

# Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth

## *Choloepus hoffmanni*



Order: Pilosa Family: Megalonychidae

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Range: Central and South America

Size: : 54-72cm (21-28 in)  
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Weight :2.1-9kg(4-9lbs)  
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Habitat: rain forest

Estrus: 5-7 days

Estrus cycle: seasonal- rainy

Gestation : 366-377 days

Litter: 1

Weaning: 9 weeks

Sexual maturity: 24-48 months

Lifestyle: Arboreal

Activity: Nocturnal

Social:solitary

Breeding: polygynous

Movement :sedentary

Food: leaves and fruit

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : 5

Longevity: captive: 32 yrs

Wild: n/a

The Hoffman's Sloth has two distinct populations. The northern population ranges from Nicaragua to Ecuador and the southern population from Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. This species needs a continuous canopy in order to travel from tree to tree. The Hoffman's Sloth spends the vast majority of its life in the trees rarely coming down to the ground. Females have even been observed giving birth hanging upside down.

The two species of two-toed sloths are very similar and do overlap in a small portion of their range. The Hoffman's Two-toed sloth can be distinguished from the Linnaeus's two-toed sloth (*C. didactylus*) by some skeletal differences but is difficult by sight. However if up close the Hoffman's lack the dark coloration and markings on the arms and shoulders that are present on the Linnaeus's.

Although two-toed sloths share many characteristics like hollow hair which falls away from the ventral midline and fewer than the normal seven cervical vertebrae, are not really closely related. The two families differ by the number of digits on the front limbs. The families also differ in behavior. Two-toed sloths are nocturnal and have a much more varied diet. Although this species depend on camouflage for defense it can be aggressive and defend itself with its long claws.