Cooking for Anteaters and Marmosets

Rachael Ray, nor Emeril Lagasse, nor even the venerable Julia Childs have ever given me a cooking show! By Ron Glazier, Santa Ana Zoo Director, Retired

Red-handed tamarins can be found in Northern Peru, Brazil, Colombia, the Amazon Basin of Ecuador and Peru, and Colombia and Venezuela. By Ron Glazier, Santa Ana Zoo Director, Retired

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Facts:

To the loss of their tropical rainforest habitat. Tamarins live in groups of four to 15 members. All adult members of the group take care of the young. Red-handed tamarins are heavy sleepers, and they sleep together as a group.

Diets are varied periodically to take into account the loss of food occurring as a result of the animals’ size and nutritional requirements. At this time, the animals are consuming various foods, including meat, fruits, vegetables, and some prepared foods. The diet is adjusted accordingly in response to the animals’ behavior and the need for additional nourishment. Food is provided daily, and the animals are confined to their enclosures while eating.

The red-handed tamarin is a New World monkey named for the reddish-golden hair on their hands and feet. They have long tails and are capable of swimming. Unlike other primates, they have claws instead of nails on all their digits with the exception of their big toes.

Diets for some animals are specially created to stimulate mental and physical activities. These diets are prepared by the keepers specifically for the animals involved.

There are several national vendors that feed food to the animals that is not consumed by humans. Diets are prepared for the keepers specifically for each animal, and nutritional needs and limitations are added as required. Some of the food is also weighed or measured to ensure proper nutrition.

Animal Nutrition

American Association of Zookeepers (AAZ) has published the AAZ Nutrition Bulletin to maintain the health of zoo animals. The bulletin covers the importance of proper food preparation, nutritional requirements, and the impact of feeding practices on the health of zoo animals. The bulletin also contains guidelines for the development of feeding programs and the importance of nutritional testing.

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Some of the larger zoos even have animal nutritionists on staff, but most rely on adequate animal nutritionists on staff, but most rely on proper food preparation, nutritional requirements, and the impact of feeding practices on the health of zoo animals. The bulletin also contains guidelines for the development of feeding programs and the importance of nutritional testing.

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**Zoo News from Kent Yamaguchi**

Animals Updates — Summer 2009

A record number of monkey births continues this year with the arrival of a baby red leaf monkey and a baby owl monkey. Since last year’s season, we have welcomed a total of two red leaf monkeys and two baby owl monkeys. In fact we had one baby that was born on May 18. It appears the baby is healthy and a baby red leaf monkey is already using its tail to gain altitude when it was tested on May 20. The baby red leaf monkey will be on display for the first time this weekend.

The Zoo is currently in the process of acquiring additional red leaf monkeys. More information is available at the Zoo’s web site at www.sanzoo.org.

**Zoo Fable**

One day at the Santa Ana Zoo, the red-tailed hawks learned something about patience. After flying around their enclosure and hunting for prey, the hawks had not been successful in their efforts. One hawk flew over and perched on the branch of a tree, and the other hawk took a break and flew over to the television at the Zoo. The hawks had watched the television show for hours on end.

The hawks were learning an important lesson about patience. They had to wait for the right opportunity to catch their prey. This lesson also applies to humans. We learn to be patient in order to achieve our goals. In this case, the hawks were patient and waited for the right moment to strike.

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