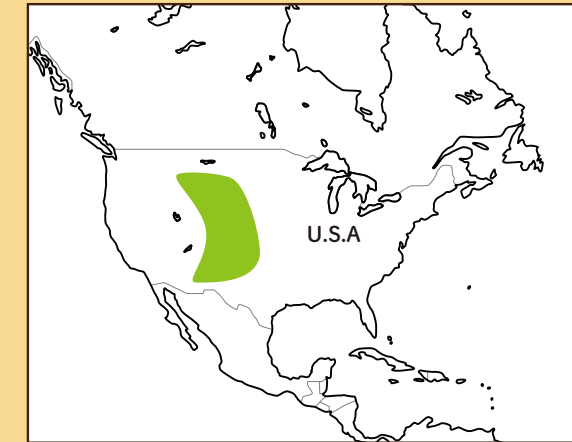


# Black-tailed prairie dog

Oguro (means black-tailed in Japanese) - prairie dog

**Scientific name** Cynomys ludovicianus

**Classification** Rodentia, Sciuridae



**Distribution** Widely distributed in the dried grasslands with the annual rainfall about 400mm in the Midwestern United States. This annual rainfall is the lowest to be required for the growth of grasses.

**Feeding Habits** It eats low-calorie and high-fiber grasses of Gramineae, and also eating soil and insects on the grass at the same time to replenish minerals.

**Characteristics** As the name implies, the tip of the tail is black, and the hair on the body can easily turn in the opposite direction so that it can move smoothly through the burrow. The ears are so small that they do not interfere with the actions in the tunnel.

**Behavior and ecology** They create a lookout stand called a mound pile up the soil around the burrow. When the predators such as coyotes and hawks approach, they alarm to other members of their colony by a puppy-like cry call, so it given the word of "dog" to the common name.

This species is a polygamy consisting of one male and several females, and 4 to 6 pups are born from February to March.