



Capuchin

Species Name: *Sapajus apella*

These arboreal primates are also called Tufted Capuchins, Brown Capuchins, Guianan Brown Capuchins and Margarita Island Capuchins. They are recognizable by their black sideburns and tufts of dark fur above the ears.

Males tend to be larger, heavier, and have larger canines.

Their tails are about the length of the rest of their bodies and are considered 'prehensile', meaning they are used for grabbing and holding onto objects. The tail is mainly used for feeding and foraging or hanging from branches, and also helps with stability of the body while sitting, and assisting in directional changes when in motion.

Omnivorous. Plants: fruits, leaves, flowers, nectars, nuts, seeds, and piths. If fruits or nuts cannot be opened with the teeth or jaws, tools are used to reach the flesh. Oftentimes fruits are opened by smashing them on tree surfaces. Animals: insects, frogs, lizards, birds, and young titi monkeys.

Highly social: they live in groups of 5-15 members with a dominant male. The alpha drives away predators, gets first preference during foraging, and mates the most often. Social grooming is common. Sharing care of young by multiple females is also common.

Reproduction: These animals are polygamous (multiple partners). The female will change her vocal calls and use certain postures to attract males. There is no set breeding season, though most births occur during the dry or early rainy season (October-January). Offspring: 1 infant per female.

HERE AT ALAMEDA PARK ZOO:

There are 8 capuchins, a mix of female and male. Can you identify the alpha male by his behavior? His name is 'Eyebrows' because he likes to raise and lower his brow in quick succession.

Distribution: South America (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, French Guiana, Suriname Guiana, and Venezuela)



Fast Facts



Conservation Status: Critically endangered

Adult Body Length: 13-22 inches

Weight: 3-9 pounds

Gestation: 180 days

Number of young: 1

Habitat: From rainforest to low land, humid to dry climates inhabiting almost every type of forest in the Neotropics.



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