

## **Komodo Dragon**

Species: *Varanus komodoensis*

Habitat: Lesser Sunda Islands of Indonesia

Diet: Carnivore. In the wild their primary diet includes Timor Deer, water buffalo, and wild pigs; at the zoo: mice, rabbit, quail chicks, hard-boiled eggs.

Lifespan: Up to 30 years.

Reproduction: Komodos mate from May to August and females lay up to 30 eggs at a time in September.

Conservation status: Vulnerable. Only about 3,000 remain in the wild in the protected Komodo National Park in Indonesia.

### **Fun Facts**

- Komodo Dragons are the biggest and heaviest lizards in the world. The largest on record measured over 10 feet in length and weighed more than 330 pounds.
- Komodos are the dominant predators in their island habitat, and often hunt in packs.
- They are fast eaters and can consume up to 80 percent of their body weight in one meal.
- They can run 11 miles an hour for short bursts of time, generally in pursuit of prey.
- Komodo dragons have scaly skin and a dragon-like appearance. Their color ranges from black to yellowish gray, they have long claws and forked tongues.
- They have an advanced sense of smell which helps them hunt prey.
- The babies live in trees, but adults get too heavy to climb trees – a good thing for the young, because adult Komodos will eat smaller dragons!