

Special Needs of Primates With Research Restrictions

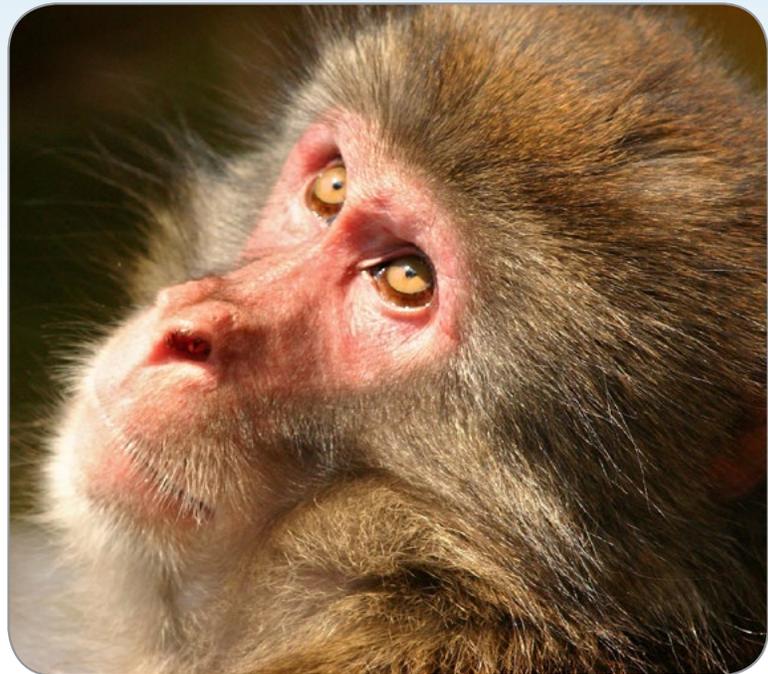


Primates in research need special attention when study protocols restrict their activities.

PLANNING FOR CARE

Special attention will depend on what activities are restricted and what substitutions can be offered. The primates on study may need, for example, an alternate strategy for meeting social needs or different forms of environmental enrichment.

The most appropriate substitution will depend on the scientifically justified need for restriction and alternatives available to promote psychological well-being for the primates on the study. These factors will vary from case to case.



COMMON RESTRICTIONS

At right are two of the more common restrictions in primate research with a few options for suitable alternatives. These are only suggestions for mitigating the restrictions; other options not mentioned here may also be appropriate.

RESEARCH RESTRICTION	WHAT YOU CAN OFFER INSTEAD
<i>Full-time social housing not allowed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermittent social housing (housed together for part of the day) ● Scheduled social activity (regularly scheduled release into a play enclosure with compatible peers; may only be appropriate for certain species and ages) ● Scheduled solo release into a larger play or exercise enclosure ● Extra opportunities to have positive human interaction ● Video enrichment (movies, videos of primates in the wild)
<i>Food enrichment not allowed or calorie restrictions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Low- to no-calorie food items ● Low-calorie vegetables frozen in ice ● Browse enrichment ● Puzzle enrichment, destructible objects, and other devices without adding food items

PRACTICAL TIP



Scientific goals are specific to each research study. For this reason, the study protocol may be the best place to describe the special attention primates will receive to mitigate restrictions on social activity or environmental enrichment.

This Animal Care Aid is part of a series developed to help with promoting psychological well-being in primates. Topics covered in the series include social grouping, supporting species-typical activities, and special considerations.

Questions? Email us at CenterforAnimalWelfare@usda.gov

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ANIMAL CARE AID