

ANIMAL ANECDOTES: WEEK 1

Monkey Monday

Monkey Monday: Each Monday we will be highlighting a different species of monkey that lives at the Oakland Zoo! What makes a monkey? Monkeys are “anthropoid” primates with tails!



Squirrel Monkeys

Squirrel monkeys are small, highly social monkeys that live in tropical rainforests of South America. They engage in a behavior called “urine washing,” where they rub urine on their hands and feet to mark their territory. They also distribute a stinky secretion throughout their fur, especially the tail, which allows members of the troop to follow along as they jump through the trees. This stinky secretion also prevents hunters from killing them for food!

‘Tame’ Tuesday

Each Tuesday we will be highlighting a species that lives at Oakland Zoo which is domesticated, or “tame.” What is a domesticated animal? A species that has a relationship with people and is kept as a pet or on a farm!



Dromedary Camels

There are two main types of camels: dromedary—which have one back hump; and Bactrian— which have two humps. Dromedary camels make up about 94% of the world’s population and inhabit the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, most notably the Sahara Desert. Dromedary camels are no longer considered a wild animal as they have been domesticated as livestock. They provide meat, milk, textiles, and transportation to humans. One common myth about camels is that they store water in their humps. This is inaccurate because the hump is simply a fatty deposit, though it may help them go for long periods without food or drink in the hot arid habitats where they live.

Native Wildlife Wednesday

Each Wednesday we will be highlighting a species that lives at Oakland Zoo that can also be found in the wild in California!



California Condors

California Condors came back from the edge of extinction and are largely considered a conservation success story— there were once only twenty-two individuals left in the world! All of them were brought into captivity and now there are about 400 in the wild thanks to captive breeding and release. Condors are the largest bird in North America, with a wingspan of 9-10 feet. Interestingly, when it gets hot outside condors will poop on their legs to cool themselves. As the poop evaporates it has a cooling effect, much like our sweat does!

Tropical Thursday

Each Thursday we will be highlighting a species that lives at Oakland Zoo that would be found in a tropical area in the wild! What areas are considered tropical? Ones around the equator! These areas get more direct sunlight than other areas and are typically much warmer and wetter.



Siamangs

Siamangs are the largest of the lesser apes and live in the forests of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. They tend to form a monogamous pair, meaning that a male and a female siamang will stay bonded together and have babies only with each other. They have a throat pouch that can inflate to the size of their heads, which helps them call out to each other in the dense rainforests. Their calls can be heard up to two miles away!

Felidae Friday

Each Friday we will be highlighting a species that lives at Oakland Zoo from the family Felidae, which includes all cats!



Mountain Lions

Mountain lions have the largest geographic range of any terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere, showing that they are well adapted for many different habitats! Mountain lions from warm or humid areas tend to be darker in color, while the cats from drier habitats are lighter in color. Due to their wide geographic range, they have more names than any other mammal in the United States including puma, cougar, and catamount. Columbus was supposedly the first to call this cat a lion because of its similar coloration to African lions.

Savanna Saturday

Each Saturday we will be highlighting a species that lives at Oakland Zoo that would be found living in an African savanna in the wild! What is a savanna exactly? A savanna is a grassy plain in tropical and subtropical regions, with few trees.



Zebra

There are three distinct species of zebras with several subspecies— the Grant's zebra is the smallest subspecies of the plains zebra. They can be found throughout southeastern Africa, from northern Zimbabwe to Sudan. They are herbivores and are prey to many large carnivores that inhabit the savannas, thus they can run up to 40 miles per hour! Antelope rely on zebras to clear away tough outer layers of grass since they are the only grazer to have both upper and lower incisors, which are used to snip the grass rather than pull it out.

Ursidae Sunday

Each Sunday we will be highlighting a species that lives at Oakland Zoo from the family Ursidae, which includes all bears!



Brown Bears

Brown bears are so diverse and widespread that they were once divided into 232 living and 39 fossil subspecies including grizzly bears and coastal brown bears, as well as Kodiak bears. The grizzly bear is featured on the California flag, though no brown bears have been seen in California since 1924. Early settlers in California often reported seeing over 50 grizzly bears in one day, and in San Francisco they could be seen in herds. Currently in the United States they are primarily found in Alaska, though populations are increasing in the Rockies and western Great Plains regions.

Need more? Explore all of our animals on our website at www.oaklandzoo.org/our-animals.