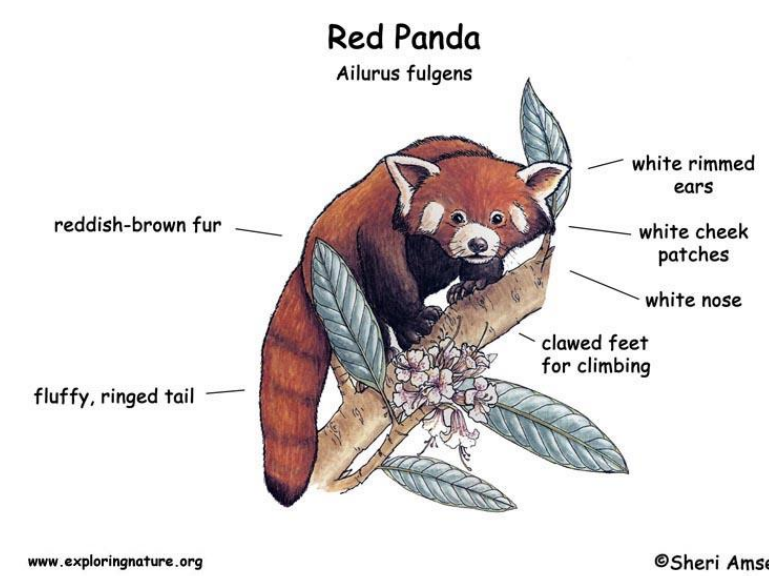


## General

### Information:

- Order: Carnivora
- Family: Ailuridae
- Small, bear-like
- Long limbs, claws, and tail to support arboreal lifestyle
- False thumb adapted for locomotion and grasping



Also known as the Firefox, Lesser Panda, and Cat-Bear.

# The Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*)

## Conservation & Management:

- Listed as endangered by the IUCN
- 50% population decline in the last 20 years
- Less than 10,000 individuals in the wild
- Legally protected in Nepal, India, China, Myanmar and Bhutan
- Threatened by habitat loss and degradation, illegal poaching and trade, predation and disease spread by wild dogs, and climate change
- Community conservation groups (Red Panda Network's "Forest Guardians") aiding in habitat restoration and population monitoring
- Restructuring community use and dependency on forest resources and agriculture to sustainable methods



## Habitat & Range:

- Temperate bamboo forests
- Highly associated with the Himalayas
- Prefer proximity to water sources
- Considered fairly rare throughout their range



## Diet:

- Herbivorous diet
- 90% of diet is bamboo; will forage on higher-quality, soft leaves and shoots to maintain this low-nutrient diet
- Will also forage on fruits, flowers, mushrooms, birds, bird eggs, roots, small mammals and insects
- Simple stomachs, similar to carnivorous mammals



The soles of red panda feet are covered with fur for warmth and grip on slippery surfaces.



## Behavior:

- Scansorial locomotion
- Crepuscular (dawn/dusk)
- Solitary except during the breeding season
- Will curl up into a ball and use its tail to keep warm; will stretch out on branches to cool off
- Defense and play behavior: arching their back, raising paws above their head, and staring
- Communication is mainly olfactory; vocal cues used at short distances

## Reproduction:

- Winter breeding season (late January to late March)
- Gestation: 112-158 days
- Litters range from 1-4 cubs, born altricial; 1 litter per year
- Mother pandas build nests in tree cavities using sticks, leaves, and grasses
- Cubs venture nightly from den after 90 days
- Cubs leave the mother after 120 days and become solitary

