



Brazilian Agouti

Dasyprocta leporina

Geographical Range: The agouti appears in Venezuela, Eastern Brazil and the Lesser Antilles.

Habitat: This mammal may be found in the forest, savanna, thick brush and in some cultivated areas.

Exhibit Location: You will find the agouti in EcoStation in the Zoo's main animal building in the rain forest exhibit.

Physical Characteristics: Possessing a coarse glossy coat, the agouti is pale orange to several shades of brown to almost black in color. Its underbelly is white or yellow. The agouti's body is slender and its ears are short and pinkish. The hind feet of an agouti have three toes with hoof-like claws.

Diet: In the wild, the agouti will browse on leaves, fallen fruit and roots. They will occasionally climb trees to eat green fruit. In captivity they are fed miscellaneous fruits and vegetables.

Did you know?

- The agouti is shy and high-strung. They will fight fiercely among themselves when challenged but will flee in panic at the first sense of alarm. They become so panicked that they have been known to jump off of cliffs. Agoutis are most often hunted by the ocelot and jaguar. Humans hunt agoutis as a source of food and to keep them away from crops. Many agoutis have adapted to a nocturnal lifestyle in areas where they are hunted by humans.

Status: Numbers are stable at this time.