

Tanuki

+2 Int OR +2 Cha

Shape Shift (Racial Power)

Once per day, a tanuki can use a glamor to cloak themselves in an illusory image of their choice. The image may be a creature or an object of either small or medium size. While the glamor is active, you gain a +2 to charisma and stealth checks.

One With Nature (Racial Power)

Once a day when staggered, a tanuki can channel the properties of nature as a free action, hardening their coat into a tree bark-like armor. Until the end of battle, receive only half damage from physical attacks.

Champion Feat: You can activate this ability at any time, not just when staggered.

In recent ages, a race known as the tanuki have been spotted in greater numbers around the empire than in the past, arriving from somewhere across the Iron Sea. Covered in soft fur, tanuki are about the same size as your average halfling. They have large, pointed ears and bushy tails, and their coats are covered in patterns unique to each individual. Of course, all of this is only true most of the time. Most tanuki, especially the older ones, are accomplished shape shifters, capable of using some form of primal magic to cover themselves in visual illusions, appearing however they wish to appear to the rest of the world.

Despite their small size, tanuki are deceptively strong and fast, capable of evenly matching or exceeding the larger races in feats of strength. Their most advantageous traits, however, are their quick minds and charming personalities. Although their native tongue is far different from the those around the Dragon Empire, you would never know it to talk to one. They develop a mastery of any language and culture in a very short time; after a few months even a newly immigrated tanuki's speech is indistinguishable from a native's.

Their natural talents lend themselves to the roles of mages, rogues or bards, but they are by no means limited to those roles. Tanuki fighters or barbarians aren't unheard of, though tanuki rangers are more common. They tend to be very social creatures, so regardless of the class they choose, it's a safe bet they can be found in the company of others, normally at the center of attention, entertaining those around them with jokes, stories and songs from their homeland.

