



Entry currently ranks Number 9, Gold Medal trophy



Afrika-Zibetkatze (G), Civette africaine (F), Afrikaanse siwet (Af). Often called "civet cat," which is incorrect because it is a viverrid, not a felid, and only distantly related to the cats. It is actually very unlike a cat in appearance and habits.

DESCRIPTION Head and body length 27-35 inches (69-89 cm). Tail 18 inches (46 cm). Weight 15-44 lbs (7-20 kg), average 26 lbs (12 kg). Females usually are somewhat heavier than males. Dental formula 13/3, c1/1, pm4/4, m2/2 (x2) = 40.

The African civet is much larger than any other viverrid. There is a great deal of individual variation in color pattern, with no two animals exactly alike, but, in general, the lower legs are black, there is a black band across the face, the nose is black with white around it and the forehead is gray. The ears are whitish inside, black at the base outside, and have white tips. The body has a distinct pattern of black spots and stripes on a grayish or whitish background. The long, bushy tail has broad black bands and a black tip. The coat is long and coarse, especially on the upper parts where it can be erected to form a spectacular crest from forehead to tail when threatened. The legs are short, the head elongated, the muzzle pointed, and the ears small and

rounded. All feet have five toes and hairy soles.