Managing Abnormal Behavior in a Sanctuary Environment

Presented by Kari Bagnall, Founder and Executive Director
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Captive primates may face a host of physical, social, emotional and psychological issues from which they may not recover, even when placed in a more appropriate environment.

Jungle Friends incorporates many different remedies, from fluoxetine to diazepam and CBD Oil to lavender oil.

We also use other alternatives – amino acids, vitamins, homeopathy, herbs and food.
Abnormal Behaviors

• Captive monkeys suffer from a variety of psychological disorders and atypical behaviors.

• Some of these include: depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, stereotypical and self-injurious behaviors.

• Improvement is typically seen with a combination of an enriched or naturalistic environment, medical treatment and introduction to other monkeys.

• Determine why the monkeys are engaging in abnormal behaviors. Is it physical or psychological? Each monkey should be treated as an individual.
Self-Injurious Behavior

Jersey was a privately owned primate (POP) who had bitten off one toe and was chewing on both feet and his hands – his flesh was literally dying. Jersey's right leg had to be amputated and part of his left foot.
Mirrors for Wound Distraction
Jersey’s Recovery

Jersey is very spirited and has overcome his disabilities – he uses his tail as a leg. Jersey and Elizabeth are a model couple, grooming each other and engaging in play.
Ricki was also a POP who was species isolated. He became more aggressive and agitated, and started self-attacking.

Ricki’s self-injurious behavior became unmanageable. He had to have his leg amputated and was put on Fluoxetine.

Ricki was introduced to Zoey at the sanctuary and is finally enjoying the companionship he’s always needed.
Self Attacking - Digit Sucking

Mario was a POP who was kept illegally until he escaped his cage. Baby monkeys who are "pulled" from their mothers before they are weaned or would naturally separate usually, if not always, have problems.
Mario stopped his self-attacking behavior as soon as he met Tessa, although he still sucks his thumb and his toe.
Distraction Bandages

Bandaging Gamble’s mysterious wound.
Gamble has been in our clinic for several weeks with a wound on his back, compounded by pneumonia and a MRSA infection. Gamble is a POP who lives with his brother in an appropriate environment. When he became ill, it triggered his abnormal rocking behavior.
Self-Injurious Behavior Due to Medical Condition

Wendell was a POP who had chewed his hand and bitten off a toe. He was diagnosed as a diabetic with neuropathy.
Cuzco and his family were captured in the wild, shipped illegally to China and then back to LA, without food or water. Cuzco survived. His family did not.

The San Diego Zoo took him in, and then sent him to Jungle Friends to find companionship.

When Cuzco arrived he was on antidepressants, neuropathy medication and antianxiety drugs for self-attacking. He is now surrounded by his own species and is off all medication.
Originally Jimmy was a POP and later sold into the entertainment industry.

When Jimmy arrived, he was self-attacking and had problems socializing. He was referred to as “Jimmy the Jerk”.

A naturalistic environment and the right friends were all Jimmy needed to stop all abnormal behaviors.
Floating Limb

Iris

Iris Meets Scooter
Fear-based Behaviors

Charles Manson was captured in the rainforest as a juvenile and sold into research, where he was singly-housed and used in iron-toxicity studies for 20 years. Singly-housed monkeys are more likely to exhibit abnormal behaviors.

Unfortunately, 12 years later he still lives alone. He has had many failed socializations. Other monkeys from the same lab are successfully socialized. Monkeys are all individuals.

We are still hopeful for a good match.

Charles Manson
Habitats for the Disabled
Bongo became paraplegic due to a ruptured disc. We were told he would never walk again. Euthanasia was encouraged. Instead, we brought him back to the sanctuary where his dear friend KC showered him with tender-loving care. Bongo not only walks—he plays!
Samantha and Charlotte are biological sisters. They sleep together, eat together, play and groom, or should I say, Samantha over-grooms herself, and her sister Charlotte.

No matter what we have tried, Samantha continues to over-groom.
Hair Pulling and Eating

One study in macaques concluded that this is an aggressive behavioral disorder reflecting adjustment problems to a stressful environment.
Even though Samantha and Charlotte are living in the best environment I can give them, Samantha still over-grooms herself and her sister.
Sloth had much of his hair missing when he was released from the lab.

Sloth’s hair growth within the first month of being outside.
“At first, we could not figure out why quite a few of our squirrel monkeys had hair loss or generalized alopecia. We did skin scrapes, prophylactic deworming, and skin biopsies that revealed no abnormalities. After visiting another facility in the summer where their squirrel monkeys were housed outdoors, myself and a work colleague could not help but notice how beautiful and full the haircoats of these squirrel monkeys were compared to our animals. After questioning the staff, the only difference between their animals and our animals was that their squirrel monkeys were housed outdoors and our animals were not. We then hypothesized that our animals may have hair loss or hair thinning due to a vitamin D deficiency. After the daily Allerderm with vitamin D supplementation their fur began to improve.” – Veterinarian at the lab
Joey and Earl were released from research and arrived looking much like Moe. After a few months of the great outdoors and companionship, they were sporting handsome coats of fur.
Radiographs showed Udi had a severe case of metabolic bone disease, he couldn’t walk or stand. Sunshine made all the difference.
Social Grouping
Mixed species
Mochi was an infant when he arrived at Jungle Friends after an animal facility closed.

Monkers and Zumie proved to be wonderful surrogate mothers for baby Mochi, carrying him on their backs, nurturing him, grooming and playing with him.

Due to this mothering, Mochi has no abnormal behaviors.
Monkey Surrogacy

Monkers and Baby Mochi
Dylan was confiscated by the authorities and arrived so malnourished he could barely lift his tiny head. Then he met Monkers and Zumie who provided the mothering he was denied. Dylan has no abnormal behaviors!
ChiChi was a POP and Jasper was traded in a used car deal and then given to a teenager as a birthday present.

Both ChiChi and Jasper were taken from their mothers at a very early age. Both were clutching inanimate objects.

Once these two were introduced, both monkeys gave up their objects for each other. Neither have any abnormal behaviors.
Ebi and Mickey anointing with oranges, and a bit of orange bashing to make orange juice too!
Aromatherapy Anointing

Dodger Anointing with Lavender Oil
Aromatherapy with Diffuser

Oil Diffuser used in our on-site clinic.
Natural Remedies

Puchi drinks his CBD Oil

Preparing CBD oil snacks
Anti-Depressants/
Anxiety Medications

Elvis  Wanda  Mario
Spanky  Joey  Darwin  Ricki
Naturalistic Habitats
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Runways Everywhere!

[Images of monkey enclosures with trees and fencing]
Monkeys on the Move

Pip and Zeke
Drop-down chutes on the runways are very helpful tools for a safe capture. Monkeys are easily moved from the drop chutes to the clinic or other habitats.
Chewy was medically discharged from our onsite clinic and Golden Child was very happy about that!
Runway 99er!
UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Panoramic view of our new super runway!
Baby monkeys need their mothers.
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