

Marmosets

First, let's find out how many kinds of marmosets there are. There are:

Bare-eared marmoset (*Callithrix argentata*)
Black-pencilled marmoset (*Callithrix pencillata*)
Black-tailed marmoset (*Callithrix argentata*)
Buffy-headed marmoset (*Callithrix flaviceps*)
Buffy-tufted-ear marmoset (*Callithrix aurita*)
Common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*)
Goeldi's marmoset (*Callimico goeldii*)
Pygmy marmoset (*Cebuella pygmaea*)
Rio Maues marmoset (*Callithrix mauesi*)
Santarem marmoset (*Callithrix humeralifer*)
Silvery marmoset (*Callithrix argentata*)
White-fronted marmoset (*Callithrix geoffroyi*)
Wied's black tufted-ear marmoset (*Callithrix kuhli*)

Common marmosets are very small monkeys. Boys and girls are about the same size with boys sometimes being a tiny bit bigger; both weigh about ½ of a pound. It also has white ear tufts (they only get these as they grow up) and its tail is long and banded. Their faces have light colored skin and have a white mark (blaze) on the forehead. They have claw-like nails on most of their fingers. Only their big toes have the flat nails. Marmosets have an arboreal locomotion (get through the trees) like squirrels. They hang on to tree, run across branches on all four arms and legs and leap between trees.

WHERE THEY LIVE

Common marmosets are native to Brazil. Marmosets can found in a number of forests. They live in Atlantic coastal forests as well as forests farther inland. They can also inhabit savanna (sort of wet) forests and river forests. Marmoset's favorite forest though is a dry forest.



Common Marmoset

WHAT THEY EAT

Common marmosets eat tree gum, sap, latex, and resin (according to the type of tree). They use their nails to cling to the side of a tree and with big lower teeth, chew off the bark to start the flow of tree sap. The marmoset will make this wound on the tree and lick the sap or scoop it up using its lower teeth. Most of what the marmoset eats is this sap. A marmoset may keep visiting the same tree wound or even use those made by other animals. Insects are also an important food for marmosets. Because the marmoset is small they can live on the sap and insects. They are good at stalking and pouncing on large insects in the middle layers of the forest. Marmosets will also eat fruits, seeds, flowers, mushrooms, nectar, snails, lizards, tree frogs, bird eggs, baby birds, and baby mammals

BEHAVIOR

Common marmosets live in extended families. The marmoset group is made up of about 15 members. A marmoset family usually contains a 1-2 females, a male, their babies and their adult relatives like their parents, brothers or sisters. Marmosets can leave their family group when they become adults, unlike other primates who leave when they are teenagers. Dominance is maintained through posturing (acting like you are bigger, stronger, or angry), making noises and calls. The group that isn't in power will groom their superiors.



Two marmosets

HAVING BABIES

It was thought that they were monogamous (stay with the same boy or girl mate forever). Females that were pregnant but lost their babies often move to other group. They are pregnant for five months and they have babies about twice a year. Marmosets give birth to twins. Because of this, females need help from the other members of the family. Baby marmosets have very strong cling instincts and will not leave their carrier's back for the first two weeks. After that, they become very active and explore their surroundings. The father will begin handling the twins and all members of the family take care of them. At five months old their play becomes rougher as they work out who they will be in the group. They will carry and play with their new brothers and sisters.

COMMUNICATION



Common Marmoset

Common marmosets use a lot of different noises and visual signs. To signal alarm, aggression, and submission; marmosets use the "partial open mouth stare," "frown," and "slit-stare". To display fear or submission, marmosets flatten their ear-tufts close to their heads. Marmosets have two alarm calls; a series of short calls that gets higher and higher called "staccatos" and brief lowering calls given either alone or in a series. Marmoset alarm calls are brief and high-pitched. Marmosets locate other group members with calls called "trills". Marmosets also employ "phees" which is a call which allows them to have long-range communication, it's also used to attract a mate, territorial defense, and finding lost group members. Marmosets will mark trees and such with oils from specialized scent glands on their chests and around their bottoms.