

Learn about Ringtails!

The Ringtail, sometimes called the ringtail cat or miner's cat, is actually a member of the raccoon family. They are secretive and rarely show themselves. They live in rocky canyons and den in caves, rocky crevices, hollow trees, and sometimes buildings. They are great leapers and climbers and use their long, banded tails for balance. They also have semi-retractable claws and can climb headfirst down cliffs and trees.

Ringtail Cats?

Ringtails are carnivores, however they are not cats! They are most closely related to Raccoons and Coati mundis, two unique animals that are also found in North America. All three are omnivores, eating both plants and animals, making them very adaptable.



The Little Rock Zoo works with the Ringtail Species Survival Plan, which helps to protect this amazing species in zoos and in the wild!

Want to Learn more? Check out these links and activities!

Center for Bio-Diversity - Ringtails: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGLWW2JVD_A

The Nature Conservancy:
<https://blog.nature.org/science/2017/03/15/cutest-us-mammal-never-seen-ringtail-conservation/>

National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/nature/ringtail.htm>

San Diego Zoo: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/ringtail>
<https://institute.sandiegozoo.org/species/ringtail>

Nocturnal Creature Features

Ringtails are nocturnal, that means that they are most active at night when the sun is down and there is very little light! Many nocturnal animals have adaptations that are different from animals that are diurnal, or active during the day!

Many nocturnal animals have **very large eyes**, to help them see when it is very dark. Some nocturnal animals have a shiny layer in their eyes that help them see even better at night, its called a tapetum lucidum but we often call it eye shine.

Some nocturnal animals have excellent hearing, with **large ears** to help them listen for predators or prey.

Some nocturnal animals choose to depend on their **sensitive nose** rather than their eyes to help find their way around in the dark.

Can you find all the features that help Ringtails be active at night?

