

Feline Primate Building Audio Script

Segment 1: Introduction

Welcome to Potter Park Zoo!

Today we are going to visit the Feline Primate Building. This audio tour is divided into multiple segments. You will learn information about each animal we currently house in this building. We hope you have a great time!

Segment 2: Snow Leopard

We are entering the Feline Primate Building. Starting in the Western corner on the left side of the building up a few steps or backtracking after taking the central ramp, the first habitat is the Snow Leopard's. This thick-furred big cat has a gray and white coat with dark rosette spots. Snow leopard tails are almost as long as their bodies at around three feet long. Their tails help them to keep warm and balance while climbing. Snow leopards are carnivores eating mostly hoof stock, small mammals, and game birds. This species is currently vulnerable. Snow leopards can be found on the high, rugged mountain slopes of Central Asia. In summer, they are active up to 18,000 feet - a height where most humans would struggle to breathe. Within this landscape, snow leopards leap up to 50 feet to catch their prey. Unlike the next cats, snow leopards cannot roar.

Segment 3: Amur Tiger

Moving on from the smallest big cat to the largest, the next habitat is the Amur Tiger's. Amur Tigers are big cats with distinct orange fur and black stripes. No two tigers have the same stripe pattern and even their skin is striped. Amur tigers are also carnivores, eating mostly wild boar and deer, as well as smaller animals and fish. There are five subspecies of tiger, all of which are endangered. These subspecies are the Bengal, South China, Indochinese, Sumatran, and Amur— formerly called Siberian— tigers. There are 400 to 500 left in the wild, making the species endangered. Amur tigers are found in the cold forests of the Russia Far East and China as well as Amur River valley between Russia and China. Unlike most members of the cat family, tigers like water. They are good swimmers and often cool off in pools or streams. Tigers communicate vocally through roars, groans and chuffing. They also communicate with scent glands and urine. Tigers can spray urine 6 feet behind them and use scent glands in their paws for cubs to follow.

Segment 4: African Lion

Following the Amur Tiger habitat is the African Lion habitat. Their short beige coats are accompanied by long, dark hair on the tip of their tails and, for males, large manes. Lions are carnivores that mostly hunt large prey. African lions are one of two species of lions: African and Asiatic. African lions are vulnerable whereas Asiatic are critically endangered. African lions wild habitat is open woodlands, grassy plains, and savannahs throughout most of sub-Saharan Africa. Lions are the only social big cats. They live in groups called prides. The female lions hunt and raise the cubs whereas males defend the pride. Lions usually spend most of the day resting and only about two to three hours hunting.

Segment 5: Cape Porcupine

Moving past the big cats and towards the center of the building is the Cape porcupine exhibit. These porcupines have dark brown fur with large noses and small limbs with claws. Long, mohawk-like hairs protrude from the head and upper back. A row of black and white striped quills goes across their backs. These quills may be up to 20 inches long and can be raised when threatened. Like all porcupine species, the quills cannot be shot or projected. The cape porcupine is about twice the size of Prehensile-tailed porcupines. Cape porcupines are typically herbivores; eating fruit, roots, tubers, bulbs and bark, and may occasionally eat carrion and bones. This species is of least concern. Cape porcupines live in a wide range of habitats, from forests to deserts, throughout central and southern Africa. Baby porcupines are born with soft quills and spines and are called 'porcupettes'.

Segment 6: Black-headed Spider Monkey

Towards the Eastern corner on the right side of the building is the black-headed spider monkey habitat. These dark black monkeys have prehensile tails that are longer than their bodies and used to move branch to branch and occasionally as another hand. Just like human fingerprints, each monkey has a different tail print. Their hands have four fingers and no thumb. Spider monkeys are omnivores that eat mainly fruits and nuts. At the zoo, they eat primate biscuits, fruit, vegetables, and leafy greens. Black-Headed spider monkeys are critically endangered. They live in the tropical forests of Central and South America. Unlike most primates, troops are led by an alpha female. The name "spider monkey" comes from their appearance when hanging from their tails with their arms and legs dangling down.

Segment 7: Northern Tree Shrew

Now moving towards the entrance of the building is the Northern tree shrew habitat. This habitat is unique in that two viewing areas are connected by a tunnel the Northern tree shrews can climb through. These gray to olive furred, small mammals have tails as long as their bodies, large black eyes, large flat ears, and long snouts. These shrews are omnivores that eat insects and fruit. At the zoo, they eat insectivore pellets, live crickets and mealworms, and produce. The Northern tree shrew species is of least concern. They live in the tropical and subtropical forests and shrublands of Southeast Asia. The Northern tree shrew has one of the highest brain to body ratio of any mammal. They cannot go for more than a day without water.

Segment 8: Ring-tailed Lemur

The final habitat of the Feline Primate Building is the ring-tailed lemur. These primates have primarily gray fur with a white underbelly and face as well as black facial markings and their iconic black and white striped tails. They are opportunistic omnivores, eating a variety of things based on availability, but the tamarind fruit is their most important food source. The ring-tailed lemur species is currently endangered. They live in Southern Madagascar's forest, shrubland, scrub, and brush. Ring-tailed lemurs can live in groups up to 30 related females with one dominant female.

Segment 9: Outro

Thank you for exploring the wonders of Potter Park Zoo's Feline Primate Building!

We hope you had a great time learning about all the animals inside this building.