**Bush Baby**

**Native to:** Eastern and Central Africa

**Predators:** large snakes, owls, humans as we encroach upon their habitat and the bush meat trade

**Prey:** omnivores- insects, fruits, gum tree sap

**Facts:**

* Live up to 25 years in captivity
* Nocturnal
* Large ears help them detect prey
* Urinate to mark trails and leave scent, and it is sticky to help them hold on
* One of the smallest primates (smallest is pygmy marmoset)
* Hands and feet leave pheromones to help mark trails
* Long tails help them balance while they jump from branch to branch (prehensile)
* Named bush baby for small size and their loud baby-like cry
* Solitary primates that can sometimes come together for foraging

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Loud howling to alert other animals of danger
* Canine teeth

**Reproduction:**

* Have 1-2 young per litter
* Stay with babies constantly for 3 days, ween at 6 weeks

**Handling Tips:**

Link is a 17 year old male. He should be gently picked up with a blanket or towel so that he feels secure. If students make a loud, unexpected noise (ie. AWWW or a cough), he will likely bite the handler. Be sure to prep your class. Educators can take a bit of banana or fruit for him to eat or marshmallow.