



Capybara (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)

Geographical Range: The capybara is found in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, the Guyanas, Peru and south through Brazil, Paraguay, northeast Argentina, & Uruguay.

Habitat: Because this rodent is semi-aquatic, it can be found in dense vegetation surrounding lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes and ponds. They are normally crepuscular meaning they are active at twilight: early in the morning and at sunset.

Exhibit Location: The capybara are located in our M & T Bank Rainforest Falls Exhibit in the center of the Zoo.

Physical Characteristics: Capybaras are the largest rodents in the world. They have heavy, barrel-shaped bodies with short heads. They resemble guinea pigs. Their fur is reddish brown on their upper parts and yellowish brown underneath. They average around 100 pounds and may grow large as two feet tall and four feet long.

Diet: This herbivore eats mainly grasses and aquatic plants. Their consumption may reach as much as six to eight pounds per day!

Did you know?

- Capybaras are excellent swimmers, hence their nickname, water pig. They have partially webbed feet, their front legs have four fingers and their hind legs have three. They may remain underwater for as long as five minutes.
- They are a highly social animal and live in groups controlled by a dominant male.

Status: Capybaras are not listed on the endangered species list but they are intensively hunted in some areas for their meat and skin. They are still common in most of South America.