

The effects of parturition on the social interactions of female patas monkeys in captivity

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Summary. – Four adult female patas monkeys (*Cercopithecus [Erythrocebus] patas*) were studied in a laboratory social group for effects of parturition on mothers' behavior. It was found that neither agonistic (fights, displacements) nor affiliative interactions (allogrooming, sitting close, sitting touching) showed significant frequency changes following parturition. It was concluded that the presence of new infants does not significantly affect the relationships of patas females, at least within established social groups.

Résumé. – Quatre femelles adultes de singe rouge (*Cercopithecus [Erythrocebus] patas*) ont été étudiées en laboratoire pour tester les effets de la parturition sur le comportement des mères à l'intérieur du groupe social. Les résultats montrent que ni les interactions agonistiques (combats, déplacements), ni les interactions affiliatives (toiletage mutuel, proximité et contact en position assise) ne montrent de changement de fréquence après la parturition. Il apparaît donc que la présence de nouveaux jeunes n'affecte pas les relations sociales des femelles de singe rouge, tout au moins à l'intérieur de groupes sociaux établis.

INTRODUCTION

All social primates participate in a multitude of dynamic *relationships*. Relationships, in turn, consist of *interactions*, each of which can be described as "who did what to whom". Combined relationships produce *social structure* (Hinde 1983). Most studies of primate social behavior investigate the influence of intervening variables on either interactions or relationships. The present study focused on the latter category and analyzed the effects of parturition on the social relationships of captive female patas monkeys (*Cercopithecus [Erythrocebus] patas*). Specifically, this study tried to replicate reports that patas females show postpartum increases in both interfemale affiliative behaviors and new mothers avoiding other females (Rowell 1978 ; Rowell and Hartwell 1978).