Chilean Rose Tarantula

**Phylum:** Arthropoda  **Class:** Arachnida  **Order:** Araneae  **Family:** Theraphosidae  **Genus species:** *Phrixotrichus cala*

**Range & Habitat**
- Found in burrows in arid regions of Chile

**Field Marks**
- The “hairs” on a tarantula are actually projections of the cuticle, the substance which makes up the exoskeleton; they do not grow out of follicles like the hairs of mammals.

**Life History**
- Reproduce once a year. Maturation can take from 3-10 years, depending on the species. Upon maturation, males live only a few months, while females may live up to 20 years.

**Diet**
- In the wild, tarantulas eat invertebrates that pass by their silk-lined burrows.
- In captivity, they eat crickets and mealworms.

**Threats to Survival**
- Tarantulas are in high demand in the pet trade. 30,000 tarantulas were bought in 1989.
- Tarantulas breathe using two pairs of book lungs, which are very prone to evaporation. If they lose enough water, their blood pressure lowers. Because they move their legs using blood pressure, not muscles, they are unable to walk to a water source when they become dehydrated.

**Conservation Status**
- Wild populations are currently stable.
- Attempts to monitor trade in spiders are almost impossible, and bans are very difficult to enforce.
**Common Marmoset**

*Class:* Mammalia  
*Order:* Primates  
*Family:* Callitrichidae  
*Genus species:* Callithrix jacchus

**FIELD MARKS**

Length of head and body is 6-8 in.; length of tail is 9-12 in.; weight is 7-14 oz.; white ear tufts, gray brown body, ringed tail; long lower incisors and short canines to gouge tree bark and extract exudate.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Only one female within a social group will breed, but the others assist in raising young. Breed twice a year. Tend to have non-identical twins after gestation of five months.

**DIET**

- In the wild, marmosets eat fruit, flowers, plant exudates (gums, saps, latex), nectar, insects, frogs, snails, and lizards.
- In captivity, they eat marmoset diet, fruit, vegetables, crickets, and mealworms.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Excessive logging and development destroy marmoset habitat.
- Persecuted in the past because they were wrongly considered to be carriers of yellow fever and malaria.
- Until the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, large numbers of marmosets were taken from the wild and placed in zoos and medical research institutions or sold as pets.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- Common marmosets are not endangered. However, they may become so unless trade is regulated and habitat is protected.
- As of 2006, only Bolivia, Panama, and French New Guinea still permitted export of marmosets.

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**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Northeastern Brazil
- Scrub, swamp, forests with gum-producing trees

*The common marmoset is a true monkey. There are only two families of true monkeys in the New World. Also known as “Tufted-eared Marmoset.”*
Poison Dart Frogs

Class: Amphibia  Order: Anura  Family: Dendrobatidae  Genus: Dendrobates

FIELD MARKS

① *Dendrobates auratus*: black and green spotted, body length: 30-32 mm. ② *Dendrobates azureus*: mottled blue/light blue, body length: 38-45 mm. ③ *Dendrobates fantasticus*: black and gold spotted, body length: 16-18 mm.

LIFE HISTORY

During courtship, males establish territories on leaf surfaces and call at high pitch. Females lay eggs on leaf surfaces high above the ground. Clutch size ranges from 2-12. Males guard eggs for incubation periods of 10-14 days. One of the parents carries each tadpole to an aquatic habitat after it hatches, usually a tree hole or a bromeliad funnel above ground level. Metamorphosis takes approximately 3 months.

DIET

- In the wild, poison dart frogs eat insects, especially ants, beetle larvae, and mites.
- In captivity, they eat young crickets and fruit flies.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- *Dendrobates auratus* are fairly common in the wild.
- *Dendrobates azureus* are considered greatly threatened.
- Low numbers of *Dendrobates fantasticus* have been counted in the wild, partially due to their tree-dwelling habits.
- All poison dart frog populations are threatened by habitat destruction and global climate change.

RANGE & HABITAT

- Central and South America.
- Primarily arboreal (tree-dwelling)

Produce a toxin from ants in their diet. The toxin is secreted through their skin which may cause predators to vomit. Some native cultures rub weaponry with frog’s skin glands to hunt animals such as birds and monkeys. However, only 3 of 170 dart frog species are used for this purpose.
**Alpaca**

**Class:** Mammalia  **Order:** Artiodactyla  **Family:** Camelidae  **Genus species:** *Lama pacos*

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**FIELD MARKS**

Length of head and body is 4-7 ft.; height at shoulder averages 3.8 ft.; weight is 120-140 lbs.; coat uniform or multicolored white, brown, gray to black.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Mate during August and September. Gestation period is 342-345 days. Give birth to a single cria (juvenile alpaca) that can follow its mother 15-30 minutes after birth.

**DIET**

- Wild relatives of alpacas eat native grasses.
- In captivity, they eat Dairy 16 grain and timothy hay.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- There are no current threats to the alpaca’s survival.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- Selectively bred for highest quality wool.
- Slowly replacing the llama as the most important domestic camelid.

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**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Andes Mountains of Peru and Bolivia
- Alpine grassland, meadows, and marshes

*The alpaca functions well at high altitudes because its hemoglobin has a much greater affinity for oxygen than the blood of other mammals. Today no alpacas live independently of humans.*
**Chinchilla**

**Class:** Mammalia  
**Order:** Rodentia  
**Family:** Chinchillidae  
**Genus species:** *Chinchilla laniger*

**FIELD MARKS**

Length of head and body is 9-15 in.; length of tail is 3-6 in.; weight is 1.1-1.75 lbs.; females are larger than males; long, strong hind legs; large ears and tails; very soft, dense, bluish gray fur with a black tip on each hair.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Chinchillas breed November through May in Northern Hemisphere and May through November in Southern Hemisphere. Gestation period is 111 days. Give birth to 1-6 fully furred, open-eyed offspring.

**DIET**

- In the wild, chinchillas eat any available vegetation.
- In captivity, they eat chinchilla pellets, hay, and maple browse.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Hunting and trapping for their silky fur is the biggest threat to their survival.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- Chinchillas are listed as an endangered species in CITES Appendix 1.
- Although there are large numbers in captivity, they are almost extinct in the wild.

**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Relatively barren areas of the Andes Mountains at elevations up to 15,000 feet
- Shelter in crevices and holes among the rocks

**Chinchillas have the highest hair density of any living organism,**

**up to 60 hairs per follicle, as opposed to humans who have one hair per follicle.**
Geoffroy’s Marmoset

**Class:** Mammalia  **Order:** Primates  **Family:** Callitrichidae  **Genus species:** Callithrix geoffroyi

**FIELD MARKS**

Face is covered with white fur; ears have black tufts; body is blackish-brown; tail is ringed. Male (13.8 oz.) is much larger than female, (6.8 oz.). Possess claws instead of fingernails. Use long lower incisors and short canines to gouge tree bark and extract the exudate.

**LIFE HISTORY**

Only one female within a social group will breed. Breed twice a year. Tend to have non-identical twins after gestation period of 5 months. Males and other group members assist in carrying young.

**DIET**

- In the wild, marmosets eat fruit, flowers, plant exudates (gums, saps, latex), nectar, insects, frogs, snails, lizards.
- In captivity, they eat marmoset diet, fruit, vegetables, crickets, and mealworms.

**THREATS TO SURVIVAL**

- Excessive logging and development destroy their habitat.
- Persecuted in the past because they were wrongly considered to be carriers of yellow fever and malaria.
- Until the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, large numbers of marmosets were taken from the wild and placed in zoos and medical research institutions or sold as pets.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

- The Geoffroy’s marmoset is a vulnerable species.
- It is part of AZA’s Species Survival Plan (SSP) program.
- Brazil’s recent progress in establishing forest reserves in the Atlantic coastal forest (Mata Atlantica) should benefit marmosets, tamarins, and other vulnerable and endangered species.

**RANGE & HABITAT**

- Atlantic coastal forest of SE Brazil
- Both human-disturbed and mature forest conditions

*Marmosets follow swarms of army ants in order to catch the insects as they flush from hiding places in trees. Also called “White-Fronted Marmosets.”*
Golden Lion Tamarin

Class: Mammalia  Order: Primates  Family: Callitrichidae  Genus species: Leontopithecus rosalia

FIELD MARKS
Length of head and body is 13-16 in.; length of tail is 10-15 in.; average weight is 1 lb. 6 oz.; fur is golden; long hair around the head forms a lion-like mane.

LIFE HISTORY
Breed October through April. Twins are usually born twice per year after a gestation period of 128 days. Life span is 15 years.

DIET
• In the wild, tamarins eat fruits, flowers, insects, plant exudate (sap, gum, nectar), frogs, snails, and lizards.
• In captivity, they eat marmoset diet, fruit, vegetables, crickets, and mealworms.

THREATS TO SURVIVAL
• Due to heavy logging and development in the 20th Century, only about 5% of native tamarin habitat remains.
• As of 2004, the wild population was about 1,200 individuals, an improvement since the 1970’s, when there were fewer than 200.
• Wild tamarins are in danger of losing genetic diversity.
• As human exposure increases, tamarins become more susceptible to human diseases such as rubella and herpes.
• The illegal pet trade also threatens their survival.

CONSERVATION STATUS
• The Golden Lion Tamarin is an endangered species.
• It is part of AZA’s Species Survival Plan (SSP) program. As of 2004, about 450 individuals lived in captivity.
• The National Zoo initiated a tamarin conservation program, which combines captive management with habitat protection.
• Reproduction is limited by contraceptive implants in order to maintain genetic diversity of animals for release.

RANGE & HABITAT
• Atlantic coastal forest of SE Brazil
• Forest canopy

The golden lion tamarin is one of the few primates to have been successfully reintroduced to its natural habitat. It is also Brazil’s national symbol of conservation and a “flagship” endangered species.