



Care For Us
Macaques (*Macaca*)

Animal Welfare

Animal welfare refers to an animal's state or feelings. An animal's welfare state can be positive, neutral or negative.

An animal's welfare has the potential to differ on a daily basis. When an animal's needs - nutritional, behavioural, health and environmental - are met, they will have positive welfare.

A good life in captivity might be one where animals can consistently experience good welfare - throughout their entire life.



Understanding that animals have both sentient and cognitive abilities as well as pain perception, reinforces the need to provide appropriate husbandry for all captive animals, to ensure positive welfare.

In captivity, the welfare of an animal is dependent on the environment provided for them and the daily care and veterinary treatment they receive.

It is therefore very important we understand their behavioural and physiological needs, so we can meet those needs in captivity.



Macaques are within the genus of Old World Monkeys and there are 23 different species of macaques around the world.

Most macaques have tails but some species, including the Barbary macaque, have no tail. Macaques live in troops and are mainly arboreal, but are equally at home on the ground.

Some species of macaque are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, commonly due to hunting, capture for the pet trade and habitat destruction.



Macaques Like to Eat Interesting Foods

Macaques are omnivores, meaning they eat a range of foods of plant and animal origin. Their diet is principally fruit, berries, seeds, shoots, flowers, herbs, but they will also eat insects, eggs, birds and rodents. Macaques spend a lot of time and energy searching and foraging for food, using both trees and the ground to search.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Offer foods in ways that encourages foraging behaviours. This reduces boredom and encourages positive interactions between individuals. Hiding food in puzzle feeders, foraging boxes and around the enclosure, both on the floor and on other levels, will simulate a natural foraging environment.



Macaques are Social



Macaques live in highly social environments and can live in large groups. Social bonds between individuals and the group are very important to them, and young macaques will learn their social and survival skills from other individuals in the group.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

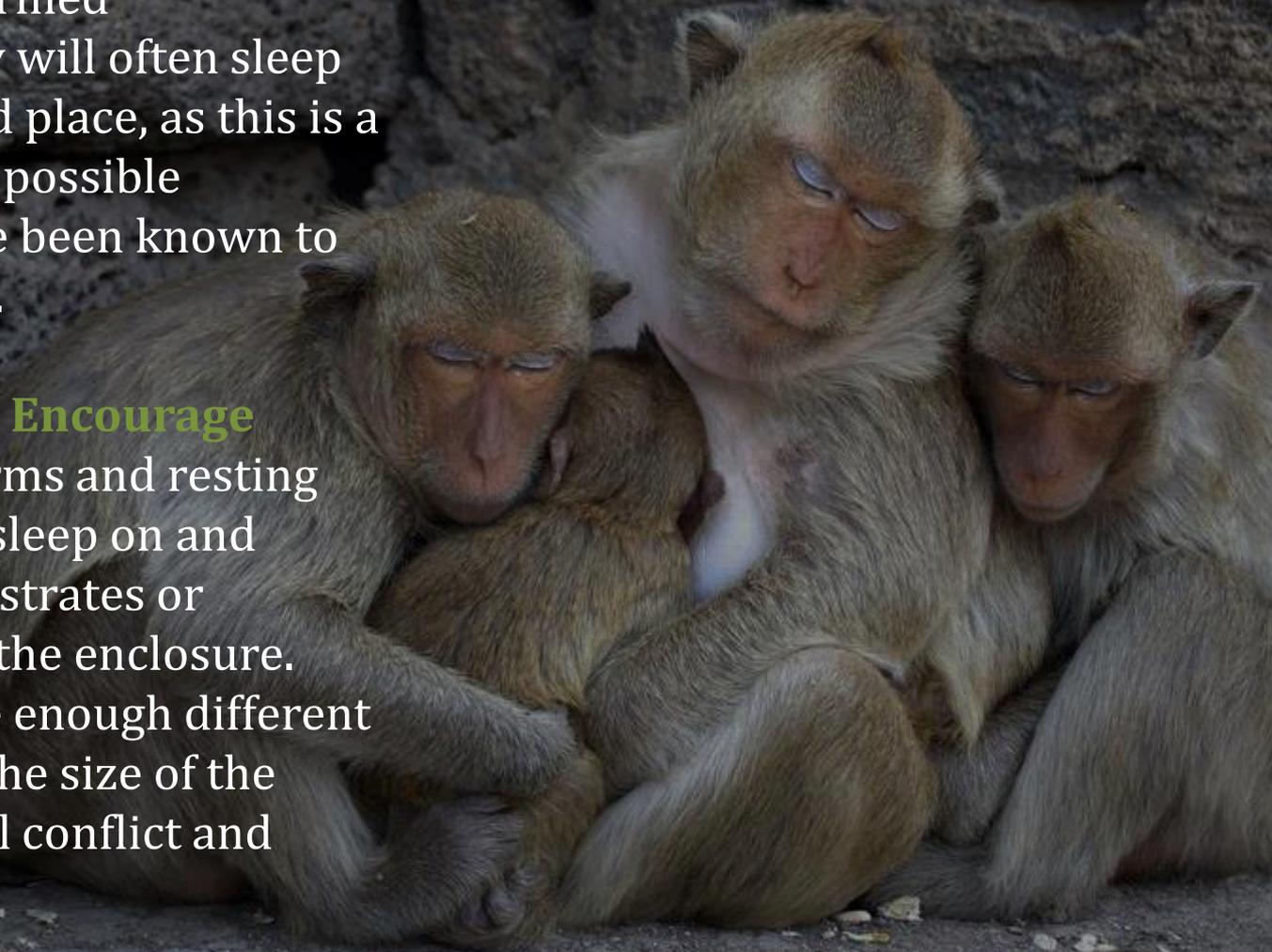
Macaques should be kept in socially compatible groups that allow for individual and group relationships to develop. Submissive individuals should be given opportunities to hide or remove themselves from aggressive situations, while young macaques should be given the opportunity to interact and learn from the wider group.

Macaques Like to Sleep

Macaques like to rest and will often choose to do so in pairs or groups, with individuals they have formed relationships with. They will often sleep in trees or in an elevated place, as this is a safer option, away from possible predators, but they have been known to sleep on the ground too.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Provide multiple platforms and resting places for macaques to sleep on and provide natural soft substrates or bedding for the floor of the enclosure. Always ensure there are enough different areas to accommodate the size of the group, to avoid potential conflict and competition.



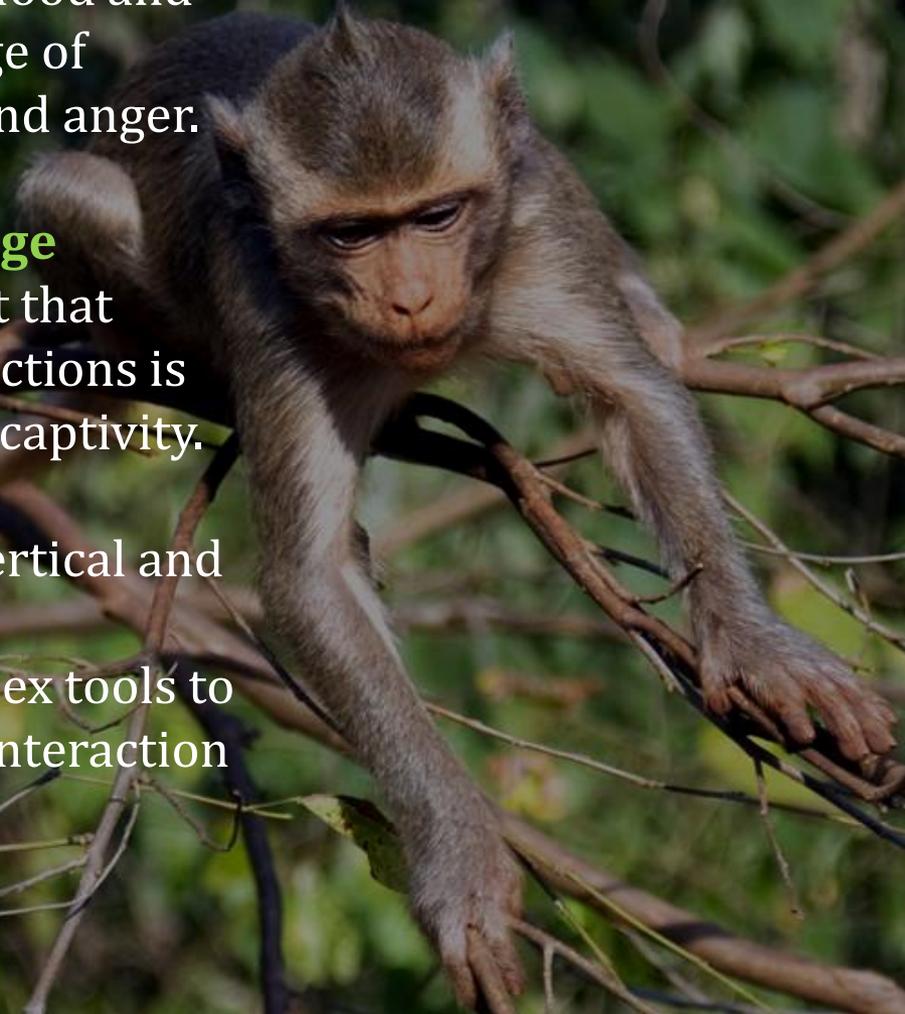
Macaques are Intelligent

Macaques are intelligent, which is often seen in highly social species that live in complex groups. They can use tools to get food and water and display a complex range of emotions, such as sadness, love and anger.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

A complex and large environment that provides for positive social interactions is really important for macaques in captivity.

The enclosure should allow for vertical and horizontal movement and should incorporate toys and other complex tools to encourage puzzle solving, social interaction and positive behaviours.



Macaques Can Swim

Many species of macaque can swim and enjoy being in water. They use it to cool off, get warm and even chase food or play - macaques have even been known to dive.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Providing an opportunity for macaques to use water through a pool, lake or other water resource will encourage natural and positive interactions and play by young macaques. Throwing durable toys or food into the water will encourage diving and play behaviours.



Macaques like to Communicate

Macaques have a wide repertoire of vocalisations, used in a variety of social contexts. These vocalisations can be used to maintain peace, approach a higher ranking individual and help maintain contact with group members. They can also provide different calls for when food has been found or if there is a potential threat.

Positive Behaviours to Encourage

Allow complex social interactions to develop in captivity, between both adults and younger individuals, that will encourage a wide range of natural vocalisations to be used by the group.



Macaques Enjoy...

Playing, eating different and interesting foods and forming close bonds with other macaques.

In captivity we should always try and replicate their natural and normal behaviours, so they are happy and healthy throughout their lives.

