

# ANIMAL ANECDOTES: WEEK 3

## *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!



### Cotton-Top Tamarins

Cotton-top tamarins are one of the world’s smallest monkeys, found only in forests and woodlands in northwestern Colombia. They are critically endangered and one of the rarest primates anywhere, with only about 6,000 individuals left in the wild. In their groups, cotton-tops act altruistically by sharing food equitably and engaging in “cooperative breeding,” a system in which every adult cares for the babies despite familial relation. Now that’s some teamwork!

## *‘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!

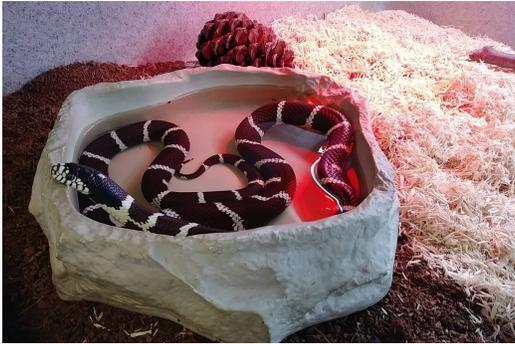


### Domestic Goats

The very first goats to be domesticated were 10,000 years ago in Asia, making these animals the world’s most ancient domesticated species. That means that the human-goat partnership is even older than that of humans with dogs! There are over 300 different breeds of domestic goats around the world now, and they can vary greatly in size, features, and function. Goat fur can be used for clothing. Goat milk is drunk and used to make cheese. Goat poop is even used for fuel! And since they tend to have a very calm demeanor, goats can even serve as therapy animals, petting zoo stars, or even yoga partners.

## *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 King Snakes

California King Snakes are called this because other snakes are a big part of their diet. In fact, they are famous for being one of a select few animals that can prey on rattlesnakes. King snakes have a resistance to the potent hemotoxic venom in rattlesnake fangs, so their prey's best weapon becomes useless. And when king snakes are in trouble from their own predators, they will play dead, hiss, strike, or even pretend to be a rattlesnake themselves!

## *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.



### Blue and Yellow Macaws

Blue and Yellow Macaws are a large, brightly-colored bird that resides in tropical and semi-tropical South America. Like other parrots, macaws are highly intelligent and can perform many of the same intellectual tasks as a one- or two-year-old human! They are quite social and will not only hang out in large groups of their own kind, but can be found in mixed-species flocks with other types of birds. Their strong beaks allow them to crack open tough nutrient-rich nuts and seeds. They also eat fruits and even riverbank clay, which helps to settle their

tummies. Parrots are loyal partners who will pair bond for life and take care of their chicks cooperatively as a team. That sounds to me like a splendid squawk squad!

## *Felidae Friday*

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

### African Lions



African Lions are the world's second-largest felid, or member of the cat family, and the biggest in Africa. They prefer sub-Saharan plains, savannah, and open woodland, and despite their name have historically ranged into Asia and Europe. Lions are completely unique within cats in how social they are. Their groups, or "prides," can reach more than 2-dozen individuals, although 15 is more common. These groups work together as a team to hunt zebra, antelope, or their preferred prey - wildebeest. Adults males are easily

distinguished from the females by their large, brown, furry manes around their necks. These protect them in fights with rivals and against other kinds of carnivores. The darker these manes, the more fit the male is!

## *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.

### Reticulated Giraffes



Giraffes are the tallest land animal alive today, and their preferred habitats are savannahs, grassland, and open woodland in Africa. The reticulated giraffe - known for its pattern of large brown polygons spaced by creamy white base coloring - live only in a small section in the east of central Africa. Their long, dextrous tongues, covered in a thick saliva, help them when they eat leaves off of thorny acacia trees. And that's not all - these tongues can get to nearly a foot and a half long, and are a dark purple in color to help protect against the

strong rays of the sun in their region. Those are some super shielded slurpers!

## *Ursidae Sunday*

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



### Sun Bears

Sun Bears may be the tiniest of the eight bear species, weighing in at fewer than 200 pounds fully grown, but they have some of the longest bear claws. In fact, their claws are even longer than those of the mighty polar bear, which outweigh sun bears five times over! The reason for these impressive tools is to help them climb trees to get to fruits and safety, and to make ripping open logs and insect mounds for snacks even easier. You may have heard of them referred

to as honey bears, too, which clues you in to their sweet tooth. Their long ten-inch tongues can really help them with that!

**Need more?** Explore all of our animals on our website at [www.oaklandzoo.org/our-animals](http://www.oaklandzoo.org/our-animals).