

SOUTHERN BLACK HOWLER MONKEY

Alouatta caraya



Range: Brazil, Paraguay Argentina

HBL: ♂ 42-65 cm (16-22 in)

♀: 42-65 cm (16-22 in)

Tail: 53- 65 cm (21- 26 in)

Weight: ♂:5-8 kg (11-18 lbs)

♀:3.8-5.4kg (8-12 lbs)

Sexual Maturity 24-42 months

Gestation 167 days

Weaning

Estrus cycle: 20 days

Habitat: rainforest

Food: Mature leaves, fruit

Activity: Diurnal

Lifestyle: Arboreal

Social: 1 male multi female

Breeding: Polygynandrous

IUCN: Least Concern

Longevity

Order: Primates Family: Atelidae

The Southern Black Howler Monkey is the only sexually dichromatic species in the family. The male is solid black while the female is blonde. Most howler monkeys live in large social groups generally made up of family members. These groups appear to be matrilineal where the males disperse to non-natal groups, though not always. In *Alouatta caraya* groups there are usually between 5 to 8, though they have been observed in the wild in groups up to 19 individuals. The groups have roughly equal sex ratio but may tend to have more females than males. *A. caraya* practice allomothering where other females will carry, groom and protect infants other than their own. Adult males are also sometimes seen alloparenting. Young males are not allowed to handle infants since they often mistreat or even kill them. Overt conflict has rarely been observed in *A. caraya*. It does however arise between young males at the time in their life that some set out to join other troops. *A. caraya* are territorial but seem to only defend the immediate area where they are at the time, and territories often overlap. All members of the group "howl" each morning to notify neighboring groups of their position presumably to maintain distance between groups. *A. caraya* have also been observed defecating, sometimes forming huge dung piles.