Siberian Chipmunk
(Tamias sibiricus)

Also called the common chipmunk. Originated in Siberia and Eastern Asia (China, Korea, Japan). It has been sold in Europe as a pet since the 1960s.

**Description**
- A small squirrel, weighing approximately 100 grams
- Brown to beige fur, with five black or dark-brown stripes on the back, light coloured fur on the underside
- No sexual dimorphism
- Lifespan estimated at approximately three years in the wild, eight years in captivity

**Ecology and reproduction in its original environment**
- Forest habitats (hardwood or conifer), woods and copses, urban parks
- Diurnal and solitary
- Simple burrow with only one entry, in which the chipmunk hibernates from October-November to February-March
- Sexually mature at age of one year, gestation period of 30 days, one to two litters per year with three to five young in each litter, in April-May and July-August
- Feeds on nuts (acorns, chestnuts, hazelnuts, etc.) in the fall, seeds of herbaceous plants, fruit and insects in the spring and summer
- Carries the bacteria causing Lyme disease

**Documentation**

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