

Palm Civet



SCI Record Book of Trophy Animals and the
SCI Trophy Records Committee proudly presents
this certificate to:

Mechislav Klimovich

for taking a Palm Civet
with a Rifle measuring 4 11/16
On a hunt in Liberia on 04/06/2013
Measured by Mechislav Klimovich on 04/06/2013.

Your entry currently ranks *Photo Entry* trophy

Civette africana (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.

There are large scent glands under the tail that contain an oily substance used in making perfume. This substance, known as "civet," can be spooned out without harming the animal, thus captive African civets have supplied musk to the perfume industry for thousands of years. The trade in civet musk continues to this day, especially from Ethiopia, even though it has been largely replaced now by synthetics.

BEHAVIOR Usually solitary, although family groups of an adult and one or more young have been observed. Believed to be territorial, with boundaries well-marked by scent glands. Mostly silent, communicating more with scent glands than with vocalization. Mating is believed to take place throughout the year. There may be as many as 2-3 litters in a year, usually with 2-3 young (range is 1-4) per litter after a gestation period of 60-72 days. Sexual maturity is attained at about one year. Longevity in the wild unknown, in captivity as much as 28 years.