



**CHAMPIONS  
OF THE  
WILD**

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OF THE  
WILD**

# COSTA RICAN MONKEYS

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**AS SEEN ON  
DISCOVERY  
AND  
ANIMAL  
PLANET**



  
**VHS**  
C9198 148

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE

# COSTA RICAN MONKEYS



Costa Rica was once covered in ranches, with rain forest destruction proceeding at a rapid clip. Then, the country decided to take conservation seriously, and set aside one-third of its territory as national parks.

It was a wise decision. While spider, howler and capuchin monkeys continue to be endangered, in the Santa Rosa wildlife sanctuary, where Dr. Linda Fedigan works, they are flourishing.

The monkeys we follow most closely in this video are the Capuchins, so named because they have manes resembling the cowls worn by Capuchin monks. They are exuberant foragers, who will strip leaves off trees, eat thorny branches and even kill small animals for food. After puberty, males leave their social group and take up with another gang of monkeys. Return to a group of capuchins after a couple of years, and the females are likely to be the only ones you recognize.

Spider monkeys are the most endangered of the three species in Santa Rosa. These large primates are hard to study because they range so widely in search of the fruits that make up the lion's share of their diet. Spider monkeys live in groups of up to 50, and, unlike the capuchins, it is the females who leave the social group after puberty.

Because their range is smaller, howlers suffer less from habitat destruction than capuchins and spider monkeys. They also taste bad, making them an unlikely target for those who kill monkeys for meat. Howlers, who are slow-moving herbivores, are up before the dawn crying out with the trademark howls that give them their name.

Until the 1970s, primate behaviour research focused mostly on the Old World species (those living outside of the Americas) and concentrated on male aggression. When females were studied, it was usually in their capacity as mothers. Fedigan was one of the first wave of female primate researchers who have chosen to study social relations and male-female interactions.

## Pre-Viewing Questions

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1. During the 1970s, the focus of primate behaviour research began to shift away from the study of dominant males to the study of social interactions. What do you think triggered this change?
2. In this video, you will learn about three monkey species: capuchin, spider and howler. Would you guess that these monkeys are herbivores, omnivores or carnivores? List some items you think might make up their daily diet, then watch the video to see how many you got right!

## Post-Viewing Questions

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1. List three similarities between capuchin society and human society. Name some important differences between our cultures.
2. Capuchin monkeys are incredibly dextrous and highly intelligent. They can be of great help to people with disabilities. Is it ethical to employ them in this way?
3. Capuchin females are the core of their social group – so why do they choose to live with males and put up with their shenanigans?



Champion:  
**Dr. Linda Fedigan**

**Champions of the Wild** takes you around the globe with stories of remarkable endangered species and the dedicated champions determined to save them. Buy the whole collection!

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## World Wide Web Sites

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*Please note that addresses on the Web can change unexpectedly.*

Instructional resources for educators (including lesson plans), courtesy of the primate research centre at the University of Wisconsin:

**[www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/peduc.html](http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/peduc.html)**

Visit this capuchin pet-owners site, then discuss the ethics of keeping monkeys in captivity:

**[mommensj.web2010.com/capuchin.htm](http://mommensj.web2010.com/capuchin.htm)**

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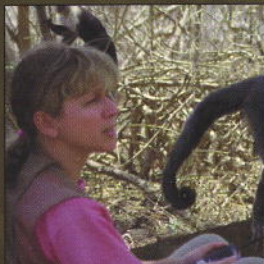
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## COSTA RICAN MONKEYS



Dr. Linda Fedigan's dramatic breakthroughs in our understanding of monkey behaviour have been driven since day one by a simple question: How and why do males and females live together in social groups?

Since 1983 Fedigan has headed up a field site studying three species of monkey – capuchin, spider and howler – that call Costa Rica's Santa Rosa wildlife sanctuary home.

In **Costa Rican Monkeys** we go along with Linda and her team of sleuths as they track the monkeys through the forest on their daily rounds. And we witness the drama of a battle for supremacy in one group of capuchin monkeys.

Watching Fedigan's monkeys in action, it's easy to see how closely they are related to us – and how much we stand to lose if they aren't saved.

Endangered animals – and the champions who have dedicated their lives to saving them – feature in this spectacular series of half-hour videos! Filmed around the world, from the frozen fields of Canada's North to the jungles of Borneo, **Champions of the Wild** combines natural history with personal drama.

Director: **Christian Bruyère**

Producer: **Christian Bruyère**

Executive Producer: **Michael Chechik**

**25 minutes, 30 seconds**

Order number: **C9198 148**

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