Functionally Appropriate Environments for Squirrel Monkeys, Spider Monkeys and Capuchins

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Functionally Appropriate Squirrel Monkey Environments

Scout, Eve and Betsy
Trees are not only home to insects, they offer wonderful hiding places in case of an argument or if someone just needs some alone time.
Tree Climbing

Herbie and Kilroy enjoy sitting high up in the trees.
Squirrel Monkeys Enjoy Trees!

Judy seemed to remember her life before the lab. On her first day, she was outside climbing in the trees and catching bugs.
Earl felt this tree was planted in the wrong place, some monkeys, like Betsy here, are happy with any tree!
Ringo is an amazingly talented tight-rope walker!

Van Gogh & Ernie are learning the ropes.
Foraging

Joey and Earl enjoy digging in the dirt in search of all sorts of crawly things.
The squirrel monkeys roll the dead leaves between their hands in search of tasty insects, and sometimes what one finds -- the other wants.
We duplicated enrichments used by the lab in their enclosures, along with a few new items.

Squirrel monkey trio: Manny, Moe and Jack.
We were given only a few months to prepare for 57 squirrel monkeys. A tall order, but our amazing staff made it happen.
Emerald City – the new Squirrel Monkey Retirement Home.
Accommodations for the New Squirrel Monkeys
The squirrel monkeys arrived in July. We put up shade cloth, planted lots of plants and installed a mister system.
They had hula hoops at the lab, so we situated them in their outdoor habitats.
Outdoor Habitats

The squirrel monkey habitats offer many levels, from hammocks, ropes and trees, to shrubbery and ground cover for foraging.
Outdoor Habitats

The new squirrel monkeys really took to the outdoor life.
Even with the shade cloth and misters, the new squirrel monkeys had to stay inside the climate controlled building during the warmest times of the day, until they could acclimate to outdoor temperatures.
Indoor Enclosures
Variety, Choices and Friends

At Jungle Friends our squirrel monkey environments offer large naturalistic habitats with plenty of fauna and flora for enrichment. The monkeys have the option of going inside or outside, locking them in only during inclement weather.
Functionally Appropriate Spider Monkey Environments
The “Thunderdome”

A group of four spider monkeys live in this habitat, which is 30’ x 60’ x 24’ high.
Larger Runways

The spider monkey’s runways are much larger and the forks are large and almost unmanageable, so we installed gates.
Spider monkeys use ropes for brachiating and swinging.
The spider monkeys also walk bipedal, so that needs to be taken into consideration when building and furnishing their habitats.
Inside Thunderdome
Environmental Enrichment

The spider monkeys use these barrels to hide in, swing in, sleep in and a place to get out of the rain or enjoy some alone time.
Social Groupings
Natural Enrichment

Spider monkeys are leaf eaters, so have plenty of edible plants and trees. Fruiting trees are especially nice.
Spider Monkeys Anointing with Fig Leaves

Mike is anointing with fig leaves.

And so is Clydette — who is female!
No Fig Leaves – No Problem...

Limes are also a favorite for anointing. It not only gives the monkeys a nice lime-fresh fragrance, citrus is great for deterring bugs.
Functionally Appropriate Capuchin Environments
Naturalistic Habitats
Capuchin Habitats and Runways
Outdoor Furnishings

- Hammocks: under roof and in the sun & under the heat cave.
- Jungle Gyms and metal ladders.
- Rope ladders and ropes with toys.
- Hanging ropes and trapezes.
- Buckets and barrels.
- Boomer Balls.
- Sand box in middle of habitat under roof.
- Grounders (trees or stumps) on the floor of habitat.
- Perches extending to floor from heat caves, runways & H2O
- Shrubbery, trees & plants including; Banana Plants, Bamboo, Wild Ginger, Canna Lilies, Cast Iron, Ferns, and others inside and outside of the habitat.
- Two or more Lixits (automatic waterers)
The Lixits, or automatic waterers, helps to relieve the worry of dehydration.

The monkeys also use them to bathe and cool down in the heat.

They have also been known to squirt other monkeys, and even our carestaff!
Habitats are curved, not only for structural strength, but the curves give us “bump outs” to give separate areas for the monkeys to retreat to if there is a disagreement. There is plenty of shrubbery to hide in for privacy.
These monkeys arrived in January and were actually delivered to Jungle Friends in their lab cages, which we used until we could release them into their outdoor habitats when the weather warmed up.
Monkeys were Offloaded in Lab Cages into our Clinic

Fortunately, we were able to roll them outside during the day to gradually introduce them to sunshine, fresh air, wind and rain.
New Enrichment Items were Added Slowly

The cages were stark, but included a hide box, a ring and a ball. We also introduced them to plants and new foods while they were in the clinic.
The UGA Boys also arrived with their “home” cages. We set up these cages the same way they were set up at the lab. They stayed in these cages until they were settled in and comfortable with our carestaff.
The runway system runs throughout the sanctuary connecting all of the habitats.

We also have the drop-down chutes located at optimal locations throughout the sanctuary for safe capture.
Runways provide choices and make it easy and less stressful when moving monkeys to new habitats. The runways are also an important part of our socialization procedure.
Drop-down chutes on the runways are very helpful tools for a safe capture. Monkeys are easily moved from the drop-down chutes to the clinic or other habitats.

Drop-Down Chutes = Less Stress
Drop-Down Chutes and Walking Forks

Because the monkeys are fed in the runways and move through the runways into new habitats, they have no fear of the runways.
We have released monkeys into the runways from squeeze cages and kennels. It is easiest with sliding doors, however, it can be done with doors that swing out.
Runways are great socialization tools. Monkeys can meet in the runways with forks between them. The forks are moved gradually closer. If it looks like they will be a good match, one fork is removed. If they groom through the fork, we remove it and hope for a good outcome. We also use portable shade for the runways as shown in the first photo.
Social Grooming

Grooming is a natural stress reliever for monkeys.
Natural Enrichment

Heat lamps are attached to the outside of the habitats to heat the caves inside the habitats, which are controlled by thermostats.
Natural Enrichment

We cannot give the monkeys back the “wild”, so at Jungle Friends we create an “Almost Wild” environment. We want the monkeys to live as comfortable and as natural as possible.
Monkeys love plants.
Natural Enrichment
Comfy Naptime Spots

Our substrates are natural:
grass, leaves, ground cover, mulch, dirt, sand and pine straw.
Monkeys Love to Dig and Bathe in Dirt

Jersey enjoys a good dirt bath – a little dirt can strengthen your immune system.
Foraging
Foraging Outside the Box

Samantha goes fishing
Shade Trees

We plant lots of trees, and even though we are in Florida, it can get cool. Trees that lose their leaves in the winter allow the sun to shine through.
Beat the heat with a pool, hose, or what we call “monkey rain”.

Water Enrichment
All Monkeys Deserve a Nice Place to Live!
Saving Monkeys
Promoting Compassion

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