

How are nonhuman primates socialized at WaNPRC?

At WaNPRC we have a dedicated behavioral management team that works closely with our veterinary and husbandry teams to provide the best possible care for our animals.

- Social housing is the DEFAULT housing condition for ALL animals.
- We maintain socialization rates of at least 80% or higher each month. This means that the majority of our non-exempted animals are socially housed each month.
- There are very important reasons why an animal may be singly housed for a period of time. These include:
 - Experimental reasons which require an approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) exemption that includes scientific justification.
 - Clinical reasons which requires an approved veterinary exemption.
- Rationale for all singly housed animals is reviewed every 30 days by the Attending Veterinarian, as required by federal law.
- Singly-housed animals receive extra enrichment in addition to standard daily enrichment.

What about the videos posted online?

The video posted on extremist websites pertaining to animals at the WaNPRC at the University of Washington were produced between 2012 and 2013. Between 2012 and 2017, four National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) participated in a joint research project focused on improving captive primate well-being by collecting and assessing temperament data based on an animal's response to novel stimuli.

Understanding temperament can lead to better individualized care and improved animal welfare. It can indicate how an animal might respond to research procedures, personnel, social interactions, positive reinforcement training, or novel enrichment.

What was the data collection process like?

- The temperament assessments were recorded on video so that they could be scored by the same individuals thereby reducing potential observer bias.
- During the assessment, an unfamiliar person stood in front of the animals' home cage for several minutes to see how they responded.
- Animals that were socially housed were temporarily separated from their partners, allowing each animal to be evaluated individually.
- Social pairs were reunited the same day, once the data for that room was collected.

What information did we gather?

- Some animals were unfazed by the presence of the unfamiliar person while others changed their behavior.
- The variation in the responses gives us insight into each animal's temperament.

The overarching goal of this research project *and* the philosophy of WaNPRC is to ensure a safe and enriching environment that supports the psychological well-being of the animal and the integrity of scientific data.