

Most **meerkats** within the same group are all siblings and offspring of the alpha pair. **Meerkats** demonstrate altruistic **behavior** within their colonies; one or more **meerkats** will stand sentry (lookout) while other members are foraging or playing in order to warn them of approaching dangers.



Meerkats live in the deserts and grasslands of the southern tip of Africa. They are super cute, with bushy, brown-striped fur, a small, pointed face and large eyes surrounded by dark patches. They average about 50 centimetres long, including their tail. These extremely social animals live together in burrows, which they dig with their long, sharp claws. Living underground keeps mob members safe from predators and out of the harsh African heat. These burrows can be 5 metres long and contain multiple entrances, tunnels, and rooms. A group will use up to five separate burrows at a time.

MEER MEERCATS!!

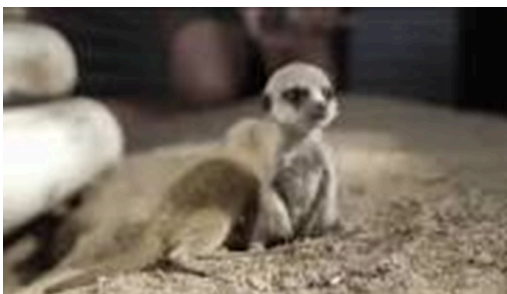


This was taken at Eagle Heights in 2018 on our visit there

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.^[32]

They are very social creatures and they live in colonies together.^[15] Animals in the same group groom each other regularly.^[21] The alpha pair often scent-mark subordinates of the group to express their authority.^[33] There may be up to 30 meerkats in a group.^[15]

To look out for predators, one or more meerkats stand sentry, to warn others of approaching dangers.^[34] When a predator is spotted, the meerkat performing as sentry gives a warning bark



or whistle, and other members of the group run and hide in one of the many holes they have spread across their territory.^[35]

Meerkat

Animal

The meerkat or suricate is a small carnivoran belonging to the mongoose family. It is the only member of the genus *Suricata*. 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. [Wikipedia](#)

Meet the Team of Meercats

- Sergei.
- Oleg.
- Aleksandr.
- Yakov.
- Bogdan.
- Maiya.
- Vassily.



Meerkat

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This article is about the mammal. For other uses, see [Meerkat \(disambiguation\)](#).

"Meerkats" redirects here. For the 2008 British film, see [The Meerkats](#).

"*Suricata*" redirects here. For the intrusion detection system, see [Suricata \(software\)](#).

Meerkat

Temporal range: [Pliocene](#). – Recent

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A mob of meerkats at the [Tswalu Kalahari Reserve](#) in [South Africa](#).

Conservation status

[2]

Kingdom: [Animalia](#)

Phylum: [Chordata](#)

Class: [Mammalia](#)

Order: [Carnivora](#)

Family: [Herpestidae](#)

Genus: ***Suricata***

[Desmarest](#), 1804

Species:



Meerkat range

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](#). A group of meerkats is called a "mob", "gang" or "clan". A meerkat clan often contains about 20 meerkats, but some super-families have 50 or more members. In captivity, meerkats have an average life span of 12–14 years, and about half this in the wild.

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Etymology^[edit]

"Meerkat" is a [loanword](#) from [Afrikaans](#) (pronounced [ˈmɪərkat]).^[4] The name has a [Dutch](#) origin, but by misidentification. In Dutch, *meerkat* means the [guenon](#), a monkey of the genus *Cercopithecus*.^[5] The word

meerkat is Dutch for "lake cat", but although the suricata is a [feliform](#), it is not of the [cat family](#),^[6] the word possibly started as a Dutch adaptation of a derivative of [Sanskrit](#) *markaṭa* = "ape",^[7] perhaps in Africa via an Indian sailor on board a [Dutch East India Company](#) ship.^[8]

In early literature, suricates were referred to as *mierkat*. In colloquial Afrikaans, *mier* means termite, and *kat* means cat. It has been speculated that the name comes from their frequent association with termite mounds or the termites they eat.

Add your own comments here

(I don't know why people think that they are so good - perhaps they taste nice?)

Meerkats are catlike carnivores that are part of the civets and mongoose family. They are identified by their long bodies; short, flat ears; and their ability to stand on their back feet. Meerkat coats can be gold, silver, orange or brown with dark patches of fur around the eyes.

Meerkats are small animals, measuring 9.75 to 11.75 inches (25 to 30 centimeters) from head to rump. Their tails add another 7.5 to 9.5 inches (19 to 24 cm) to their length. At less than 2.2 lbs. (1 kilogram), a meerkat weighs about the same as a squirrel.

Where do meerkats live?

These animals are found in the deserts and grasslands of Africa, including southwestern Botswana, western and southern Namibia, and north and west South Africa. They can also be found in the extreme southwestern areas of Angola and in the lowlands of Lesotho.