

Northern White -Cheeked Gibbon

Nomascus leucogenys



Range: Laos and Vietnam

Size: ♂: 46-64 cm (18-25in)

♀: 46-64 cm (18-25 in)

Weight : ♂ 5.6 kg (12.3 lbs)

♀: 5.8 kg (12.8 lbs)

Tail: no tail

Habitat: broadleaf forest

Estrus cycle: 21 days

Estrus length: N/A

Gestation: 200 days

Litter: 1

Weaning : 48 months

Sexual maturity: 4-8 years

Social: 4 member family group

Activity: Diurnal

Lifestyle: Arboreal

Food: fruits, leaves , insects

IUCN: Critically Endangered

Subspecies : monotypic

Longevity: captive: 30

Wild: 28 years

Order: Primates Family: Hylobatidae

Like many other gibbon species the Northern White-cheeked Gibbon is sexually dimorphic. The males are black with white cheeks and the females are blonde with white cheeks. The new born gibbons are similar in color to the female. At one year of age both sexes turn black and at age four the females will attain the adult blonde coloration. Adult males also possess a gular sac.

The northern and southern white cheeked gibbon (*N. siki*) were previously considered conspecifics however now are considered different species. Physically these species are almost identical. Males can be distinguished by the shape of the white cheek patches with the northern white cheeked gibbon having patches extending from the mouth to the beyond the ears. The patches of the southern species are smaller not touching the ears but surrounding the mouth. The females are indistinguishable.

This gibbon is highly arboreal and rarely comes down to the ground. If on the ground it will walk bipedally with its arms held overhead for balance. Due to its dependence on a continuous canopy this species is very sensitive to deforestation. The Northern white-cheeked gibbons are listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and are placed on CITES

Appendix I. It is believed to be extirpated from China.