

## Is the genet endangered?

The Common genet is currently not considered to be under serious threat. However, it is commonly hunted for its attractive fur in many countries and, in some areas, is also hunted for use in traditional 'medicines'. Clearing of woodland for development may have some impact on this species. Domestic dogs kill them.



### Quick facts

- Common genet can survive up to 8 yrs in the wild and around 13 yrs in captivity.
- They help control vermin populations near human settlements.
- They produce a variety of sounds in order to communicate. A mother and her babies exchange hiccup-like calls, as do partners during mating. Young genets will often purr and mew. When threatened, they make clicks and growls.
- A Common genet has a mane that runs from its shoulders to its tail. When threatened, it can erect its mane so that it looks bigger.
- This species shares communal latrines with mongooses and other genets.
- Common genet rests during the day inside the hollow trees and dense thicket.
- Weight 1.5-2.3 kg. Length 43-55 cm



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## Common Genet

**(Genetta genetta)**

**No.5 in a series:  
Mammals of the Country Club Estate**



***The Common genet (also known as the Small-spotted genet) is a cat-like carnivore common throughout Africa. Its nocturnal, stealthy nature makes it difficult to see, however there have been numerous sightings by homeowners bordering CCJ Woodmead. This is the last in the series 'Mammals of the Country Club estate'.***

## Appearance

The Common genet is slightly smaller than the Large-spotted genet and its markings are more distinct black and white and without a rusty tinge. Nocturnal, shy, and secretive, this slender genet features black marks on the face, which makes it look as though it is wearing a mask. Spots on the genet's back are in parallel lines, becoming elongated towards the tail, which sports distinct black rings. Like cats, Common genets have retractable claws enabling them to climb trees with agility. Males tend to be bigger than females.



## Diet

The Common genet has a diet which consists mainly of small mammals and insects. Bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians, millipedes, centipedes and scorpions have been recorded as their food source. It would appear to eat less fruit than the Large-spotted genet.



## Breeding

Two litters are produced per year, respectively of two to three young. The gestation period is between 70-77 days. The ears and eyes of young only open after 5-18 days. Canines erupt within the first month. Young take solid foods only after a few weeks, but continue suckling for several months.



## Behaviour

Almost entirely solitary, pairs are seldom seen, probably only during the mating season. Habitat preference tends towards drier woodlands, although it is also found in riverine habitats. It often lies up in trees during the day, but is more commonly found in holes in the ground and in rocky refuges. It is less arboreal than the Large-Spotted Genet.

## Distribution

The Common genet inhabits a wide range, including savanna parts of sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Mediterranean Islands, Arabia, Oman and Yemen. This species is also introduced to southwestern Europe (Portugal, Spain and France). It favours dry areas like Mediterranean woodland and rocky hills where crevices in the trees and rocks provide food, shelter and security from predators.

