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Mammalogy
LUZ4 Plankenhorn

Clouded Leopard

Neofelis nebulosa

Order: Carnivora / Vulnerable
Family: Felidae
Geographic Distribution: SE Asia
Habitat: Rain forest
Population: ~10,000

Locomotion

- short legs → low center of gravity
 - Paws → good for gripping
 - long claws tree branches
 - special padding
 - long tail → aids in balance
 - flexible ankles → climb down tree head first
- Arboreal + Cursorial

Physical Characteristics

Reproduction

- Ready to reproduce a 2 years old
- Spontaneous ovulation
- 90 day gestation
- Litter size of 1-5
 - altricial
 - weaning ends at 10 months
 - open eyes at 1 week
 - climb at 6 weeks old
- Can reproduce yearly

Hunting Tactics

- long canines puncture the spine of prey
 - birds, monkeys, fish, rodents
- jump down on prey from trees
- camouflage coat allows them to sneak up on prey
- hide kill in trees to protect from competitors
- mark with faecal matter to claim kill

Communication / Marking

- can not purr or roar
 - lack hyoid bone
 - can instead hiss, growl, or chuff
- they use auditory communication for warning
 - intraspecific
- Scent marking
 - scraping, spraying, defecation, rubbing are used to claim territories, kills, or signal location
- Tail wrapping
 - unique to clouded leopards
- Flehmen Response
 - signals sexual readiness

Sociality

- Solitary
- Mostly Nocturnal
- Polygyny
 - female has one mate while the male has many

Adaptations

- Coat
 - allows for camouflage
 - aids in identification
 - supplies insulation
- Tail
 - helps with thermoregulation
 - provides balance

Conservation

- Aid in reproduction
- Counteract habitat fragmentation
 - reduces connectivity leading to isolation
 - could lead to inbreeding resulting in smaller gene pool
- Solutions against poaching
- Research on osmoregulation and identification
- The Clouded Leopard Project