

## Primate Speakers:



AZA RMC Aggression Management Webinar Series

Webinar 8: Primates



Keith Lovett, Wildlife Conservation Society, [klovett@wcs.org](mailto:klovett@wcs.org)  
Lainy Miller, Great Ape Consultancy, [lainymiller1@gmail.com](mailto:lainymiller1@gmail.com)  
Caitlin Kenney, Sunset Zoo, [Caitlin.kenney@cityofmnhk.com](mailto:Caitlin.kenney@cityofmnhk.com)  
Tabitha Brown & Deidre Timms, Tulsa Zoo  
[tbrown@tulsazoo.org](mailto:tbrown@tulsazoo.org), [dtimms@tulsazoo.org](mailto:dtimms@tulsazoo.org)  
Jessica Moody, Wildlife Conservation Society, [jmoody@wcs.org](mailto:jmoody@wcs.org)  
Pam Miller, Zoo Atlanta [pwinokur@zooatlanta.org](mailto:pwinokur@zooatlanta.org)  
Jodi Wiley, North Carolina Zoo, [jodi.wiley@nczoo.org](mailto:jodi.wiley@nczoo.org)  
Carlo Siracusa, University of Pennsylvania,  
[siracusa@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:siracusa@vet.upenn.edu)



**Participants:** 167 registered. Max observed = 70

**Guest questions – see recording for LIVE q&a:**

**Keith Lovett (New World Primates)**

**Lainy Miller (Great Apes)**

Q: Has anyone tried fission fusion with gibbons? Or does anyone have an acceptable amount of aggression from gibbons to keepers? Is a hand tap acceptable but hair pull not etc? (Erin Pritchard)

**Caitlin Kenney (Prosimians)**

Q: Does contracepting (depo provera) female ring-tailed lemurs during the breeding season have any effect on aggression levels? (Heather Myers)

A: Typically, depo provera does not significantly impact aggression levels. It can sometimes take the edge off for the female's behavior, especially if she's a particularly feisty individual, but that's about it. (Caitlin)

Q: How often have you had lemurs that are being intro'd fall from high heights? Our larger area has quite a bit of vertical. We have a deep bed of mulch but worried about a fall. (Jennifer Godwin)

A: Not very common if your individuals are healthy/ mobile. If you have any older animals or those with mobility limitations, it is riskier. Feel free to e-mail me if you'd like to chat more in depth. (Caitlin)

**Deidre Timms & Tabitha Brown (Fission/Fusion Management)**

**Jessica Moody (Use of Pharmaceuticals)**

**Pam Miller (AE Monkey Intros – Mixed Species Focus)**

**Jodi Wiley (Baboons)**

**Carlo Siracusa (Clinical Approach/Experience in Gorillas)**

**Late question: Has anyone tried fission fusion with gibbons? Or does anyone have an acceptable amount of aggression from gibbons to keepers? Is a hand tap acceptable but hair pull not etc?**

Answer from Lainy Miller via email follow-up: Personally I wouldn't think a fission fusion management would be appropriate for gibbons being a pair bonded species. I am guessing the issue is an ousted youngster that is not able to be moved on or similar? Hand tapping and hair pulling on occasion for me would be acceptable in the short term but if it escalated to biting or the frequency became consistent, the youngster would need to be moved on. When they want to remove an animal from their space an adult gibbon can cause significant harm and I would consider aggression in gibbons to be less 'normal or acceptable' than that of the other apes as it isn't usually a frequently seen behaviour.