

Characterization Of Monkeys Anatomy And Social Behaviour

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General Characteristics of Monkeys

Monkeys are common animals that are present in almost all the continents. Monkeys range in size and adapt to different environments with specific features that make it easy to adjust to their habitats. A monkey is a primate that is characterized by the natural tendency to walk with two limbs and an upright body.

Taxonomy and Physical Structure

The monkey has two legs and hands with five fingers and toes in each. Monkeys are considered intelligent, just like humans, even though they cannot run swiftly or see or hear compared to other animals. Primates comprise two suborders, with the monkeys being associated with the Haplorrhini suborder, which is known for their dry noses. This suborder is further divided into two infra-orders, Simiiformes and Tarsiiformes. Monkeys are Simiiformes and are further divided into the places of origin in the world. The world monkeys are those that are found in South America, while old-world monkeys are mostly found in Africa. These monkeys [are closely related](#) even though they have unique differences (Rylands & Mittermeier, 2014).

Habitats and Environmental Adaptation

Monkeys are traditionally known to live in forests where there is a huge number of trees. Monkeys love living on trees, even though some monkeys are found in savannahs. Some monkeys can adapt to both kinds of environments. Evergreen and mangrove forests are where monkeys are found in large numbers since these environments provide food and the right environment for breeding. Over time, monkeys have been able to adapt to new changes in the environment. Human activities have reduced the habitat of monkeys and, as such, have adjusted to suit new environments. It is common not to find monkeys in places they used to occupy before and find them in new environments (Zuckerman, 2013).

Locomotion and Movement

Monkeys move through the trees and on the plains with their powerfully developed legs and hands. Monkeys can swing over trees and can jump from one tree to the other. Monkeys can also hang on trees using their tails through the legs, and the hands control most of their movements. Monkeys live in forests with tall trees, and most of their food is found in treetops. As such, they must jump from tree to tree in different branches to collect and eat food. On the plains, monkeys walk and jump, but most of their movements combine walking and jumping. The powerful rear and hind limbs allow monkeys to move in their environments (Rylands & Mittermeier, 2014).

Comparative Anatomy of Monkeys

Monkeys are unique, just like humans, and their anatomy is compared to that of humans, though there are major differences. The body of a monkey is agile and designed to give it strength and speed to evade its predators. Their legs and hands are long, allowing them to climb trees and jump to different branches. Monkeys have toes and fingers with fingerprints just like those of humans. Their thumbs are developed, and young monkeys have been captured suckling their thumbs just like humans. Monkeys have good vision with their eyes located in front of their faces. Research shows that monkeys see in black and white, although some can differentiate colors. Their nostrils could be narrow, which gives them the sense of smell to identify one another. Monkeys have developed a sense of hearing due to their developed ears. The presence of tails in their body gives them balance while moving. The body of the monkey is covered with hair while its DNA is developed just like that of humans (Ciochon, 2013).

Diet and Feeding Behaviour

Monkeys are omnivores and eat what is available in their environment. Monkeys eat a combination of plant and animal meat. Most monkeys eat fruit, nuts, insects, seeds, flowers, vegetables, and leaves. The majority of the monkey's diet is found in the forest, and, as such, it roams from tree to tree in search of wild fruits and flowers. Monkeys move from one place to the other in search of food, and different seasons offer different opportunities for monkeys. Monkeys can also eat bananas and domesticated fruits provided by humans who usually interact with monkeys. Since monkeys are harmless, their interaction with humans allows them to access other kinds of foods (Zuckerman, 2013).

Mating and Reproductive Behaviour

Monkeys mate for procreation even though their mating practices are complex. Just like humans, monkeys display unique and weird mating practices. Females, in most cases, choose their mating

partners with stronger features, which can be transferred to their offspring. Female monkeys choose mates with different genes that can guarantee healthy young ones. Monkeys can additionally mate for fun, just like humans, though the majority of the mating practices are aimed at extending the generation. Monkeys maintain close family ties, and as such, they desist from mating with close family members (Ciochon, 2013).

Intelligence and Social Interaction

Monkeys are intelligent animals who can easily socialize and integrate with humans. Their intelligence has seen humans having monkeys as pets. Monkeys display unique behavior, and they can be trained to perform some activities with the instructions of humans. Their non-violent behavior allows them to create unique and tight bonds with humans, which sees them being kept as pets. The fact that they can express themselves makes it easy to communicate with humans. Monkeys have good hearing abilities and can take up instructions.

References

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