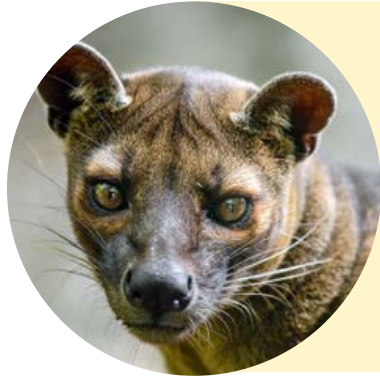




# Fossa

Cryptoprocta ferox



## Kirindy

My birthday is **January 6th, 2006.**

I am named after the largest wildlife preserve in Madagascar.

I am **observant** and **curious** when people pass me; however, I can be **lazy**. My home is in the Vanishing Kingdom. You can often see me moving through the branches in my home to watch what's going on around me. I also like to sleep in my bowl of pine shavings.

## FOSSAS AT A GLANCE



- Fossas are cat-like in appearance with **blunt noses, large, forward-facing eyes** and **ears**.
- They have exceptional eyesight, hearing, and smelling to help them hunt.



- Fossas have **scent glands** found on their chest and under the base of their tail.
- They use them to communicate with others by rubbing rocks, trees, and even plants on the ground.



- They have **long tails** that are nearly half their body length.
- The tail helps them balance themselves when they climb and maneuver along the tree branches.

Male:

4.6 ft

13.7-19.0 lbs

Female:

4.6 ft

12.1-15.0 lb

2.1-2.3 ft tail



Avg. life expectancy in native habitats:

10 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care:

20 years

## WHERE ARE FOSSA NATIVE HABITATS LOCATED?



Fossas inhabit the small forests of the Island of Madagascar, which is just off the East Coast of the African Continent. Their habitat includes all different types of forests such as Rainforests, Savoca (humid forests), montane forests, and spiny desert forests.

# Fossa Behaviors

## SLEEPING

Fossas are cathemeral, which means they are active during both the day and night.

I can usually be found laying in my bowl.



## EATING

Fossas are carnivorous. In the wild, their diet consists of primarily lemurs with some small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

At the zoo, I love to eat salmon, chicken, and meatballs!



## CLIMBING

Fossas are excellent climbers and can easily maneuver themselves along the tree branches.

I climb around my enclosure to explore or to get a better view of the area



## PACING

I often pace around to explore and patrol my area. Fossas are often territorial and use scent marking to mark their territory.

You might see me pacing and I am just checking my surroundings and make sure no intruder comes into my territory.

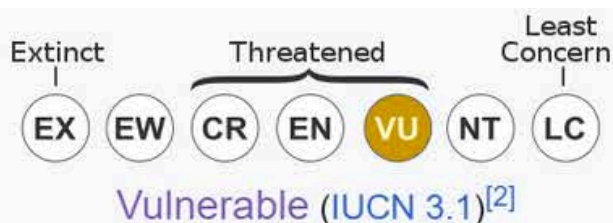


- Fossas are mainly solitary animals except during breeding and raising offspring. Females give birth to 1-6 pups and care for them until they reach fifteen to twenty months of age.
- Fossas primarily communicate through vocalizations - such as purring, yelping, and sighing - and scent marking.
- The fossa is the only predator able to catch the largest of the lemur species.

# Fossa Conservation

Fossas are greatly affected by deforestation. A metal called tantalum is commonly mined in Madagascar for use in electronic devices.

Fossas are currently listed as **vulnerable** due to a number of human-wildlife conflict issues. Besides being hunted by humans, Fossas also suffer from habitat loss, climate change, and loss of prey.



## How can we help?

We can recycle our electronic devices in specific places like the Racine Zoo where they gather phones, batteries, and tablets so we reduce our need for metal and help protect the remaining habitat

We can help protect predators in Wisconsin like coyotes, cougars, and wolves by making sure your garbage is secured and away to not attract them and the animals that they like to eat. Keeping them far away will protect them and us from possible conflicts