

# Episode 4: Collared Lemurs

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Hi! I'm Anna. I'm so excited to be showing you some of my favorite lemurs today. To keep those lemurs nice and safe and healthy, I'll be taking extra precautions and wearing a mask when I'm down near them. Let's go!

Hi! I'd love to introduce you to some collared lemur ladies. In here we have Bijou, momma lemur, over on the stump; and right up close hanging out with us is Celine, her daughter.

Collared lemurs are **sexually dichromatic**, which means the males and the females are different colors. Both of the females in the silo here behind me are brown with short orange fur around their faces. Males are a darker brown, almost black, and the fur around their faces is a little bit longer, making them look like they're wearing an orange collar, which is where they get their name: the collared lemur.

In Madagascar, collared lemurs live in the southeastern coastal forests. There they can eat leaves, fruits, flowers, and occasionally insects. They're really important seed dispersers in these coastal forests, a really unique ecosystem in Madagascar.

In the wild, collared lemurs will live in groups of mom, dad, and any offspring that may still be dependent on their parents. At the Duke Lemur Center, we can be a little bit more flexible. We make sure that each lemur has a social companion to live with, but that pair may include mom and offspring; or it may be a pair of siblings; or it may be unrelated companions that are just hanging out as friends. Lemurs will live together as long as they're all willing to tolerate one another, and with all of our observations going on here for research, we can keep a really close eye on any family groups.

Here at the Duke Lemur Center, we make sure our lemurs are using all of their senses every day through a process called **enrichment**. During this enrichment time, we'll give the lemurs activities or puzzles to solve that encourage natural behaviors like foraging, scent marking, grooming, or playing with one another.

You can help us provide enrichment for our lemurs by purchasing items of our Amazon wish list. Those items include puzzle feeders, hammocks, and new scents that the lemurs get to play with. To learn more, please visit [lemur.duke.edu/wishlist](http://lemur.duke.edu/wishlist).

Thank you so much for learning about these vulnerable collared lemurs with me!

