

Aggression Management in Great Apes



Lorraine Miller

www.greatapeconsultancy.com

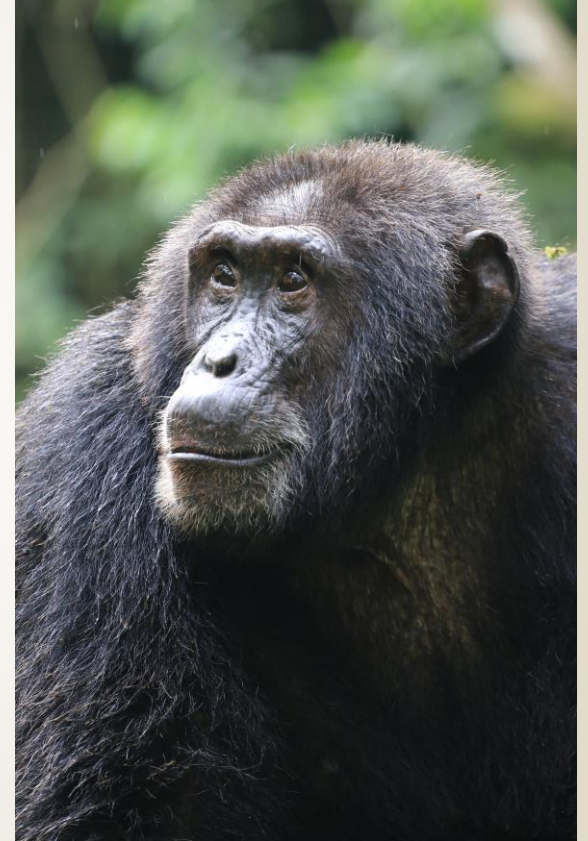
<https://www.facebook.com/greatapeconsultancy>

lorraine.miller@greatapeconsultancy.com



Aggression In Apes

- Addressing the cause to set your apes up for success
- Considering species natural history
 - Environment
 - Nutrition
 - Social situation
- Different for all ape species, especially taking small apes into consideration



Major causes of great ape aggression



Inappropriate social situations

- Wrong social situations
- Inability to replicate conditions of wild environment

Aggression management necessary





Fission Fusion Management

- Chimpanzees, Bonobos and Orangutans display fission fusion attributes to their movements during social interactions
- Replicating these in zoo housed apes can limit aggression caused by prolonged social contact



Fission fusion management systems



Managed fission fusion

- Keeper manages group size and composition, observing behaviours and altering social groups as and when needed

Animal led fission fusion

- Training apes to choose where and when they would like to socialize and who with.



Keeper managed Animal Led



Considerations for
mother/sons

Animal Led



Considerations
for dominant and
subordinate males

Keeper managed Animal Led



Socializing sessions vs
Self separation
slides on breakers

Introductions

Wild apes use fission fusion to transfer in and out of groups



As a natural and vital behaviour to establish appropriate social systems it is our responsibility to replicate this introduction process to find a balance between meaningful aggression and substantial injury to improve overall welfare

The Importance of Aggression



These species will use aggression as a form of communication

- establish dominance
- maintain hierarchies
- form alliances
- reprimand younger individuals
- play
- Teach



If we deter or stop these 'undesirable' behaviours we are removing an entire method of communication which will inevitably affect their welfare

Managing aggression during introduction



Setting yourself and your apes up to succeed

- Equipment (deterrents)
- **Team (experience)**
- Communication
- **Facility (extra beds for separation)**
- **Training (separation)**
- **Social situation**

(visual/audial access to group)

- Preparation and Observation

(personality profiles/Introduction videos
/Pre cursors to aggression)



Thank you
Any Questions?



lorraine.miller@greatapeconsultancy.com