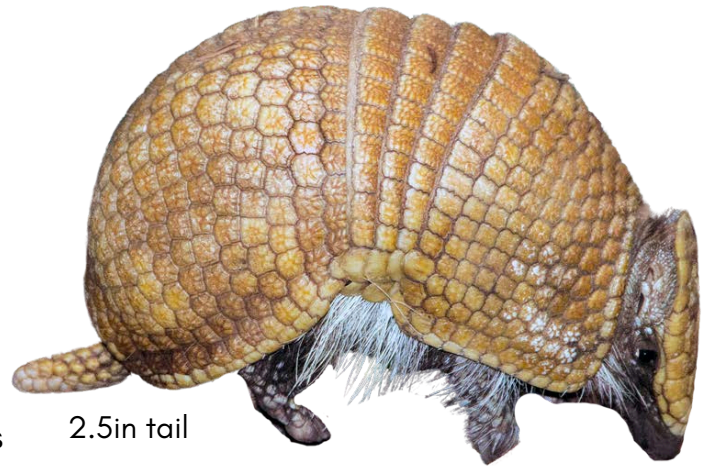
I was born on October 30th, 2021 and arrived to the Racine Zoo in early 2023. I currently live off-exhibit behind the scenes, but you may see me during educational programs as I am one of the zoo's many ambassador animals!

I usually am a little shy, but become quite curious when I get more comfortable in the setting I'm in.

THREE-BANDED ARMADILLOS AT A GLANCE

- The Brazilian three-banded armadillo is one of only two species that can roll into a ball for protection from predators.
- Three-banded armadillos have looser armor than other species, allowing for greater flexibility and the ability to curl into a ball. It also allows air between the shell and body for better thermoregulation, so they can survive in drier climates than other armadillo species.
- The teeth of Brazilian three-banded armadillos are soft and peg-like, adapted solely for smashing the exoskeletons of insects.

Male and female:
12 in
3-4 lbs



2.5in tail

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:
12-16 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care:
25 years

WHERE ARE BRAZILIAN THREE- BANDED ARMADILLO NATIVE TO?



Brazilian three-banded armadillos are indigenous to Brazil, living primarily in the northeastern part of the country, just south of the equator. They inhabit open savannahs and dry woodlands where low rainfall and poor soil limit the vegetation to tall, woody grasses, scattered bushes, and gnarled trees. There is also an abundance of cactus-like plants in the northern reaches of its range.

Brazilian Three- Banded Armadillo Behaviors

MOVEMENT

When they are not foraging, they move with a sort of trot; bouncing on the tips of their front toes, while their hind feet slap flatly on the ground.

When I am on programs, I like to tap around and explore the new setting!



SMELLING

Armadillos can smell ants and termites up to 8 inches deep in the soil. When they locate prey, they dig a hole and use their long, sticky tongues to lick up insects.

My keepers will give me bug snacks when I do training with them!



DEFENSE

Because of their ability to curl into a ball, three-banded armadillos do not need to dig for defense or shelter. They prefer to rest under bushes, rather than in burrows.

I can curl up into a tight ball to protect myself.



HIDING

Three-banded armadillos are mainly solitary, but may travel in small family groups of three individuals. They are also nocturnal with only occasional daytime foraging.

I will sleep all day and them come out at night to explore!



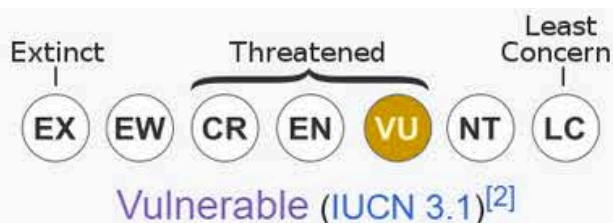
- The word armadillo means "little armored one" in Spanish.
- They mark their territories with secretions from glands on their face, feet, and rump.
- The Brazilian three-banded armadillo was once known as 'kwaráu' in the extinct Huamoé language (of the Serra Negra in Pernambuco State, Brazil, and as 'kʌñík] in the extinct Kambiwá language of Barreira, Petrolândia, Pernambuco.

Brazilian Three- Banded Armadillo Conservation

Brazilian Three-Banded Armadillo are important to their habitat because they control the insect population and provide seed dispersal for fruit. They are also a prey species to jaguar and mountain lion.

Brazilian Three-Banded Armadillo are currently listed as **vulnerable** due to a number of human-wildlife conflict issues.

Besides being hunted by humans, Brazilian Three-Banded Armadillos also suffer population isolation and habitat loss from conversion to agriculture.



How can we help?

Brazilian three-banded armadillos were thought to be extinct until they were rediscovered in the 1990s. To help reduce habitat destruction, reuse materials at home rather than throwing them away. Protect native species by picking up litter so small animals don't ingest garbage or get stuck in containers.