

Geoffroy's Tamarin

Scientific Name: *Saguinus geoffroyi*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Primates

Family: Callithricidae



Geoffroy's Tamarin is one of the smallest primates, and the most northerly ranging of the tamarins. Head and body length is from 10 to 12 inches, and the weight is about 18 ounces. The most distinctive marking is a medium, wedge-shaped, white crest, sharply defined from a reddish mantle on the head.

Range

Panama, N.W. Colombia, Costa Rica

Habitat

Tropical and subtropical rainforests and wooded areas

Gestation

140 to 170 days

Litter

2-3

Behavior

Geoffroy's Tamarin is a diurnal animal, usually covering 1/3 of its home range (.6 to 1.2 square miles) each day, foraging for food. To avoid predators, it sleeps in tree hollows at night. The family groups are small, usually 10 or less. They use calls and scent marking to define their boundaries.

Reproduction

Only one female per group breeds during a breeding season, although she may mate with more than one male in the group. Birth weight is usually 9 to 15% of the mother's weight, which is considerably higher than with other primates. All group members take some part in carrying the young, and surrender food morsels, particularly insects, to them and the breeding female. So far as it is known, this form of cooperative breeding is unique among primates. By 10 weeks the young are independent and reach puberty at 12 to 18 months.

Wild Diet

Fruit, insects, bird eggs, spiders, leaf buds, flowers, small lizards & frogs, plant gum and nectar