

 Smithsonian
National Zoological Park



Size: between 14 and 17 inches long and weigh about 2 to 3 pounds.

Color: tan with a whitish or buff-white belly, the tips of their tails are sparsely covered by black hair.

Lifespan: 3 to 5 years is the average life for a prairie dog.

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog

Cynomys Ludovicianus

Prairie dogs are actually not dogs at all. They are one of about 2,000 rodent species that live all over the planet!

Prairie dogs play a very important role in sustaining other prairie life. Biologists count more than 170 vertebrate species that are affected by the prairie dogs' existence.

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/NorthAmerica/Facts/fact-pdog.cfm>