

Rare Monkey Born at Zoo Now Ready for Her Closeup

■ Four-month-old colobus monkey now viewable at the L.A. Zoo.

A Kikuyu colobus monkey born at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens Oct. 28 is enjoying life in her habitat that she shares with her mother, father, aunt and brother.

Upon birth, the newborn weighed one pound. She had an eight-inch body length and was covered with white fur. She now is beginning to transform into her black and white adult coloration and "grow" what will become a spectacular white tail.

Colobus monkey groups, both in their natural environment, which is widespread across the midsection of Africa and in zoo settings, are socially cohesive groups. Thus, the infant is enjoying attention from all of her relatives. Living high in the trees of forested areas, colobus monkeys are well adapted for rapidly running, climbing and leaping through the trees, grabbing onto branches with their hook-like hands.



This three-month-old colobus monkey at the L.A. Zoo has lots of playmates and eyes watching her. The other four monkeys share babysitting duties.

At one time the Kikuyu colobus was severely threatened. Its beautiful fur was also its enemy. Rugs and wall hangings made from the fur were in great demand by tourists, and the monkey is also hunted for its meat. Conservation efforts and education have helped stabilize the wild population, but loss of habitat remains a threat.

Yet unnamed, this baby monkey can be "adopted" and named.

The colobus baby and family can be viewed daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Zoo is in Griffith Park, at the junction of the Ventura and Golden State Freeways. Admission is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children ages 2 to 12.

For more information, visit the Zoo Website at www.lazoo.org or call (323) 644-4200.

by Jackie David, Public Information Director, L.A. Animal Services

The Pet Club



Keeping Track of Pets Is Easy and Very Important

Technology is a wonderful thing, isn't it? You've got LoJack for your cars, LoJack bracelets for your kids and now, microchips for your pets.

A microchip is a simple Electronic Animal Identification System that is placed inside your pet, actually injected under the animal's skin. The chip contains your personal, one-of-a-kind identification number to distinguish your dog, cat, horse, bird or reptile as a special member of your family throughout its life.

A microchip is so tiny that it fits through a hypodermic needle. It provides your identification number when a scanner is passed over your pet—much like the scanner used at supermarkets and other stores to "read" price tags. Here's how it works:

- The microchip, which is in a hypodermic needle, is injected /implanted under the animal's skin, usually in the neck area or between the shoulder blades.
- Information on your animal (breed, name, sex, owner, address, phone number, etc...) is registered in a national data bank. This registration is essential to ensure your pet can be traced back to you.
- If your animal should stray and wind up at a shelter, it will be scanned for a microchip. (All animals entering City shelters are scanned for microchips, as do animal hospitals and other humane organizations. This happens nationwide.)
- If your animal has a microchip, a number will show on the scanner.
- That number will be entered into the national database and voila! We will call you to let you know we have your pet and that you should come pick it up as soon as possible.

Of course, as a loving pet owner, you may fret that the microchip might hurt your pet or present some health risk. Fear not. The procedure takes only minutes and is virtually

painless, just like a vaccination. Is it safe? Yes. Once implanted, the microchip stays under the skin, deep in the location where it was injected, for the life of the animal. It does not have a battery or any moving parts. It will not "travel" to other areas of the animal's body.

The cost for a microchip varies and can range anywhere from \$50 to \$100. However, if you go to your L.A. City Shelter, you can get your dog or cat microchipped for a real bargain: a mere \$25 for a microchip that will identify your animal permanently throughout



its life. What a deal! All it takes is a phone call to make an appointment to bring your animal in for a microchip implant. When you arrive at the shelter, you will be asked to fill in some database information for your pet's microchip. The procedure itself takes only minutes. It's really a wonderful, safe and effective method to permanently identify your pet. Please note that City Shelters only microchip dogs and cats. You need to go to your local veterinarian to have other animals microchipped.

So, if you value your pet, do pick up that phone and make the call. It's a worthwhile investment to ensure your pet will be returned to you should it stray and a small price to pay for a happy ending.

For more information, call L.A. Animal Services: (888) 4LA-PET1 or (888) 452-7381. (TTY hearing impaired: (877) 875-8205). www.LAAnimalServices.com.

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Send Questions

Feel free to send questions and concerns to me, and I'll be happy to respond to them in my column. I'm excited about this, so don't hesitate!

Write to me at: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

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