



Black Handed Spider Monkey *Ateles geoffroyi*

Description: Spider monkeys get their name from the spider like appearance when they move through the trees. They use their prehensile tail as a 5th limb. There are 5 different subspecies of spider monkeys but black handed spider monkeys are smaller in size only weighing 15-20 pounds. They have a brownish, reddish body with black hands and faces.

Range: Spider monkeys are native to Central and South America.

Habitat: They can be found in tropical jungles, mangrove forests, and semi-deciduous forests.

Life span: The average lifespan is 27 years in the wild.

Natural Diet: Fruits and vegetables, small insects, and even small prey

Zoo Diet: Commercially produced monkey chow and fresh produce.



Behavior: Spider Monkeys live in large family groups from 4-40 monkeys. They are usually led on different foraging paths by a dominant female. They are arboreal monkeys, meaning they stay in the tree tops and rarely come to the forest floor. When threatened they will shake the tree branches and bark.

Reproduction: Female Spider Monkeys give birth to one baby ever 4 years or so. The baby monkey won't be fully weaned until about 2 years old even though it will already be swinging in the tree much earlier than that.

Conservation Status: Endangered

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