

MEERKAT

Set 2



Scientific Name: *Suricata suricatta*
Common Name: Meerkat



Meerkats eat insects and other invertebrates, small reptiles and some plant matter. They can safely eat venomous animals, including scorpions, because they are immune to certain toxins.

Predators include African wildcats, cobras, jackals, hawks and eagles. Sentries stand guard and warn the group with sharp alarm calls.

Meerkats live in groups of up to 30 with a dominant breeding pair. Family members help raise the young and teach them survival skills. They communicate with many calls and work together for protection. When threatened, meerkats arch their backs, hiss and puff up their fur.

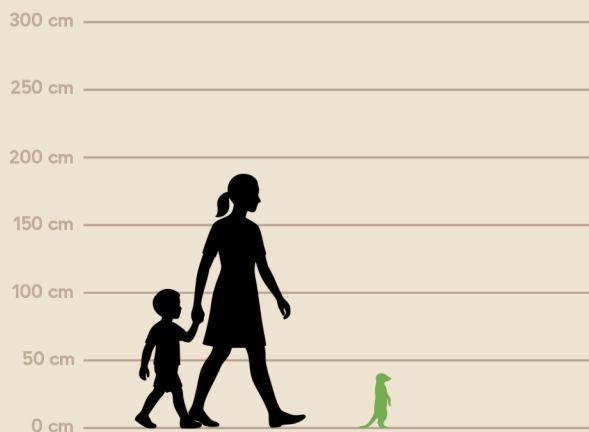
Meerkats are small, social mammals that live in groups across southern Africa. They are known for their upright stance and highly cooperative family life.

Meerkats have grey-brown coats with dark bands, black eyes and a dark nose. Their belly has a patch of bare skin that absorbs heat when they stand. They have long claws for digging and a pointed snout for reaching small spaces.

Meerkats live in dry, open areas with hard, stony ground. Their burrow systems are deep and complex, sometimes reaching two metres underground.



HOW BIG ARE THEY?



DID YOU KNOW?

- Meerkats can kill a cobra by mobbing it as a group.
- They have special membranes to protect their eyes while digging.
- Each young meerkat has an adult mentor to teach it how to hunt.

