PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY LAB # 6

OBSERVATIONS OF PRIMATES: ZOO VISIT

INTRODUCTION

The Honolulu Zoo has in its collection a number of nonhuman primates. Visiting the zoo will serve as an introduction to the different primate species found there including their physical appearance and behavior. Be mindful however that the behavior of primates in captivity tends to differ from their behavior in natural habitats.

During your visit to the zoo visit as many of the primates that are available for observation by zoo visitors. The primate species at the zoo are not located in same area of the zoo.

Observe at least EIGHT different primate species found at the zoo, then submit the following:

- A *Primate Data Form* (see below) **one for each species** (in other words, 8 filled-in Primate *Data Forms*)
- PLUS a *Primate Observation Form on* ONE particular species of your choice.

These forms are to be turned in for a grade at the next regular lab meeting the following week. Your reports must be **TYPED** or **MACHINE PRINTED! No handwritten forms will be accepted**. ALSO, lab report will not be accepted unless your Zoo admission stub or some other proof that you visited the zoo to do this exercise accompanies it.

To make evaluating your work easier for me, please have your *Primate Data Form* conform to the following format for each species on which you are reporting. The front will have the following data:
| **Common Name:** Red-Shanked Douc Langur  |
| **Scientific Name:** Pygathrix nemaeus  |
| **Subfamily:** Colobinae  |
| **Family:** Cercopithecidae  |
| **Superfamily:** Cercopithecoidea  |
| **Suborder:** Anthropoidea  |

**Fascinating and/or Fun Fact:** Douc langurs are among the most colorful and attractive primates.

**Physical Characteristics:** 61-76 cm tall, tail 56-76 cm long, males up to 7 kg, females up to 5 kg. No color differences between genders, males slightly larger.

**Geographical Range and Habitat:** Only in forests of Laos and Vietnam.

**Diet:** Mainly leaves and buds, supplemented with fruits and seeds.

**Social Behavior:** Group size averages between 4 and 15, but some groups may have as many as 50 animals. In most groups the ratio of males to females is 1 male : 2 females. Males and females have their own hierarchies, and males are dominant to females. Upon reaching sexual maturity, both males and females emigrate into other groups.

**Status in the Wild:** Endangered
Primate Observation Form. Chose ONE of the primate species at the zoo and prepare a report as follows:

1. **Name** (common, scientific) of species being studied (a picture of the primate is optional).

2. Write a brief description of the zoo **environment** in which the species lives. In addition to the size of enclosure, be sure to indicate any special features such as a tree, boulder, log, watercourse, etc.

3. Briefly describe the observed **major locomotor habits**. Note whether or not they emphasize the use of the hindlimbs or forelimbs. Do they tend to move on the ground or in the trees? How do they position their hands in walking? Does the tail, if it has one, play a role in locomotion?

4. After you have observed your group for a short while, count the individuals. **How many animals** are in this population? How many (by your determinations) are infant, juvenile, subadult, and adult? Of these how many are male and how many are female?

5. Describe any social or other behaviors of this primate species that you observed during your visit.

A good place to start is Primarily Primates <http://www.primarilyprimates.org/> or the web site for the Honolulu Zoo: http://www.honoluluzoo.org. However, if you do use material from the web site or Internet, or a book, please do NOT plagiarize. Rather, put the information into your own words.