

Primate Observation Form

(Use the back for continuations or additional observations)

Observer:	Zoo:
Common name of primate:	
Scientific name of primate:	
Date of observation:	
Time observation began:	Time observation ended:
Suborder: Infraorder: Superfamily: Family:	Subfamily: Genus: Species:
Description of enclosure, setting, and weather:	
What kind of environment does this primate live in in the wild? Is the enclosure a reasonable substitute? Why?	

Size of the group (that you actually observed, not just as listed on zoo information):

Total number of individuals you actually observed:

Adult females:

Adult males:

Adults of undetermined sex:

Juvenile females:

Juvenile males:

Juveniles of undetermined sex:

Infants:

Describe any observable subgroups (mated pairs, mothers with infants, etc.):

What size and composition of group does this primate live in in the wild? Is the zoo group comparable?

Explain.

If the zoo group is different from a typical wild group, in what ways might the differences affect their behavior?

Comments, problems in making observations, etc:

Physical characteristics:

Approximate body size (estimate, describe, or compare to familiar animals):

Which are longer, the forelimbs or the hindlimbs?

Tail?

Prehensile?

Describe how the tail (if present) was used while you were observing:

Can you tell the sexes apart? How? What differences (sexual dimorphism) can you actually observe?

Canines observable?

Size of canines relative to other teeth:

Male:

Female:

Describe the circumstances in which you could see the canines (if you could), including the age and sex of the individual, if you could tell:

Other notable or interesting physical features observed:

Any notable or interesting physical features that you read about but could not observe; why not?:

Motor behavior:

Describe the primates' locomotion, as you observed it:

Things to consider: context of locomotion (on the ground and/or climbing and/or walking on branches...); use of limbs (quadrupedal, quadrumanual, bipedal, vertical clinging and leaping, brachiation...); use of forelimbs vs. hindlimbs; position and use of hands and feet (grasping, sole/palm down, edge of foot down, leaning on knuckles...). You may see several forms of locomotion, perhaps in different contexts (some in branches, others on the ground, etc.); please describe all of them.

Describe the positions assumed when not moving from place to place:

Use of hands and/or feet and/or mouth to handle objects, including eating. Describe both what they do and *how* they do it. Specify the kind of grip used if you can tell (*precision grip* - between tip of thumb and other digits; *power grip* - thumb and other digits wrapped around opposite sides of object; *hook grip* - all digits parallel):

Social behavior:

Describe the behavior and interactions you observe. What do the primates do? Try to identify the sex and adult/juvenile/infant age category of the participants. Do adults behave differently with infants than with juveniles or other adults? How does their sex affect interactions? Note both behaviors and responses to them.

Some behaviors to watch for:

- Interactions while getting food and eating
- Chasing/being chased (age and sex of pursuer and pursued?)
- Vocalizing (what causes them to vocalize? How do others respond?)
- Grooming (describe it. Self-grooming, pairs, multiple individuals? Do some get more than they give?)
- Adults carrying or caring for an infant (is the adult male or female? what does it do?)
- Dominance and submission behaviors (fights, showing canines, getting preferential access to water or food, taking something away from another individual with or without resistance, etc.)
- Forming coalitions (such as two individuals defending themselves against a third)
- Courtship or mounting
- Interactions with human primate visitors