**Morlet’s Crocodile**

**Native to:** From the Atlantic regions of Mexico, Belize and Guatemala

**Predators:**  When they are young wadding birds, turtles, other crocs none when they are full grown.

**Food:**  When they are young small fish, frogs, crustaceans, worms, insects as they are adults anything they want.

**Facts:**.

* Male Morlet’s can grow to between 6 to 9 ft in length and weigh in around 100 lb females are much smaller generally ranging between 4 and 6 feet and no more than 80 lbs.
* They one of the smaller species of crocodilian living on the planet today.
* Morlet’s Crocodiles are diurnal hunters they spend sometimes basking on the shores of their water ways but about 80 percent of their life in the water.
* They need very specific water temperatures for survival and change of about 5 degrees colder or warmer than 75 degrees F to 84 degrees F is dangerous to their health.
* There are no recorded attacks on humans of this species of crocodilian in their native range.
* Even though their population has reached a stable number since the early 2000’s they were once considered an endangered species due to habitat loss and hunting for their hides and meat.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Size
* Jaws/Bite
* Tail Whipping

**Reproduction:**

Females lay a clutch of eggs between 20 to 40 eggs from April till June the wild.

**Lifespan:** Can live for about 40 to 50 yrs in the wild and their much older specimens in Captivity

**Handling Tips**

Rico is generally pretty easy to handle make sure you have a good hold of him behind his head and neck once secure like our gators he must be taped around his jaws using electrical tape for safety.