

RA'LAI

Average Height:
1.71 valen
21.14 meters
69.64 feet

Average Lifespan:
130 years

Average Weight:
98.639 kilofaarir
184.89 metric tons
203.80 tons

Special Note:
Ra'lai subspecies
vary in height to a
great degree. Some
subspecies are a
head taller on
average when
compared to others.

Home System:
Seshmarr
Homeworld:
Ra'hamiir



***The snow leopard here**
is not a UTO character,
glory to RetroInferno



RA'LAI INFO

APPEARANCE:

Ra'lai resemble humanoid felines of the great cats variety. They have large, round eyes, pointed ears, short muzzles, fangs and retractable claws. Though similar in body shape and structure, they have wildly disparate appearances and fur coloration which clearly separate one sub-species from the next. The different subspecies between them are as follows:

Ra'tien are the largest and most muscular of all ra'lai, with both men and women alike looming over most of the rest of the sub-species. They have short fur the same coloration and patterns as terran tigers; orange, white, and black stripes. A small percentage posses all white fur with dark grey or black stripes. Most ra'tien have yellow or orange eyes, with rare instances of blue appearing.

Ra'monaar resemble terran lions. They are slightly shorter than the ra'tien, with males and females alike having stocky builds. They are tawny in color across their entire bodies, with only a slightly lighter shade of such along their chest and stomach. Male ra'monaar commonly grow thick manes of hair that ring their heads and flow down to mid-back. Tufts of darker hair lie at the tips of their tails. The eyes of the ra'monaar are much like the ra'tien, yellow, orange, or rarely blue.

Ra'elees are the shortest of the ra'lai and have compact builds, though they tend to look much bulkier than they are due to shaggy fur. They are similar in appearance and coloration to terran snow leopards, including oversized paws and hands in comparison to their height. ra'elees also have longer, shaggier tails than the majority of the ra'lai, commonly as long as they are tall and very thick. Their fur coloration is white or tan with dark grey spots and rosette patterns. Their eyes are usually vibrant shades of blue or green, with dull grey or yellow being less common.

Ra'ihash are only slightly taller than the ra'elees, which they are evolved from, with lean, muscular builds. Their short fur is always a uniform deep black, often looking like it has a deep blue or violet sheen to it when the light strikes it just right. The eyes are commonly various shades of yellow or green, with rare cases of blue or violet appearing. Their heads and overall appearance is similar to terran leopards, but black like panthers. Ra'ihash have long tails and move with a fluid grace above and beyond most other ra'lai.

RA'LAI INFO

PHYSICAL TRAITS:

Of all the subspecies, ra'teen and ra'monaar are the largest, and tend towards more developed musculatures and larger natural weaponry in the form of retractable claws and fangs. Ra'teen evolved in forested and jungle terrain and have exceptional prowess in swimming and climbing. Ra'monaar evolved in vast plains and savannas, developing impressive endurance and resilience to heat. Ra'elees adapted to the snowy tundras they evolved in by developing thicker fur, increased cold tolerance, and excellent climbing and sprinting ability. The ra'ihash evolved in forested and hill terrain, and are also natural climbers.

All ra'lai have powerfully developed leg muscles that allow them to perform great leaps and jumps, covering distances twice those achieved by non-ralai of similar size and strength. Their ears are highly mobile and can swivel independently of each other to pick up sounds. The ears are also strong indicators of their moods. Such can also be said of their tails. Most ra'lai tails measure approximately 75% of the height of the individual to aid their balance. Their bodies tend to be longer than most races and have highly flexible spines which grant significantly increased mobility in many cases, able to change direction rapidly.

SENSES:

Though all ra'lai have superb night vision, the ra'ihash can see over three times as far in the dark than other ra'lai. All ra'lai have impressive senses of taste and hearing. They also have excellent noses, behind only the falashai and lupari in terms of ability.

REPRODUCTION:

Ra'lai are warm blooded mammals that give birth to live young. Pregnancies last between five to six months and result in litters of no more than three children at once. The children are nursed by their mothers via breast milk and reach maturity within twelve years. Ra'lai only have two naturally healthy sexes, male and female. Anomalies are exceedingly rare for the species, and thus hermaphrodites or intersex individuals are very rare. Women are capable of bearing children from approximately age 15 through most of the rest of their lives, though they do not feel a need to mate and breed more than once in a two to three decade long cycle. Thus the population of the species is not overly expansive.

RA'LAI INFO

PSYCHOLOGY:

Millennia of cultural osmosis and exposure to different viewpoints through UTO ensures most ra'lai act as other species would. However, several inherent traits often peek through. They tend to be strong willed, able to work well in groups, and keep their minds open to the varied philosophies of the other races. The ra'lai boast much higher overall rates of religion and spiritual philosophy than most other races. At least 70% of the race practices some manner of faith based guidance, though most have well integrated the concepts of modern science into them. Less than 1% maintain a religious view that lies outside of modern scientific/physical possibility. For this reason, many ra'lai took a deep interest in the religions and philosophies of other species as they were contacted. It is not uncommon at all to find a ra'lai practicing a religion that did not develop on their homeworld. Recent contact with humans has sparked another religious and philosophical evolution among the ra'lai, which tends to happen each time they meet a new species.

Most ra'lai end up in careers that allow them to experience as much in their lives as possible, letting them come into contact with varied beliefs and cultures. Work on starships and in the military, off-world mercantile activities, and diplomatic pursuits are all frequently followed by ra'lai. A good number are also involved in medical and relief work on other planets, commonly doing their best to spread their faith among the other races present in the hope that they too can enjoy the enlightenment that it brings. It is not uncommon for a traveling ra'lai to drop their current faith or philosophy upon discovery of one that suits them better, though only after careful deliberation on the matter. In any case, the tradition, philosophy, or religion the ra'lai chooses will always play a great role in his or her life.

Family structure plays an important part of the early life of all ra'lai. Parents go to great lengths to raise their children well and keep them safe, though their role diminishes as time goes on. Ra'lai who reach maturity are expected to be able to find their own paths through life and beyond, trusting them to their own inner feelings and beliefs. Ra'lai who choose to remain at home with their family, continuing to rely upon them in later years, are often looked upon with derision. A ra'lai experiencing problems in their later years tend to seek aid in their friends or other ra'lai who share their spiritual beliefs, rather than visiting the burden of caring for them upon their parents once more.

RA'LAI RELIGION

Religion and philosophy plays a large role in the life of most ra'lai with three major faiths.

The first and oldest of all ra'lai faiths is a form of animism. They have no word for it; it is considered to be such an integral aspect of life and existence that no word is needed to define. To aid those who are not ra'lai, it is often simply called **him'hrurr**, or **The Way**. It is a belief that all things, both living and non-living, have a spirit within them and a path to follow in existence. All things follow this path whether they realize it or not, and will walk it until they fulfill their destiny. Once that path is finished, the spirit will move on and return to walk a different path, over and over throughout time.

The second and most widespread of religions among the ra'lai is a polytheistic one, **Har'namruunath**, lead by a fertility goddess figure known as Sha'ra'lai. It is commonly accepted that the race took its name from this deity, as it translates into Mother of The People. Numerous other gods and goddesses populate the pantheon, each governing various aspects of life and nature, as is normal in most other pantheistic religions. As time progressed and technology advanced, several of the deities in the pantheon changed or had scientific progress attributed to them. Those who follow it believe that the gods always intended their children to discover science and reach the stars, and that lack of any prophecy was a test of faith. Even now, many ra'lai believe the next great test is upon them, which is to find the home of the gods which lay somewhere beyond the edge of the known galaxy.

The third and final one is more of a life guiding philosophy, practiced by only a tiny fraction of the population, known as **Subjugation**. It remains highly controversial and strictly monitored by authorities. It's a path where you experience everything life has to offer, both the good and the bad. This can range from trying exotic foodstuffs, petty theft, or even killing someone else to see what it feels like. Although more moderate followers advocate for safe outlets such as virtual simulations for darker desires, the faith tends to be banned or restricted on non-ra'lai majority worlds.



RA'LAI HISTORY

The ra'lai were first discovered by a UTO system probe that stumbled into the Surkemit system, which was already colonized by the ra'lai.

A first contact vessel and team, consisting of all Union species at the time, was dispatched to Surkemit. The ra'lai foresaw this, thus the vessel was greeted warmly by their own diplomatic entourage when it reached the system. Curiously, the diplomats presented themselves as a unification of different but united species. The ra'lai had declared five different homeworlds, one for each subspecies and one for the original homeworld. If not for the original homeworld diplomat looking like a ra'monaar and ra'elees hybrid, the UTO representatives likely would not have suspected a social phenomena until later.

After the language barrier was resolved, the UTO quickly learned that these felinoids were all the same species. The UTO diplomats expected a frustrating amount of racism within the species, but as it turned out, there was little. Instead, the separation of the subspecies was born of an intense fear of complete hybridization of the species. The homeworld, Ra'hamiir, hosted the vast majority of hybrids, which encompassed 21% of the population, a number that would have steadily grew before anti-hybridization measures came into effect.

The separation into 'new' homeworlds for each 'pure' subspecies was the solution the ra'lai decided upon to secure their continued existence. Unfortunately, when it came to negotiations for joining the UTO, the ra'lai sought identification as four separate species. This was completely incompatible and unfair for other species in the Union, yet the ra'lai remained unshakable on the issue for a full 27 years.

The ra'lai eventually agreed to be categorized as a single species, and today, the ra'lai still identify their species homeworlds, each one the very same name as their subspecies. Ra'hamiir, while the name of the true homeworld, came to be what the hybrids were known as, even if they come from colony planets. The amount of overlap between subspecies and planet names is confusing for every other UTO species. Slight inflections separate them, but it is only easily noticeable by other ra'lai or those well versed in ra'lai linguistics. Translators simply do not convey the same understanding. There is also disdain even today toward the hybrids. Among the ra'lai, being called a ra'hamiir is an insult. Most hybrids identify as the sub-species they feel they most resemble, preferring to be called as such by their peers.

SNEP!



SNEP!



SNEP!

SNEP!

SNEP!



SNEP!

SNEP!

SNEP!

