



African Crested Porcupine

Hystrix cristata

Description: Almost the entire body is covered with bristles which are either dark brown or black and rather coarse. This mammal is recognizable by the quills that run along the head, nape, and back that can be raised into a crest. These sturdier quills are used for defense and are usually marked with alternating light and dark bands.

Habitat: Warm tropical forests, many times near water. They are commonly found in mangrove swamps and savannahs.

Range: North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Italy.

Life Span: 15-20 years in captivity and 10-12 years in the wild.

Natural Diet: Herbivores that consume mostly root vegetables, but will occasionally consume the decaying flesh of dead animals.

Zoo Diet: A base diet of commercial herbivore and rodent food with a variety of vegetables, fruits, and a small amount of leafy greens.

Behavior: They are nocturnal and forage alone before returning to its den. Despite being a solitary forager, they live in small family groups consisting of an adult pair with their young.

Reproduction: The North African crested porcupine is monogamous. Females usually have only one litter per year, containing 1-3 offspring.

Conservation Status: Least Concern.

