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Lincoln Park
Zoo

Helen Brach Primate House

What: Opened in 1927, the Helen Brach Primate House at Lincoln Park Zoo is considered one of the zoo's major landmarks. The stately architecture of the building remains authentically intact, while the eight interior exhibits are larger, more modern and natural than the original design. Vines, trees and murals are used to create naturalistic living space. Each of the exhibits exemplifies a different ecosystem and can house multiple species that would normally be found in the same environment. There is also a large outdoor habitat which gives the white-cheeked gibbons an additional play space during warmer months.



Size: 23,700 square feet
Opened: 1927; exhibit renovations in 1992

Featured wildlife (see list of animals here): <http://www.lpzoo.org/helen-brach-primate-house>

Conservation Science Underway at the Primate House:

- **Reproductive Cycling Patterns in Pied Tamarins:**



Researchers at the zoo's Davee Center for Epidemiology and Endocrinology have studied the reproductive cycling patterns of pied tamarins. Pied tamarins are considered to be the most endangered Amazonian primate due to habitat loss and the competition from other species. Lincoln Park Zoo is home to one of only a handful of breeding pairs of this species in North America. Researchers are doing everything they can to understand and best conserve this rare species.

- **Comparative Study of Primate Energetics**

Primate House staff are working with Dr. Herman Pontzer (Hunter College) on a comparative study of primate energetics. By precisely recording metabolic rates through non-invasive measures, researchers can apply these findings to improving the health and wellbeing of a variety of primate taxa.

- **Species Survival Plans:** Many residents of the Helen Brach Primate House are a part of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's Species Survival Program (SSP). SSP is a cooperative breeding and management strategy that convenes experts in animal care and conservation who work toward maintaining genetically diverse, self-sustaining populations of more than 500 species of animals. Lincoln Park Zoo's Lead Keeper Bonnie Jacobs is the studbook coordinator for the Francois Langur SSP. Program participants cooperate on conservation and public education initiatives, research and support field conservation efforts to ensure species survival.