Probable Iron Toxicity In a Brown Lemur
We support responsible monkey ownership and the right to be fairly regulated in every state!

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If you would like to see your monkey’s face on our new website, and have not yet sent in a photo, do it now! Short biographies or stories (optional) can be sent in along with your photos!!

http://www.monkeymatters.com

Please send your original stories, letters, photos and videos to:
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Send a floppy or attach your file and send to:
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"Mo’ Monkeys!"
(Photo of spider monkey Kia) - See more photos of your monkeys on page 27)

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Baby vervet monkey “Sammy Sue” climbs and cuddles with her dog companion while monkey mom Jo Greene takes a photo.

Vervets are one primate that change colors as they mature. Sammy Sue’s face will be black in maturity and she will develop a white cheek ruff. (Photo from Jo Greene)
Hanging Out!!

Adult squirrel monkey Abby picking edible impatiens flowers.....(More on abby in the next issue)

(Editor’s note:) Dear Mr. Garcia,

The type of monkey you are interested in is commonly called the white-faced capuchin, sometimes also called the white-fronted capuchin or black-and-white capuchin, scientific name Cebus capucinus. The attractive white-faced capuchin, approximately six pounds in size, has been popular for use in television commercials and movies. The monkey that once appeared on the television sitcom “Friends” was a white-faced capuchin. This same monkey is now called “Rally Monkey” and is used by a Los Angeles sports team as a mascot. Keep in mind that what you are seeing though, is a carefully trained monkey, which has been handled by a professional trainer who used behavior modification. Many people who buy this type of monkey end up selling or placing them in a sanctuary due to maturational aggressive behavior. This behavior is more likely to surface when a monkey is raised by someone who is NOT a professional trainer and inadvertently mishandles the primate.)
The subject of this article is iron problems in primates. I learned about this the hard way. A brown lemur named Wiley, who lives at the place where I work, became quite emaciated, no interest in being his usual ornery self, lost luster to his eyes and seemed to be drinking more than normal amounts of water.

My boss had a Ringtail Lemur die a couple years ago after exhibiting the same symptoms. He had taken Jupiter to the vet. She x-rayed, drew blood and I have no idea what else she ran in the way of tests. She pronounced there was nothing wrong but, FOR SOME STRANGE REASON Jupiter QUIT EATING AND DIED IN TOM’S ARMS WHILE BEING ROCKED IN A BLANKET ONE NIGHT! AND THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG?

So, I put the question and problem to a Lemur Breeders Group. That is where I learned that Lemurs should never be given citrus, as the Vit C encourages iron assimilation and certain amounts of iron is toxic to Lemurs. They need very very little and when their bodies don’t utilize iron, the iron builds up in the bodies. The lemur breeding group did not know what to do other than suggesting high tannic
foods and offering plain old black tea to drink along with the water. The black tea should be decaffeinated.

I started Wiley on the black tea and he lapped it up like it was next thing best to sliced bread! He responded and starting acting better, at least for two weeks. Then he started going downhill some more.

So I did more research and found when Hemochromastosis occurs in humans there is no cure but what is done, even in this day and age is regular blood lettings. “Donating blood” essentially cleans out the blood as drawn blood is replaced. Of course this will not work with Lemurs.

So I researched further and found the main reason is liver toxicity, which is fatal because it creates free radicals. The victim dies because of liver failure, kidney failure and diabetes. So read up on herbs and natural remedies and present my plan to the boss. He said we have to do something and this sounds like the only thing we can do, even though we don’t really know if this iron toxicity is the problem.

Within 24 hours Wiley responded. He is acting better everyday, ornery again, more active in that he now bounces around his enclosure and shows interest in life again. I dissolve one Melatonin tablet and 1/2 capsule Milk Thistle into fresh water dish daily, along with the black tea.

I dissolve one Melatonin tablet and 1/2 capsule Milk Thistle into fresh water dish daily, along with the black tea.
Housing

An Insulated Treehouse.....

In warm weather areas like Florida and California, an insulated dog house, complete with a bed of blankets, can help keep away the winter drafts. To make the insulated dog house more primate friendly, build a table as a base to make it higher. Screw eyes were placed at the corners of the base to keep the house in place. Gueedy, adult spot-nosed guenon, enjoys its coziness......
Mick’s Bath

Mick was itchy, and because marmosets urine scent, an indication that a bath might be needed. I filled up the kitchen sink with warm water and just held our adult common marmoset “Mick” and talked to him. He did great! He didn’t “scream” or anything. If he could have gotten a hold of me, I am sure he would have bit me, but I just held him with my finger and thumb around his neck and he rested in the palm of my hand and I rinsed him over and rubbed his fur with my other hand. He took it like a champ!

He still digs in his ears and rubs his face on his blankets. I have cleaned around his ear and inside his ears the best I could but still scratches. I haven’t gotten any “black or dark” stuff out of his ears, (which could mean ear mites), only kind of yellow/gold color...like ear wax in our ears. He is so precious. We need to clip his nails again. We didn’t want to stress him out too much in one week so one day this week we will tackle his toes! HaHa.
I have found that if I treat him with a special food after he gets so upset with us, he comes around a lot quicker. He loves sugar-free Jello. He gets a bite or two after a stressful event. Also, I found a product called: “Missing Link” Omega 3 Basic...All vegetarian powder. It’s nutritionally great for monkeys. I have been a little mixed in his organic sweet potatoes mixed up...Gerber Baby Food Product. He doesn’t know he is eating it. It mixes real well. I called the company and explained what I was doing and they sent me some free. One pound bag costs $17.95. Usually given to dogs/cats...1 tsp per 20 lbs of weight. I only give him a very little. Anyway, I sincerely hope the outcome is going to be helpful in his diet. It really bothers Kevin and I to see him scratch so much. He is still scratching but not like he was.

I’m not sure how often I can bathe him in warm water with out drying out his skin. I really can’t be sure that I did a thorough bath the first time since it was the first time and he was trying to bite me, but I think the second time I can do a much better job. The first time if you remember me telling you I held him under the faucet and you explained his behavior was he thought I was trying to drown him or he was just scared of the water running over him. This is why I filled up the sink and placed him in the water gently. Duh???? Thank goodness we overcome that incident. Of course it took over a week for him to have anything else to do with me.

(Love and Mick kisses...Harriet)
Are fig trees toxic to monkeys.....

Q

My vet says figs aren’t poisonous, but the pet shop has them on their posted list of poisonous plants. Do you know if they are poisonous to primates?

A

When looking at poisonous plant lists it’s best to look at lists that break down which part is poisonous and which part of the body is affected and how severely. The sap of the fig is mildly irritating to some people but doesn’t bother capuchins, guenons, spider or squirrel monkeys.

Oily skin and fur.....

Q

Dear Monkey Helpline,

My adult common marmoset monkey has oily skin and fur. Do you know what the reason could be?

A

Excessive skin oiliness is sometimes associated with food allergies (Common food allergens are cow’s milk, corn, wheat, citrus, peanuts and eggs).

It may also be caused by B vitamin deficiency.

Oily skin and skin lesions have been produced experimentally in rats by placing them on a B6 deficient diet. B12 and folic acid also appear to have a role in improving some cases of oily skin. For best health and skin results, make sure your monkey is getting the full complex of B vitamins each day in a small section of a chewable tablet or sprinkled from a capsule into his food.

More often it is diet that plays a role in oily skin. If your monkey has oily skin he may be getting too much of the wrong kinds of fat. Review the following checklist: Make sure your monkey is not eating fried foods, animal fats or heat-processed vegetable oils such as those sold in supermarkets. Don’t feed your monkey foods labeled as containing partially hydrogenated or hydrogenated vegetable oil. These are transfats and are harmful.
to monkeys, regardless of whether their skin is oily. Do not feed your monkey food cooked with oil or foods with oils that have been subjected to heat, whether in processing or cooking. These are all very unnatural products for monkeys and they often don’t adapt to them as people do. Good sources of fat for your monkey include flax seed meal or oil and evening primrose oil.

Keep your monkey’s skin clean with a warm water bath or shower once or twice a week, if he will tolerate it. The herb lavender is also good for oily skin and your oily skinned monkey can be misted with lavender tea several times a day.

Infants with flaky skin.....
Dear Monkey Matters,
My Old World monkey had yellow scaly flakes on his skin, especially around his tail as an infant. We put him on a good diet and it is clearing up now. Do you know what causes this?
Thank you, Julie

Dear Julie,
This is similar to the “cradle cap” syndrome found in humans. Biotin deficiency, due to a deficiency in the mother, is the most common cause. Breeders need to be aware that breeding female primates need a better than average diet (complete vitamin and mineral supplements recommended along with essential fatty acids from flax seed oil or meal), and their diets should not include table scraps or junk food.

Breeding diet: All breeding female primates need a better than average diet (complete vitamin and mineral supplements are recommended along with essential fatty acids from flax seed oil or meal), and their diets should not include table scraps or junk food.
Facial bumps can be a symptom of tooth problems.....

It seems my adult female squirrel monkey lost a tooth at some point in time; it’s the one in the front just to the side of the lower fang. She developed a bump on her chin and I thought that my other squirrel monkey might have bitten her. The bump got bigger and bigger and finally burst, then it cleared up and started again. I looked in her mouth and noticed the missing tooth was directly above the abscess in her chin.

I am going to take her to the vet this week because I am sure it hurts her; she has gone from spending almost no time in her hammock to now half of the day in her hammock.

Subsequently her swelling has gone down, but this is the third time it has blown up and then popped and gone back down. That’s definitely the problem because I saw it on the X-ray when I took her in about 8 months ago. I was hoping that before I make her appointment you might have some information.

Thanks, Rob

Dear Rob,

See your veterinarian as soon as possible. Many veterinarians prescribe antibiotics in such cases. Sometimes after a course of antibiotics, the root seems to die and there appears to be no ongoing infection. It is probably better for the monkey’s health to have the root removed but not all veterinarian choose to.

Monkeys and toothache:

Signs and symptoms: Initially, toothache is usually intermittent, but it is often worse at night. Toothache can be followed by abscess formation, whereupon the pain becomes more continuous and the tooth is very sensitive to pressure, especially during biting. An acute abscess may be accompanied by facial swelling, lymphadenopathy, pyrexia and general malaise. Chronic abscesses may have the appearance of a ‘gum boil’ and may swell intermittently, then subside as pus drains into the mouth. By this stage, there is usually no more pain.

Advice and treatment: Paracetamol or ibuprofen will help relieve the pain and reduce pyrexia, but obviously the primate should be seen by a veterinarian who does dental work as soon as possible. For an acute abscess, antibiotics will be required, followed by removal of the dead pulp (root treatment) or extraction of the tooth......
**Page Turners!**

**PRIMATE FACTOIDS:**

- With New World monkeys, like spiders and marmosets, which live in Central and South America, males and females are about the same size.
- With Old World primates, like guenons, macaques and the great ape (orangutan) above, the males are noticeably larger in size.
IT’S NOT A MASK!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN...

...from adult male orangutan Clyde. As the dominant male, Clyde is gentle Dad with his son and gentle too with female orangutans he shares his habitat with. If his boisterous son gets too rowdy, Clyde avoids him by leaving the area.

PRIMATE FACTOIDS:

- Orangutans come from Borneo and Sumatra and are endangered. The old male orangutan is often referred to as the “old man of the forest”.
- While orangutans are quiet primates, Muller’s gibbons also inhabit Borneo. With their territorial hooting, gibbons are one of the noisiest primates.....
**Q:** What is West Nile Virus infection?
**A:** The West Nile Virus infection is one that is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. It usually causes a mild illness, but may also cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

**Q:** Who gets West Nile virus infection?
**A:** Anyone, INCLUDING ANY MONKEY, can get West Nile Virus infection if bitten by an infected mosquito. However, even in areas where transmission of West Nile Virus is known to be occurring, less than 1% of the mosquitoes are likely to be infected.

Even if an infected mosquito bites a monkey, the chance of developing serious illness is estimated at less than 1%. Primates who have weakened immune systems and older primates are at greater risk of developing a more severe form of the illness.

**Q:** What other animals have been found infected with WN?
**A:** Mostly birds, but also exotic animals, horses, cats, bats, chipmunks, skunks, squirrels, and domestic rabbits.

**Q:** Can the virus survive through the winter?
**A:** Yes, overwintering mosquitoes can still carry the virus.

**Q:** What time of the year would WN be contracted? Is it seasonal?
**A:** In the north: later summer and early fall are the worst. In the south: can occur at any time.

**Q:** Is the WNV well established in

---

**Adult de Brazza gue- non (outdoor breeder).**

Do not use scented baby powder, scented soaps or shampoos on your monkey, since they can attract mosquitoes.
the US?
A: Yes, the WNV is here to stay.

Q: Do all mosquitoes bite?
A: No, only adult female mosquitoes bite. Male mosquitoes feed on plant juices only.

Q: Do all mosquito species transmit the West Nile Virus?
A: There are many species of mosquitoes; the adult *Culex pipiens* mosquito (the common house mosquito) is the one most commonly associated with the West Nile virus.

Q: Why are some people and animals bitten more than others?
A: There are many factors. Cologne, perfumes and scented body lotions can attract mosquitoes. Dark colored clothing is also more attractive to mosquitoes. During evenings, nighttime and dawn, mosquitoes are most active in searching for blood, so primates outdoors during that time are more likely to be bitten. Finally, everyone’s body is different, and some people and animals produce odors more enticing for mosquitoes.

Q: Where do mosquitoes live and thrive?
A: The common house mosquito lays its eggs in standing water around the home and yard. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes also provide an outdoor home for the mosquito.

The early symptoms of WNV which are easiest to detect in a primate include fever, skin rash and swollen lymph nodes.

SYMPTOMS, TESTING AND TREATING WNV

Q: If your monkey gets a mosquito bite, should he be tested for West Nile Virus infection?
A: No, most mosquitoes are not infected with West Nile Virus. See a veterinarian if he develops the symptoms below.

Q: What are symptoms of the WN virus?
A: Fever, headache, body aches. Sometimes skin rash and swollen lymph glands (lymph glands around the monkey’s throat area are easiest to check). Severe infections include headaches, fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, weakness, paralysis, death.

Q: How soon after exposure do symptoms appear?
A: The symptoms generally appear about 3 to 6 days after exposure but may appear as soon as 1 day after exposure or as late as 7 to 15 days.

Q: Does past infection with West Nile Virus make a person or animal immune?
A: Probably. A person or animal who gets West Nile Virus will probably not get it again.
Q: What is the treatment for West Nile Virus infection?
A: There is no specific treatment. Supportive therapy will be used in more severe cases. Most people and animals recover from this illness.

Q: What should I do if I think my primate has WN?
Contact your monkey’s veterinarian. There is no specific therapy, but intensive supportive therapy involving hospitalization is usually given to bad cases, IVs, airway management ventilators are often used.

Q: Is there a vaccine for West Nile Virus?
A: There is no vaccine.

Q: What can be done to reduce your primate’s risk of getting WN?
Keep him inside at dusk, dawn, and early evening. Spraying with 35% DEET, is probably too strong for monkeys. Use Avon Skin-So-Soft, a nontoxic bath oil that has been safely used for years as a mosquito repellant. This can be sprayed on monkeys who will cooperate, avoiding their eyes. Vitamin B, ultrasonic devises or other repellents probably will not work.

Q: HOW DO I MAKE MY ZOO OR OUTDOOR PRIMATE COLONIES SAFE?
Controlling mosquitoes or eliminating mosquito-breeding sites around the home and primate enclosure can prevent West Nile infection.

1. Avoid getting mosquito bites by using nontoxic Avon skin so soft as a repellant and for young monkeys who will wear clothes, by dressing them in long sleeved, light colored protective clothing.

2. Another way to control mosquitoes is to remove standing water where mosquitoes breed.
   · Remove or change water twice a week in anything that collects water around your home. This includes cans, birdbaths, pet dishes, toys, tires, flower pots, pools.
   · Clean clogged roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.
   · Turn over wheelbarrows, canoes and plastic wading pools when not in use.
   · Dispose of discarded tires properly.
   · Drill drainage holes in tires used for monkey swings.
   · Eliminate standing water on flat roofs. Do not leave trash can lids upside down.
Do not allow water to collect in the bottom of trash cans.
- Adjust tarps over grills, firewood piles, boats and swimming pools to eliminate standing water.
- Regrade drainage areas and clean out debris in ditches to eliminate standing water in low spots.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools.
- Aerate garden ponds.
- Fix leaky water faucets and eliminate condensation puddles around air conditioners.
- Store pet food and water bowls indoors when not in use......
Our Anthropomorphic Best...

"Toys are toys but edible presents are divine....."

(Photo of black-capped capuchin Kayla from Joan.)

Name one type of monkey that looks a lot like a capuchin but isn’t!

Q of The Month!

(Flip to the next page for the Question Of The Month answer!)
Artist's Corner: Submit your own drawing of a monkey--drawn in any style--or submit your monkey photos to be drawn by one of our artists--along with a few sentences of information to: Artist's Corner • PO Box 85152 - MB181 • San Diego CA 92186 or to ceecee@monkeymatters.com

Suitable for framing?

This colorful trick-or-treat de Brazza guenon primate mask is found in many zoo gift shops.......❑

(Question Of The Month, continued)

Answer!  Black mantled howler.
Female vervet “Minky”, as a baby, above, was a wild living monkey born in South Africa. When she was left an orphan, she was hand raised with dogs and cats. Joan says, “Minkey used to travel everywhere on the dog’s back.”

Right, some of Minky’s vervet relatives are seen here socializing together in the wild. All monkeys need social opportunities with some species. (Photos from monkey mom Joan)
Looking At...

... the smiley Face Rattle from Sassy

Interacting and touching - “Go ahead, beep my nose, then take a peek in the mirror at something really cute!”

Even young monkeys have the grasp reflex (the ability to grasp things). Your monkey will hold onto the ears and show you how strong he is.

Looking at a monkey face in the mirror is interesting and stimulating for a young monkey and the sight of his or her own face will probably help to accept a monkey companion if one is introduced at a later time. The rattle of the beads and the beeping nose will help to keep your monkeys attention. He may rattle it, You may need to do the nose beeping.

Safety: For older monkeys who can bite and chew into things, the vinyl can be chewed off the ears and for mature macaques and some others, the nose would be chewed off as well, so keep this toy for youngsters only or under your supervision if you have any doubts about safety. Easy to wash. About $3.99...

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Sweet cover monkey vervet Sammy Sue cuddles up to her stuffed toy. Sammy Sue plays with her two pet dogs as well. (Photo from Jo)
Happy Thanksgiving From.....

M-o-m! - - -
Dad’s eating with his mouth open again!

(Adult male western lowland gorilla “Winston”)

(Adi’s baby vervet “Sammy Sue”)

(Joie’s Java macaque monkey “Java”)
In Loving Memory Of.....Sofie

This is for people who knew and loved Sofie, the Java macaque monkey:

At almost six years old. Sofie, my love, my life, passed away on 6-13-02.

Sofie had effected so many people in her short life. Sometimes she could be a little brat, but, not one day went by when she would not make us laugh. She was so loving and cuddly. She had many, many friends, because Sofie loved people and attention. Sofie had a special love/bond with children. No one will truly know how very much we all loved her and miss her so deeply. It is so awful to hurt this way.

For me, (her monkey mom), the loss is unbearable. I feel like my
heart has been ripped out of my body. I keep hearing her little “coos” in her bed and find myself waiting for her to peek out of her blankets to make sure I am still there. I will never, ever be able to replace my Sofie. She was so unique, so smart, so wonderful. I have lost my very best friend. My heart is broken. My Beautiful Baby is now in heaven with my husband, her Daddy and really “waking up” the place.

Good bye Sofie my love. I will always cherish the time we had together. I will love you and remember you forever.....

Your Monkey Mom, Jo Greene

In the next issue.....

See Joe’s adorable tamarins and a story about their behavior.
In Loving Memory Of.....Chipper

Dear Monkey Matters,
Enclosed are a few pictures of my beloved little squirrel monkey “Chipper” who recently passed away at the age of 22 years from old age. She was healthy her whole life. The vet said it was a heart attack. She got around good, had no arthritis. She was very interactive in her surroundings and had a good appetite right up to the end. Her favorite foods were eggs and grapes. She was the most delightful, loving little girl, curious by nature but never destructive. Her worst fault was stealing an occasional egg or stick of butter from the kitchen counter and running with it like a football. Then she would jump from one dining room chair to another until she finally dropped her stolen prize. She especially liked to snuggle up on my neck as I did my craft or sewing project.
Even in her old age, she was still the boss over our cinnamon capuchin “Heidi”. Heidi (see photo last page) grew up knowing Chipper and respecting her. She took it very hard also when Chipper died and wouldn’t play for weeks. She would just lay on her blanket and actually got tears in her eyes if I told her “Chipper went bye-bye” or looked at her empty cage. She still looks out the window for her but now she will go over and kiss Chipper’s picture every day.

We miss her a lot. She blessed our family for many years.

Sadly, Judith Lawter and Heidi

Mo' Monkeys!

Favorite hairdos.....Right, bonnet macaques always win! (Photo from Steve)

When “office manager” Jake, left, arrives at work.....watch out!! (Photo from monkey mom Dolly)
Monkeys are social/emotional creatures with complex social/emotional needs. They are animals that require serious, well-educated caretakers. Monkey care can be a rewarding and positive experience. Yet with improper understanding and precaution, some mature monkeys can be difficult or even dangerous to humans. A fulfilling and enriched captive life-style can be offered to all primates. Yet receiving improper human care and precaution can be detrimental and/or life threatening to monkeys. To an individual extent, monkeys change in their needs and behaviors at different life stages. They are subject to their own inherent traits, the effects of the environment(s) they have been raised in and whether or not they have a quality/bonded relationship with a human caretaker and/or other social animal. Keeping captive monkeys in pairs or groups as adults requires knowledgeable and vigilant caretakers. Two or more monkeys in a social relationship can result in social benefits and stimulation or in social challenges, tension and aggression, which can be life threatening. For pertinent information in addition to Monkey Matters, the Monkey Helpline is available. For personal experience plus referencing from dozens of primate books, write or call anytime (number inside) with your questions on behavior or care.....
Monkey Matters staff members have successfully placed a number of primates prior to officially starting our Primate Placement Service. We will continue to work with anyone who wants to place a primate up for adoption in deciding what type of home would best suit his or her individual primate's needs. **No money changes hands in a placement.** Where appropriate, we can recommend proper sanctuaries.

To adopt a primate, please contact us by mail only with your name, address, phone number, your years of experience with primates. List ages and types of primates, your vet's name (or name of one you plan to use), address and phone number.

◆ Your application will be kept on file.
◆ **Due to volume of correspondence, no replies will be made to applications until a primate is available.**

**Monkey Helpline Service:** If behavior is the problem, and you would still like to keep your monkey, please call our Helpline for possible solutions and problem solving skills.

Tel: (800) 796-7363, ext. 1100146  
E-mail: helpline@monkeymatters.com

Due to a change in editorial policy, we are currently not accepting ads.

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**Petition For Responsible Monkey Ownership**

To Whom It May Concern, We, the undersigned, are directly concerned with  ▲ the well-being of primates ▲ the education of private owners ▲ the rights of owners in each state to keep primates responsibly ▲ the rights of owners to be fairly regulated. Please keep our petition in favor of the fair private ownership of monkeys in your file. We support the right of citizens in every state to responsibly keep primates (as pet monkeys, as aviary monkeys, exhibitor monkeys, breeder monkeys and rescue monkeys) and our right to be fairly regulated. Where citizens have already lost their right to own monkeys, we support restoration of such rights.

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