

**Primate Meeting:** April 2026/Hannibal, Mo.  
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- I. Dr Doug's '**Pearls of Wisdom**', regarding primate ownership.
  - **Always** reinforce to visitors, family- that **these primates are still WILD animals**, despite the fact that they are raised in pet households, with humans.
  - **Prevention is the key!** Whether we are referring to health, husbandry or other social interactions. Many diseases transmit from pet primate to man, and also from man to your pet primate. [called **ZOONOSES**]
  - **Alert all** that these primates are most comfortable with those who have worked with them over time. And, even these folks can be the recipient of unexpected, triggered aggressions.
  - **Thereby, your primates** should be controlled when in the presence of other people.
  - **Live by the rule** that this animal is your pet and not expected to react to others similarly.
  - **A bite, or even a scratch** from your primate may incite legal threats to you, and possible removal of your primate pets, depending on the laws of your community.
  - **By law, a bite that breaks the skin** may give the victim a cause to demand euthanasia of your pet, in-order to accomplish brain tissue sampling for rabies virus, which can spread from mammal to mammal.
  - **Always acquire proper licensing** to **satisfy regulatory guidelines** for your community.
  - **Performing regular (annual), examinations**-to include a physical exam, necessary vaccines as defined by your vet, appropriate diagnostic actions like blood work & fecals, and more- represent the best way to protect you legally, and your pet, in the event of a visitor bite or worse!! **Being responsible to these actions demonstrates to authority that you are on top of your pet's management!**
  - **Do NOT parade your pet primate outside the home.** This sets you up for negative issues. In the event that you are in a teaching, or other setting with your primate, be sure that you have 110% control of your pet; and, that people are NOT allowed to come in direct physical contact with the primate. **An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!!**
  - **Most importantly**, recognize that there are many legislators trying to prevent private pet ownership of non-domestic/exotic species. **Being a responsible primate owner is the proper way to represent your primate community. One bad event can challenge the ability for any/all other owners to maintain the right to keep primates and other special species.**
  - **Do NOT play VETERINARIAN.** Find a veterinarian willing to offer your guidance & service for your pet primates. Primate Classification Overview.

## II. Primate Classification.

### 1. Prosimians (*Primitive primates*)





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- Lemurs
- Lorises
- Galagos (bushbabies)
- Tarsiers (*often separated taxonomically, but included here for simplicity*)

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## 2. Monkeys





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**A. New World Monkeys (Platyrrhines)**

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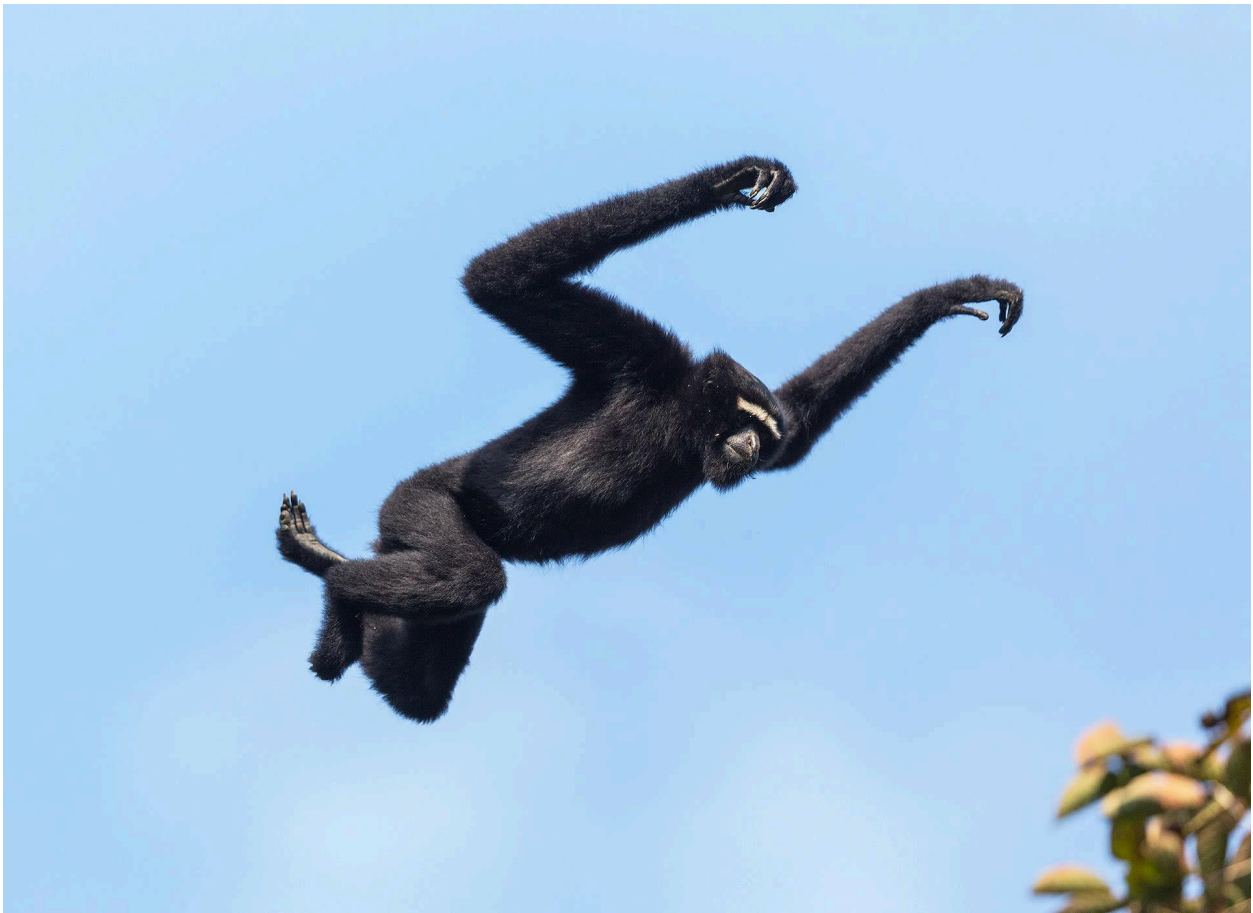
- Found in Central & South America
- Examples: Capuchins, Howler monkeys, Spider monkeys

### **B. Old World Monkeys (Catarrhines)**

- Found in Africa & Asia
  - Examples: Baboons, Macaques, Colobus monkeys
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### **3. Lesser Apes**





- Gibbons
- Siamangs

*(Known for brachiation—arm-swinging locomotion)*

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#### **4. Great Apes & Humans**





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- Chimpanzees
- Gorillas
- Orangutans
- Humans

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### III. Husbandry overview.

**\*Husbandry includes healthcare, housing, nutrition and behavioral management.**

1. Your veterinarian will help to define a best **healthcare** protocol that suits your household and the pets within. Minimally,
  - \*annual physical exam- may require a sedation or anesthesia,
  - \*diagnostics- may include fecal, C/S, TB test, Tetanus vax or other, blood work, special virus titers, radiology of chest & abdomen, ultrasound, etc.,
  - \*special work-ups may discover needed surgery events as well
2. **Housing** requires proper facilities that can be cleaned regularly with appropriate anti-microbial products; that are free from sharp points & other exposed materials

that may prove harmful if swallowed, etc., and proper security locks placed. A best rule is to establish protocols with checklists to follow regularly. This prevents unwanted incidents like escapes and worse.

3. **Quarantine principles, along with PPE standards**, help to prevent disease transmission from resident to new animals entering the household, as well as providing time for time for new animals to settle in, and possibly express underlying disease states that present under the stress of a new facility. Further, having a special, isolated caging is important when your pets get sick and you need to separate from other people and primates.
4. **Nutrition** is essential to overall health of your primates. Always work with a veterinarian, &/or, nutritionist, to review and assess your diet protocols.  
General guidelines:
  - a. **Neonates & Infants**
    - \*Daily Energy: 150-200 kcal/kg/day. [start low, increase over 24-48 hrs]
    - \*Daily Volume: 15-20% BW/day. [first 48 hours-give 20-25% BW/day, and by day 3-5, divided q2-4 hr.]
    - \*Expected weight gains: 3-5% BW/week minimum; 5-10% is ideal.
  - b. **Juveniles & Adults.**  
Kcal/day= 70 x (BW in kg) to 0.75 power
5. **Behavioral** management demands consistency as you would apply to managing children. And, **enrichment** actions are essential to behavioral well-being in any/all captive animals. Be creative and change-out actions/items, etc to encourage healthy animal behaviors.