



# 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.



**Conservation Status:** Endangered

