

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

Breed: COTTON-TOP TAMARINS

Names / Sex / Age:

Fiat	F	5
U2	M	11

Previous Home: University of Wisconsin Madison, laboratory animals displaced when research program ended.

Native to: Northern Columbia, South America

Weight: 10-18 ounces

Life Expectancy: 25 years in captivity, about 13-16 years in the wild.

Status: Critically endangered

Diet: Insects, fruit, seeds, nectar, tree gum, vegetation, spiders, small vertebrates, bird eggs, mice, frogs, birds and lizards. At Black Pine, primarily vegetables, commercial primate diet (dry and canned), small amount of fruit, eggs, seeds.

Facts:

- Because lower canine teeth are longer than incisors, it appears they have tusks
- Among the smallest of primates
- Thumbs are not opposable and tails are not prehensile
- All but the nails on the thumbs are like claws; the thumbnail is flat
- Can leap over 3 yards from limb to limb
- When alarmed, will stand up tall and the hair on top of their head will stand up straight to make them appear larger
- Scent glands on the bottom of feet; will also slide their rear across surfaces to scent mark
- They have as many as 38 distinctive vocalizations
- A “threat face” is displayed when they lower their forehead until it forms a large bulge that almost covers their eyes, lips are pushed forward, and head and neck are erect

Personal History:

Fiat and U2 were among 18 individuals displaced from a university lab when researchers chose to end their project rather than begin invasive research. Originally, the animals were part of a behavioral research program, however funders wanted the lab to begin invasive research related to finding the cause of spontaneous colon cancer – which only is known to occur in humans and tamarins. The university provided several extra cages and propping to help them settle in to their new home. These were the first animals ever adopted from research.