



Ringtail Cats



HEALTH

Length: 12-16"; tail is 10-14" additional

Weight: 1-3 lbs.

Lifespan: 8-15 years in captivity

OVERVIEW

The ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*) is a mammal of the raccoon family, native to North America. It is also known as the ringtail cat or miner's cat, and is sometimes mistakenly called a civet cat, which is a different species.

The ringtail is sometimes called a cacomistle, though this term seems to be more often used to refer to *Bassariscus sumichrasti* (AKA *Jentinkia sumichrasti*).

Physical Description

The ringtail is buff to dark brown in color with white underparts and a flashy black and white striped tail which is longer than the rest of its body. The eyes are large and black, each surrounded by a patch of light fur. It is smaller than a housecat, measuring 12-16" long with a tail of 10-14" and weighing 1-3 lbs. Ringtails have occasionally been hunted for their pelts, but the fur is not terribly valuable.

