

Kinkajou

General Information

Kinkajous live in tropical forests and are found in Central and South America. They spend most of their time in the trees where they can run forward or backward due to the fact that they can turn their feet backwards. This animal also has a prehensile tail and can use it as an arm.

Size

The Kinkajou is about 15-22 inches long from head to tail. As an adult the weight can range from approx. 3-10 pounds.

Appearance

They have thick soft brown fur, a rounded head with small ears. They have a long body with a prehensile tail is longer than their head and body. Their feet are hand like with sharp claws.

Lifespan

The average lifespan in the wild is around 20 years however, in captivity they can live up to 30 years. The average is approx. 23-25 years.

Habitat

The Kinkajous can be found in tropical rain forests in the tree tops, they rarely come down out of the trees. They can be found in Central and South America, from southern Mexico to Brazil.

Diet

They are Omnivores They eat fruit, flowers, insects, nectar and even small animals such as frogs. They are also called honey bears because they raid bee hives for their honey. However, DO NOT FEED them STRAWBERRIES. Strawberries can make them very sick and even cause death.

Reproduction

Females reach sexual maturity at about 2.5 years while males reach theirs at about 1.5 years. Kinkajou gestation is approx. 98-118 days.

Other facts

Kinkajous are nocturnal, they will sleep in their dens most of the day and come out to forage at night. They are very social animals and will sit in the treetops grooming one another.

Basic Care

Feeding

Kinkajous eat a variety of foods like fruit, insects, eggs, frogs, plants, nectar and honey. You can feed them commercial omnivore foods as well. You want to make sure they are getting a balanced diet appropriate for their life stage. As a baby we use **PETLAC Cat Formula** and add a little bit of baby banana food or even honey. This mimics the mother's milk because it is a little sweet and will help the baby latch onto the bottle. Juveniles ages 12-18 months, then an active adult and finally as a senior adult you will want to give fewer calories. You will want to give your Kinkajous fruits, vegetables that are in season and some protein.

Water

Make sure that they always have fresh water available

Cleanliness

You will want to bathe your kinkajous regularly because they can get messy and they secrete a brown oil. You can wipe them down with baby wipes between bathing. Trim their nails on a regular basis as well.

Enclosure

Your Kinkajous needs a spacious enclosure with toys that will encourage them to play, climb and hang on to mimic their natural tendencies in the wild. A cement floor on the enclosure will help with an easy clean-up. You will want to make sure the cage is both escape and predator proof.

Temperature

Kinkajous are tropical animals and do best in temperatures between 75-85 degrees. You can use a ceramic heater in the colder months. To avoid injury make sure that your kinkajous do not have direct access to the heating element.

Enrichment

Kinkajous require toys and stimulation to prevent them from getting bored and become aggressive. Hanging toys like used for parrots, ladders, swings and pvc pipes that they can fit and crawl through are a must. Dog, cat and primate toys are all good enrichment items.

Requirements

For 1-2 Kinkajous you will need a cage that is 6x8 feet, and 6 feet high. For each additional kinkajous you need to increase the cage size by 25% of the original floor area.

Each cage needs to have nest boxes and perching areas that is large enough to accommodate all the animals in the cage simultaneously.

The cage also needs the items accessible to give physical stimulation or manipulation that is compatible with this animal. Every item should be non injurious and may include but is not limited to balls, mirrors, climbing apparatus, foraging items and boxes.