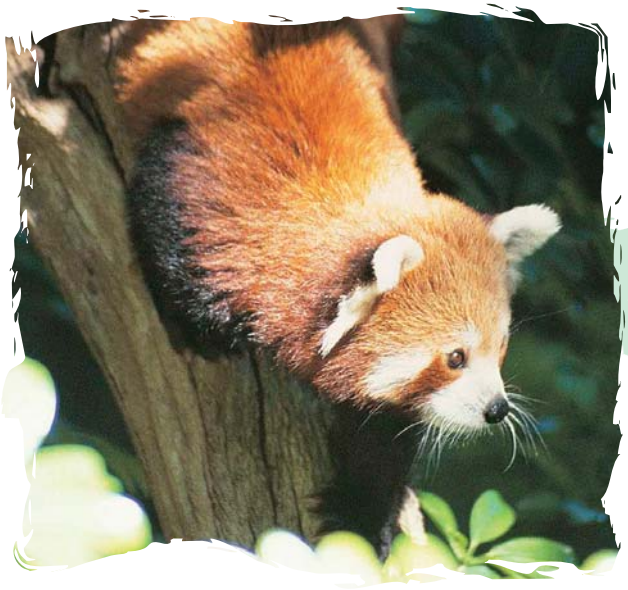
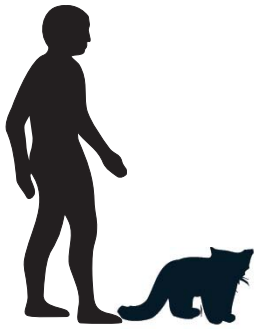


NEPALESE RED PANDA

Scientific Name
Ailurus fulgens

Other names
Lesser Panda



Conservation Status

- Extinct
- Extinct in the Wild
- Critically Endangered
- **Endangered**
- Vulnerable
- Near-Threatened
- Least Concern
- Data Deficient

Length (nose to tail): 50–64 cm
Weight: 3–6 kg
Gestation: 90 days
Number of young: 1–2

Distribution: Nepal, India, South-west China, Laos, Myanmar, Bhutan
Habitat: Forest

Description

The Red Panda is a reddish-brown colour with white ear rims, cheeks, muzzle and spots above the eyes. Its tail is about 18–50 cm long with alternating light and dark rings. Red Pandas have a false thumb on each hand which helps them to hold onto bamboo stems and leaves; and partially retractable claws which help them to climb.

Diet

Red Pandas are **omnivores.** Their diet consists mostly of bamboo as well as grasses, acorns, roots, berries and lichen. They will also eat insects, eggs, young birds and rodents.

In the wild

Red Pandas are mostly nocturnal and solitary, but they form pairs during the breeding season. At about twelve months of age, young Red Pandas leave their mother to begin life on their own. Snow Leopards are the natural predators of young and adult Red Pandas and some birds will take cubs in the nest.

Threats

There are fewer than 2,500 adult Red Pandas left in the wild. Habitat destruction and poaching for their fur are threats to the survival of the Red Panda.

At Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo is part of an Australia-wide breeding program for the species. Perth Zoo has been successful in breeding Red Pandas with the latest birth on 28 December 2008. Fourteen pandas have been born at Perth Zoo since 1997. Red Pandas can be seen in the Asian Rainforest, near the Silvery Gibbon exhibit.

Did you know?

Red Pandas are more closely related to Giant Pandas than racoons, despite the similarities.

Red Pandas communicate through a series of short whistles and squeaks.

PERTH ZOO