

Chapter 1 : Meerkat (Suricata Suricatta) - Animals - A-Z Animals

Get this from a library! What on earth is a meerkat?. [Jenny E Tesar] -- This book is an introduction to the meerkat, including information on its physical characteristics, environment, reproduction, and methods of survival.

Yellow Mongooses only to meerkat pups on rare occasions Mole Snakes Cape Foxes only to meerkat pups Bateleur Eagles Desert Lions very rarely, but has been observed Social Structure Meerkat Babysitting Burrow Meerkats are co-operative breeding animals and have a complex social system. They live in Mobs of individuals consisting of a Alpha pair and their offspring which remain in their natal group until adulthood. Breeding couples remain together for years, even for life. The dominants monopolise breeding rights viciously and will attack and banish lower-ranking meerkats their matured offspring to prevent their status from being challenged. The survival of pups largely depends on the seasons, the abundance of food, and the availability of helpers to help rear their pups. Mob Other linked article: By living in a mob they not only provide each other with an early warning system in case of predators, but also other life structures depend on group living. Meerkats live in mobs which can vary in terms of size depending on food availability and resources within their territory. A single mob can have members. Normally males who are in their 1st or 2nd year of life contribute to sentry duty more often but females can also frequently contribute, in fact, all members except the dominant female will usually contribute at sentry duty at regular occasions. As the pups grow they will need to learn how to forage and living in a mob provides the pups with suitable tutors who will not only guard them but also teach them how to hunt for different prey items. The size of a mob affects the size of a territory range. There are more than one mobs living near each other as a result of overlapping territory ranges. Mobs do often encounter violent clashes with each other and the size of the mob affects their defense against intruders and chances of driving away rival mobs. Large mobs have a higher success rate in holding on to large territories and driving off intruders than small mobs. Within a mob there is a social structure governed by the alpha pair the dominant female and male. The dominant meerkats assert their position by chin swiping, anal marking, hip slamming and violent attacks on subordinates, this prevents any chances of insubordination among the subordinate meerkats. Once female subordinates reach 3 years old they are usually already evicted by the dominant female commonly her mother, sister, aunt etc , and this removes the chances when the subordinate might challenge the dominant female for her position. Males leave their natal birth mob voluntarily after 1 year old and go on what we call Roving expeditions to other mobs in search of any mating opportunities. Sometimes subordinate males are chased out of the group by the dominant male commonly his father, brother, uncle etc who has a sole purpose of holding on to his position. Instances of group splits occur when during foraging trips when some members move further away in the search for food and split from the main mob and only realize that they have splintered from the main family later on. Normally the splinter groups can reunite with the main mob at the sleeping burrow or at further foraging exertions. Sometimes the two sub groups see each other and begin to war dance after interpreting each other as rival mobs intruding on their territory, but without too much blood shed they catch the scent of each other. Since meerkats identify each other more by scent rather than sight they will recognize the common scent among them and reunite as one family again. Sometimes the two or even 3 splinter mobs do not reunite and become sub mobs of the main family mob and after a short while establish themselves as new mobs headed by a new alpha pair and inhabit a new territory range. Foundation of New Mobs Contending for Dominance New mobs are formed commonly as a result of evicted female meerkats combining with roving males from other groups. Some mobs are started by a mix-gender splinter group from the main mob who establish a new territory range but most instances of new mob being founded occur when subordinate female meerkats get evicted from their birth mobs. Unlike males, female meerkats stay within their birth mobs for life and do not voluntarily leave it unless they are evicted by the dominant female. Dominant females commonly evict subordinates commonly their daughters, nieces or sisters to prevent any challenge for the dominant position. If evicted females do not manage to rejoin their family then they disperse and with luck, are joined by unrelated males either wild or from other mobs and form a new mob and family. Alpha Pair Alpha Meerkats Within a mob there is an alpha pair consisting of two

dominant individuals, referred to as the dominant female and the dominant male. They are the breeding pair in the mob. The dominant female is the leader of the mob with the dominant male at her side and breeding partner. The alpha animals are noticeably the largest and most powerfully sized members in the mob. The dominant male is the resident breeding male in the mob who controls access to the dominant female, contributes to sentry duty occasionally and contributes to the defense of the mob and their territory. The dominant female is the Queen of the group who is the resident breeding female as well as the leader of the group, because according to the KMP a mob cannot be established until there is a dominant female. She is the matriarch of her family and monopolies breeding in the mob by producing pups and so as to maintain the size of the mob and also controls the breeding success of the subordinate females commonly her daughters. The dominant female and dominant male will assert their position by hip slamming, anal marking, chin swiping and sometimes launching vicious attacks on subordinates. The dominant female will mostly dominate the subordinate females in case of any insubordination among the subordinate females and the dominant male will concentrate on the subordinate males in case of any subordination among the subordinate males. Both genders will drive out subordinates to maintain control of their alpha positions and ensure that their pups survive and that system of pup survival is involved around the capability of control by the dominant female. Both dominant genders will hold on to their position depending on their capability to control but normally the Dominant female will hold on to her position longer than the dominant male since meerkats live in a matriarchal society. When the dominant female comes into oestrus, the dominant male will stay close to her in what is called Mate guarding to prevent her from mating with other males and therefore ensures that he fathers her pups.

Dominant female Dominant female meerkats The dominant female is a female meerkat with a dominant status and main breeding female in the mob. The Dominant female is commonly the largest and oldest female in the mob. She is usually the leader of the mob and commonly mother to most of its members. Dominant females have a superior position in the mob above all individuals including the dominant male. As the main leader of the mob she controls the mob regarding the movement of the mob and which foraging places they take each day. She is the only female in the group to successfully breed and maintains this rule in the most vigorous and violent way than any other animal species. The dominant female attacks the subordinate females and this not only helps her hold on to her top position but also controls the breeding success of the subordinate females in the mob. It's a fact that meerkats live in a Matriarchal society where the dominant female has full control and power of the group. She is even sometimes dominant to the dominant male and this is because the male needs acceptance from the dominant female to be her breeding partner, and for this reason dominant males are commonly seen grooming the dominant female. The dominant female will evict subordinates to maintain control of her position and safe guard the survival of her pups. Once a dominant female dies she is usually replaced by her daughter or sometimes she is overthrown and one of the subordinates takes over. If she is overthrown then she will most probably be evicted by the new dominant female. Dominant male

Dominant male Dominant male meerkats The dominant male is a male meerkat who has a dominant status and superior position over all subordinate males in the mob. He is the breeding partner of the dominant female and she often has higher control over him. The dominant male is commonly the largest male in the mob who contributes to the defense of the mob and territory range. He keeps roving males out of the group and mate guards the dominant female from time to time especially during her oestrus period. He sets dominant displays over the subordinate males in the mob and sometimes drives them out, though male evictions are rare among meerkats. If the dominant female dies then the dominant male will either stay in the mob for only a short while or leave it because he cannot breed with his daughter who claimed dominance after the first dominant female. If roving males immigrate into the mob then they do commonly chase out the resident dominant male or if the dominant male dies then subordinate male takes over though he will not be able to breed with the dominant female if she is related to him.

Reproduction Pregnant Meerkat Meerkats reach sexual maturity at 1 year old and can have litters from pups, with 4 being the most common size. Meerkats can produce 4 litters in 1 year, depending on the availability of food. A female may have as many as 70 pups in her lifetime. Meerkats are iteroparous and can reproduce any time throughout the year though pup season occurs during the rainy season when food is most abundant. Pregnancy is identifiable after approximately 4

weeks following copulation. After a gestation period of 70 days, meerkats give birth underground in a burrow and pups only emerge from the burrow at around 3 weeks old. Meerkats rarely give birth above ground due to the presence of many predators. They are weaned at 43 to 63 days. Once they surface above ground at around 3 weeks old they are cared for by the babysitters until they are old enough to go foraging with the mob at around weeks old. Pups reach adulthood at 1 year old and can begin to reproduce though this is restricted as long as they stay in the mob ruled by their parents who are usually the dominant female and male. Pups A pup is a young meerkat under 6 months old. They are born in litters Newborn pup ranging from pups. They remain underground in the burrow until the age of weeks old. Pups are babysat by helpers at the burrow until they are old enough at around weeks old to go foraging with the adults. Pups born in the mob are mothered by the dominant female and fathered by the dominant male, though occasionally subordinates also breed and pups from as many as 5 different mothers are reared together in mixed litters of up to 13 pups. Once they reach around 4 weeks old they go on foraging trips with the whole group for the very first time and are fed by foraging members by calling out frequently in what is called Pup begging calls which encourage the foraging adults to deliver food to them. As the pups grow up and get older the adults teach them how to handle live prey like dangerous scorpion by teaching the pups that they should first bite of the poisonous sting and showing them how to find different prey items. Once the pups are older their begging calls become less effective and the adults ignore their calls and in doing so teach the young meerkats that they have to learn how to catch prey for themselves in order to survive. Pups learn everything from their helpers, they learn how to forage by watching the adults and while still at the burrow they watch the reactions of the babysitters to certain threats. Playfighting Young meerkats start to play fight from as early as 3 weeks old. Like all young animals, meerkats play-fight in order to strengthen muscles, practice fighting skills needed for later on in life and build strong b Juveniles Playfighting onds with each other. By play fighting young meerkats learn how to relate to one another and their surroundings. As young meerkats mature their play fights will become less and focus their attention on contributing to the welfare of the mob like sentry duty and tutoring younger members in the mob. Adult meerkats also play fight and this just shows what cohesive and socially tight-knit meerkats are. Grooming Grooming meerkat Meerkats groom themselves in order to keep their coats free from parasites and also build and maintain strong bonds within the group. Meerkats generally groom one another after returning from a day of foraging or before mating. It is also, sometimes, a form of submission. Lower-ranking meerkats will "creep" up to dominants and groom their chest or neck in an attempt to prevent isolation from the group or a beating. A positive response often means the dominant animal will groom back. Territorial Behavior War Dancing Mobs defend their territory from other neighbouring mobs. Intruders can either be rival mobs, newly formed mobs looking for a territory or small bands of roving males that either temporarily or permanently leave their natal mobs looking for females from other mobs. Territory size is about km squared though territory range depends on the size of the mob. Meerkats maintain their territory through latrine sites, visual threat displays such as war dancing to intimidate the rival mob or if all else fails, violent battles which are vicious group encounters in which some meerkats are either killed in the fight or others succumb to their wounds. Males volunteerily leave their birth mobs alone or in roving bands either emigrating into another mob by ousting the resident dominant male or forming new mobs with evicted unrelated females. Female meerkats never permanently immigrate into other mobs but are evicted from their mobs by the dominant female in later stages of pregnancy. Older pregnant subordinate females are most likely to be the first evicted by the dominant. Dominant females evict older subordinates to safeguard the survival of their pups and maintain their position. Although most cases are the evicted females returning to the mob after the dominant female gives birth, some may permanently disperse and start new mobs with unrelated roving males.

Chapter 2 : What On Earth Is A Meerkat? by Jenny E. Tesar | Scholastic

The Internet loves shiny new toys. And at the moment the newest and shiniest has got to be Meerkat, which in only two weeks since launching has gone from obscure to nearly viral. Meerkat has.

Get the most important digital marketing news each day. We respect your privacy. What On Earth Is Meerkat? And Why Should Brands Care? New live-streaming video app has captured the attention of early adopters; few businesses are using it yet. Martin Beck on March 13, at And at the moment the newest and shiniest has got to be Meerkat , which in only two weeks since launching has gone from obscure to nearly viral. Meerkat has pushed its way to popularity by providing a simple way to live-stream video and, more importantly, get an audience for those video streams. So far a ton of tech journalists and other social media digerati have been Meerkatting about, with tours of newsrooms, voyages of discovery in neighborhoods, commutes to work, even live feeds of actual cats at play. Remember, Twitter was considered less than serious by many in the early days. Look how that worked out. Twitter appears to be taking the concept of live-video streaming very seriously. The market for this type of service is getting crowded with another social live-streaming app, called Stre. Twitter confirmed its Periscope purchase today after this post was published. The app iOS only, with a Android version said to be in the works automatically tweets when a stream is launched. Twitter briefly blocked that feature last week, but restored it within a few hours. It remains to be seen, of course, if Twitter will continue to play nice, considering it might eventually roll out a competing product. Meanwhile, Meerkat is soloing on Twitter. Another key to its success is enticing viewers with its ephemeral nature. Once a live stream is over, the audience can no longer see it unless the Meerkatter later posts the video on another network. That drives a fear-of-missing-out factor, watch it now or never watch it. People are definitely watching. Meerkat gained 18, users in the first week after launching the app on Feb. The Wall Street Journal reported late today that Meerkat now has more than , users, twice as many as a few days before. So far very few brands have joined the Meerkat gang, but the company is definitely thinking about marketing uses for its service. That Meerkat lives within the Twitter environment is also a good fit for marketers. Starbucks and JCPenney were apparently among the earliest brands to activate their Meerkat accounts. We found only a couple other Meerkat examples from major brands. Further emphasizing the value of the platform for news, the Miami Dolphins have been Meerkat-casting press conferences, most notably when it introduced free agent signee Ndamukong Suh Wednesday. Elgan ran a Meerkat stream throughout preparation for his show and left it running during the webcast. There were as many as Meerkat viewers during the show, nearly half as many as were watching the full broadcast on UStream. MasterCard is tweeting out produced clips, like this , for many of the pitches. On Meerkat, it kept the camera running throughout and the the behind-the-scenes broadcast peaked at more than viewers.

Are you sure you want to remove What on earth is a meerkat? from your list?

According to WIRED , "The situation was similar to hearing a friend shout from the kitchen, then from the second-floor bathroom just a second later. Meerkat clans, also known as mobs and gangs, hunt together in a collaborative effort that involves designated lookouts who rotate regularly and rely on a series of distinct calls to communicate to their compatriots. This is not an official jobâ€”whichever adult is least hungry is put on pup-sitting dutyâ€”but the other meerkats do reward their sitter with food at the end of the day. They Teach Their Young. Adult meerkats are immune to scorpion poisonâ€”a good thing when you regularly make treats out of the stinging arthropods. Meerkat gangs, which can reach up to 40 or 50 animals, are structured around an alpha couple to whom most of the other members are somehow related. Only the alpha female is allowed to reproduce; if subordinate females get pregnant, the alpha female will banish them from the burrow or even kill their pups. Research conducted in found that some subordinate females will serve as wet nurses to alpha female pups in order to re-ingratiate themselves after getting banished. Matriarchs Are Really Really Selfish. A study showed that when a gang of meerkats approaches a roadâ€”which represents an unknown and potential dangerâ€”alpha females tend to suddenly fall back, letting lower ranking females brave the pavement first. The hair is thin enough there that you can see their black skin underneathâ€”which is precisely the point. After a restful night in the chilly burrow, meerkats climb back out into the desert sun and stand up to expose to their bare bellies to the rays, which absorb heat and warm the animals up. The African drongo scavenges for food by tricking other animals into abandoning their hard-earned meals with carefully crafted calls that imitate the warning sounds of other species. So after a gang of meerkats has made their kill or foraged sufficient food, the drongo will descend among them and mimic the same warning call a meerkat sentry might make in the event of a predator. The gang scatters, and the drongo gets a free meal. A study showed that adult meerkats are more susceptible to spoiling their babies when the wee meerkats beg for food and attention with squeaky, high-pitched cries. As the pups age and their voices deepen, their mews have less of an effect on the adults around them, and they are forced to learn to forage for themselves. Researchers tested this by playing baby sounds around adult meerkats, who were suddenly inspired to give up their meals to older juveniles. They Have Gang Fights. Although they are social and even affectionate within their clan, meerkats are highly territorial and will engage in violent, all-out turf wars with neighboring gangs. The fights are waged as a collective, with each gang posturing and attempting to intimidate the opposition first. If this fails, the fight will be brief but deadlyâ€”less than half all adult meerkats survive any given year. All photos courtesy of iStock.

Chapter 4 : Interesting facts about meerkats | Just Fun Facts

*What on Earth Is a Meerkat? [Jenny E. Tesar] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Describes the physical characteristics, habitats, and behavior of meerkats, a member of the mongoose family found in southern Africa.*

Meerkat Location Meerkat Meerkat Classification and Evolution The Meerkat also known as the Suricate is a small species of foraging mammal that is found inhabiting the harsh conditions of the open and arid, semi-desert plains in southern Africa. A member of the Mongoose family , Meerkats differ from the other 35 Mongoose species in a number of ways with the biggest difference being that Meerkats are incredibly sociable animals , where most Mongooses are not only 3 other species are known to live in groups larger than pairs. There are three different sub-species of Meerkat that are found in varying geographic locations and although they are very similar in appearance, they differ slightly in their fur colouration and markings. All however, live in highly organised communities known as gangs or bands, that rely on one another for their survival in such hostile conditions as whilst the majority of the group is out foraging for food, others stand on guard to keep a watchful eye out for approaching predators. Meerkats are sandy to light brown in colour with eight darker stripes on their back, markings on their sides which are unique to the individual and a lighter face and underside. They have elongated muzzles with a black nose and dark coloured bands around their eyes. Meerkats have long, sharp claws on their front paws that are curved and can grow up to 2cm long and help them to both dig their burrows and to find small animals that are buried beneath the soft sand. The fur of the Meerkat has actually adapted remarkably to the differing desert conditions, not only helping to keep the animal cool during the boiling hot days, but also acting as a layer of insulation to keep it warm during the freezing-cold winter nights.

Meerkat Distribution and Habitat The Meerkat is found in southern and western Africa inhabiting the dry and hostile scrub-lands of the Kalahari Desert. Spanning across five different countries in southern Africa from Angola to South Africa , Meerkats are found throughout this vast, arid region foraging for food on the ground during the day and retiring into their immense burrows in the sand at night. Conditions in the Kalahari Desert are incredibly extreme with temperatures reaching up to 40 degrees Centigrade in the summer with a sand temperature of 70 degrees , and falling to well below zero down to degrees during the bitter, winter nights. This area of Africa has an incredibly low level of annual rainfall with only a rare, small amount falling generally between January and April and after which, the Kalahari briefly transforms into a well-vegetated and life-filled region before the cooler winter months set in.

Meerkat Behaviour and Lifestyle Unlike all but three other Mongoose species , the Meerkat is a highly sociable animal that inhabits territories in the desert in groups that usually contain between 10 and 30 individuals although much larger bands are not uncommon in areas where there is an ample supply of food , and consist of three or four family units of a male and female pair, with their young. After emerging from their burrow to sunbathe in the early morning sun, the majority of the band goes off to forage for food while others either babysit the young, or act as guards. By standing upright on their hind legs and tails on the top of mounds and in bushes, Meerkat guards are able to have a good vantage point to watch out for approaching predators , particularly from the sky. One of a series of different alarm calls will then be sounded to alert the rest of the group what the danger is, often causing the whole band to dive into their underground burrow to hide.

Meerkat Reproduction and Life Cycles Although there may be a number of breeding pairs in one band, Meerkat society is generally dominated by one male and female pair. Young Meerkats are usually born in November after a gestation period that lasts for around 11 weeks. Having mated with her partner at the start of the summer, the female Meerkat gives birth to between 2 and 5 small kits in a grass-lined chamber in the burrow, that are born blind and without their full coat of fur. Unlike with the rearing of numerous other small mammal species , both females and males tend to their young with males and siblings known to help to teach the young Meerkats the skills of surviving in the surrounding desert. Whilst the majority of the band is out foraging for food, the young Meerkats never stray far from the den and whilst playing in the hot sand, are kept a watchful eye on by an appointed babysitter. Meerkats can live for up to 10 years in the wild but have been known to

live for longer in captivity. Meerkat Diet and Prey The Meerkat is a carnivorous animal which means that despite its small size , it only forages for and eats small animals in order to gain all of the nutrition and most of the moisture that it needs to survive. Like other Mongoose species , Meerkats have an excellent sense of smell which is used to sniff out potential prey that is lurking just under the surface of the sand. Once detected, Meerkats then use their long and sharp front claws to dig out their prey , with the majority of their diet being made up of insects and other small invertebrates , along with also eating larger animals such as Lizards and Rodents. Meerkat Predators and Threats Due to the small size of the Meerkat, they are natural prey to numerous animal species that are both on the ground and in the air. The biggest threat to Meerkats are Birds of Prey such as Hawks and Eagles that can spot these animals from high above their heads, along with ground-dwelling predators such as Snakes that hunt them on the ground. In order to try and protect themselves from being so vulnerable in their open and arid surroundings, Meerkats adopt the safety in numbers tactic and ensure that there is always an individual on guard to warn the rest of the group of any approaching danger. In places that are closer to growing Human settlements and near to areas where domestic animals are grazed, Meerkats have been known to contract both bovine diseases and rabies that can affect whole populations of these adaptable and otherwise resilient animals. Meerkat Interesting Facts and Features If the individual Meerkat on guard spots approaching danger they will sound the alarm to the rest of the group. Meerkats are known to use a wide range of vocal calls to communicate between one another sounding long howls to warn the rest of the band of an approaching bird of prey , and using short double-barks to alert them of a predator nearing the group on the ground. The individual territory of a Meerkat group covers a large enough area to ensure that the band has everything they need to most successfully survive. This includes areas of both hard and soft sand as although the hard sand provides the perfect ground for building their tunnels in, it requires more energy for Meerkats to forage for food in it too. Digging in the softer sand requires less effort and therefore means that they can conserve more energy for other activities. The real delights into Meerkat life were displayed in the BBC series Meerkat Manor which involved the following and filming of one band of Meerkats in the Kalahari Desert. Although they are widespread and common throughout much of their natural range, populations in certain areas can be affected by the lack of rainfall or increasing numbers of their natural predators. Populations across southern Africa however, appear to be generally stable with large numbers of Meerkats also found in a few of the big national parks.

Chapter 5 : What on Earth is a Meerkat? by Jenny E. Tesar | LibraryThing

Please note that the Lexile measures for a small population of books have been recently updated. Enhancements were made to more precisely measure materials read in K-2 classrooms.

The meerkat or suricate is a small carnivore belonging to the mongoose family. Meerkats live in the deserts and grasslands of the southern tip of Africa. Life span is up to 10 years in wild and up to 13 years in zoos. Meerkats are small animals, measuring 25 to 30 centimeters. Their weight is from 1 to 1.5 grams. A group of meerkats is called a mob, gang or clan. Meerkats have a matriarchal society. A meerkat clan often contains about 20 meerkats, but some super-families have 50 or more members. Meerkat mobs spend a lot of their time grooming and playing together to keep the family as a tight unit. There are few animals on Earth who work as well together as meerkats. One of the most important roles a meerkat plays is that of the sentry, or watch guard. For example if the threat is of low, medium or high urgency and if the predator is in the air or on the ground. While a few individuals guard the group, the rest busy themselves foraging for the foods that make up their varied diet. Eating both plants and animals, meerkats are omnivores. They also eat small rodents, fruit, eggs, birds, lizards, and even poisonous scorpions. When hunting small game, they work together and communicate with purring sounds. They are extremely cute, with bushy, brown-striped fur, a small, pointed face, and large eyes surrounded by dark patches. The meerkat uses its tail to balance when standing upright. They often stand up in the morning to absorb heat on their bellies after a long cold desert night. Meerkats are excellent diggers, they have long, strong, curved claws that they use for digging burrows. Meerkats can close their ears, and membrane covers and protects their eyes while they dig. Living underground keeps mob members safe from predators and out of the harsh African heat. Within their territory the mob usually have up to 5 different burrows that they sleep in at night. Meerkats have scent pouches below their tails and rub these pouches on rocks and plants to mark their territory. The territories of different groups often overlap, resulting in constant disputes. When the two groups meet for a face-off, the results can be tragic. Females give birth to 1 to 8 babies at a time, but it is more common for meerkat mothers to have 2 to 4 offspring at a time. The babies, called pups, are born underground, where they are safe from predators. Several babysitters stay behind to watch over newborn pups. Young meerkats do not know what kind of food to eat, so their mother or another adult teaches them. Mother will bring them live bugs and teach them how to kill the prey. She even brings home scorpions with their tail bitten off so the young can learn how to kill them without getting hurt. Meerkats are immune to scorpion venom, and they can withstand up to six times the snake venom that would kill a rabbit. Able to survive without drinking water, meerkats get the moisture they need from eating roots and tubers as well as fruit such as tsama melons. Most people know meerkats from the character Timon in The Lion King animated movie.

Chapter 6 : Meerkat - Wikipedia

This book describes the physical characteristics, habitats, and behavior of meerkats, a member of the mongoose family found in southern Africa.

Reproduction[edit] Meerkats become sexually mature at about two years of age and can have one to four pups in a litter, with three pups being the most common litter size. Meerkats are iteroparous and can reproduce any time of the year. Gestation lasts approximately 11 weeks and the young are born within the underground burrow and are altricial undeveloped. They are weaned around 49 to 63 days. The dominant couple may also evict, or kick out the mothers of the offending offspring. When mating does occur between meerkat relatives, it often results in negative fitness consequences or inbreeding depression. Inbreeding depression was evident for a variety of traits: The avoidance of inbreeding and the promotion of outcrossing allow the masking of deleterious recessive mutations. Behaviour[edit] Meerkats are small burrowing animals, living in large underground networks with multiple entrances which they leave only during the day, except to avoid the heat of the afternoon. On warning of danger, the babysitter takes the young underground to safety and is prepared to defend them if the danger follows. For example, meerkat adults teach their pups how to eat a venomous scorpion: It is not unusual for camera crews, who must largely stay still for long periods while filming, to be utilized as convenient sentry posts. In addition to alarm calls, meerkats also make panic calls, recruitment calls, and moving calls. They chirrup, trill, growl, or bark, depending on the circumstances. Moreover, acoustic characteristics of the call will change with the urgency of the potential predatory episode. Therefore, six different predatory alarm calls with six different meanings have been identified: Meerkats respond differently after hearing a terrestrial predator alarm call than after hearing an aerial predator alarm call. For example, upon hearing a high-urgency terrestrial predator alarm call, meerkats are most likely to seek shelter and scan the area. On the other hand, upon hearing a high-urgency aerial predator alarm call, meerkats are most likely to crouch down. On many occasions under these circumstances, they also look towards the sky. April Meerkats, being wild animals, make poor pets. They can be aggressive, especially toward guests and they may also bite. They will scent-mark their owner and the house their "territory".

Chapter 7 : Cobra vs. Meerkats

The meerkat or suricate (Suricata suricatta) is a small carnivoran belonging to the mongoose family (Herpestidae). It is the only member of the genus Suricata. [3] Meerkats live in all parts of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana, in much of the Namib Desert in Namibia and southwestern Angola, and in South Africa.

Chapter 8 : What on earth is a meerkat? | Open Library

There are few animals on Earth who work as well together as meerkats. These squirrel-size members of the mongoose family live in groups as large as 40, and everyone in the mob participates in gathering food, keeping a look out for predators, and taking care of the babies.

Chapter 9 : Meerkat | Meerkats Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

There are few animals on Earth who work as well together as meerkats. These squirrel-size members of the mongoose family live in groups of different sizes, from as little as three to as big as 50 members. everyone in the mob participates in gathering food, keeping a look out for predators and taking care of the babies.