

RHESUS MACAQUE



Habitat: Widespread

Easily adapts to many habitats

Larger troops and higher densities in human habitations



Diet: Omnivorous

In human habitations, more than 90% of its diet is influenced by humans



RHESUS MACAQUE

IUCN Status: Least Concern

- Has brown body with pink face and rear
- Uses its tail for balancing and leaping
- Lives in social groups; males move from one troop to another and females stay in a single troop throughout their lives
- Establishes dominance by aggressive behaviours like open mouth threat, pulling, pushing, lunging, biting, etc
- Extremely intelligent, has learnt to live in human habitation
- Excellent climber but spends a lot of time on the ground
- Knows how to swim, young ones can swim within days of birth
- Rhesus macaque socialises with other group members through interactions such as grooming, huddling and playing
- Active during the daytime but spends many hours socialising and resting
- Forest troops spend more time foraging. Birth rate varies according to availability of food
- High nutrition human food at waste dumps acts as attractants contributing to increasing population



Troop size

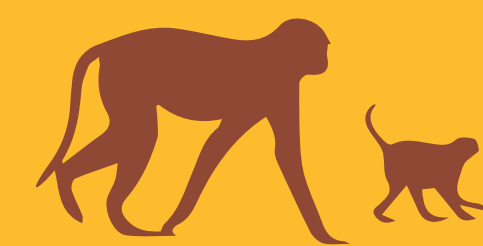
Troop size varies from 10 to 80 individuals

Can have >200 individuals where food is abundant

Reproductive age

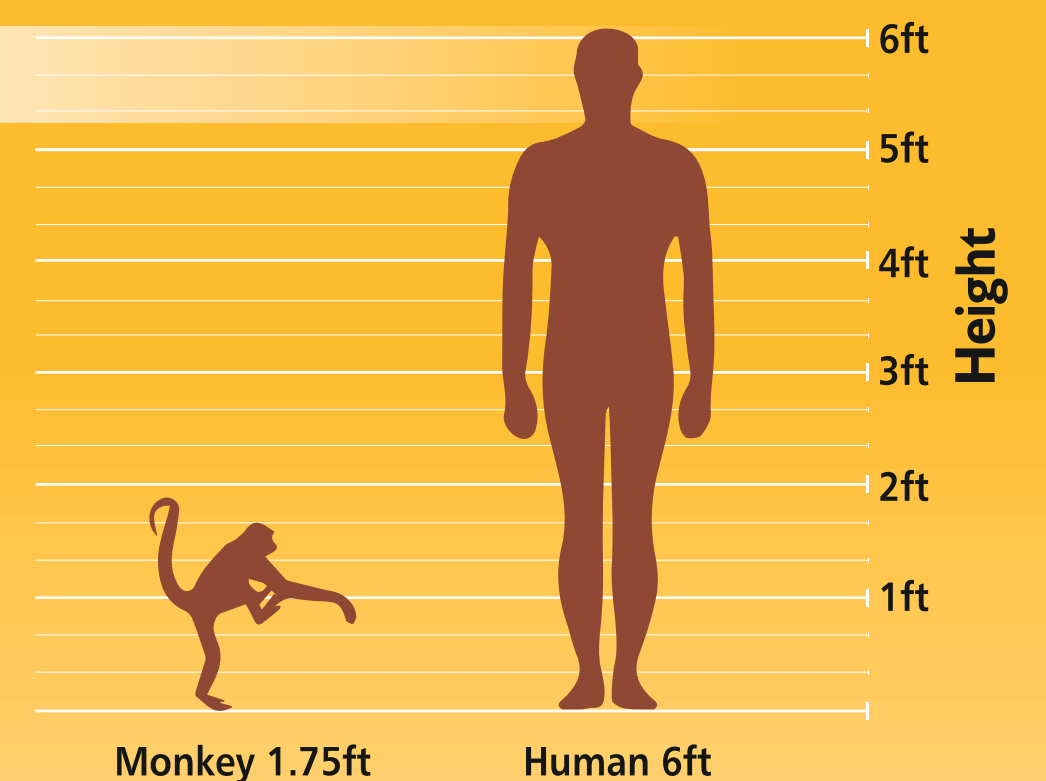
2.5 – 4 years | Gestation period: 5.5 months

Every year one young per female

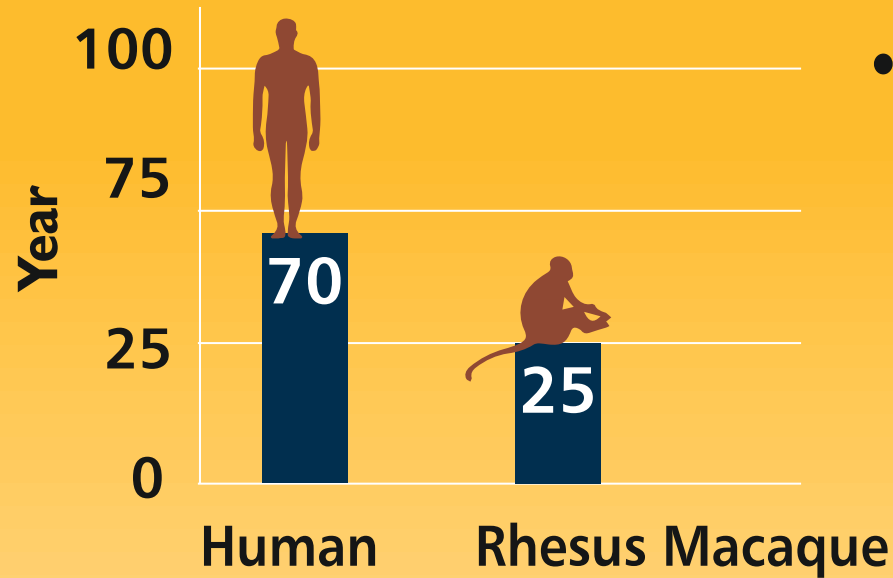


One baby at a time
Twins are rare

Size



Average lifespan



Do You KNOW?

Rhesus macaque are the most widely distributed primates after humans in India

They contribute to ecosystems by dispersing seeds of fruit

There is a strong linear dominance hierarchy in both males and females

Constant shifting of monkey troops lead to troop breakage and high stress among them

Rhesus macaque-human conflicts range from damaging crops, entering houses, stealing and eating food

People feed monkeys due to religious and sympathetic reasons. This leads to dependence of monkeys, and they start snatching food or attacking humans

Indo-German Cooperation on Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India
2017-2023
Taking a Harmonious Co-existence approach to Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation in India

