

Capuchin Monkeys



Hamilton
DENTAL ASSOCIATES

Capuchin monkeys are named that way because they look like tiny Spanish Capuchin monks with their white faces and dark brown robes and hoods on the heads. Capuchin monkeys are omnivores (eat both plants and animals). Majority of their diet consists of fruit, leaves, seeds, berries, flowers and buds. They also eat insects, spiders, oysters, birds, small mammals and eggs.

Interesting Capuchin Monkey Facts:

- The capuchin monkeys are New World monkeys of the subfamily Cebinae. They are readily identified as the “organ grinder” monkey and have been used in many movies and television shows. The range of capuchin monkeys includes some tropical forests in Central America and South America as far south as northern Argentina.
- Capuchin monkeys are little compared to other primates. They can reach 12 to 22 inches in length and weight between 3 and 9 pounds. Lifespan of capuchin monkey is 50 years in captivity.
- Capuchin monkey has prehensile tail that is the same length as the body.
- Body of capuchin monkey is covered with fur that is white (or light tan) on the face, neck and shoulders and dark brown on the remaining parts of the body.
- Capuchin monkeys are highly intelligent animals that use different kind of tools (sticks, branches, stones) to open shells, nuts and hard seeds.
- Capuchin monkeys spend most of their life in the treetops, where they can find food and avoid predators. Main predators of capuchin monkeys are boa constrictors, jaguars, hawks and eagles.
- Capuchin monkeys are territorial animals. They use special type of warning calls (sharp whistling) to alarm members of the group in the case of danger. “Purr” sound is produced when monkeys greet each other.

