



THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

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NEW INTELLIGENCE TESTS FOR CHIMPS AT LONDON ZOO

Three young Chimpanzees in the Chimps' Den at London Zoo are to show their capabilities this morning with two new intelligence tests which demonstrate their individual powers of learning, intelligence and concentration.

In the first - **THE AIM TESTER** - the Chimpanzees swing a ball to hit a circular wooden bat, which on being struck sends a grape shooting towards the ape. The three chimps. "Sam", "Josie" and "Fifi" have all perfected their aim and can hit the bat with certain ease, but they have yet to master the art of catching each grape as it flies towards them.

The second demonstration - **THE SEQUENTIAL TESTER** - is designed to find out their ability to press buttons in a certain sequence to gain a reward. The apparatus for this test is an electrically-operated ball machine. The ball travels down a sloping zig-zag path which lights up as the ball progresses. At the turning point of each slope the ball is arrested and a green light goes on, which corresponds with a second green light which illuminates one of four push-buttons at the foot of the machine. The Chimp's task is to send the ball upon its way (and finally release the reward at the end of its path) by pressing the appropriate lighted button each time the ball is stopped. This requires patience, while the ball travels from green light to green light, and concentration to press each button when it lights up.

The three veteran chimps. have mastered the technique in their individual ways. Five-year-old "Josie" solemnly and meticulously presses the buttons as they light with single-minded concentration; "Fifi" becomes forgetful at times, losing her attention to the audience and their applause which fascinates her; while "Sam", though often quick and accurate, occasionally lets his personality take the upper hand and wildly presses all the buttons at once in an excess of showmanship.

Each new demonstration in the Chimps' Den in Children's Zoo is carefully devised to test the aim, balance and attention of which each young ape is capable. Some Chimps. learn a new test in a few minutes and then devise their own variations if it proves too easy - others may take months to master the same thing. Whilst absorbing for the public to watch, these tests are primarily a scientific enquiry into the individual and collective capabilities of these young apes.

NOTE: Chimps. are susceptible to human cold and flu germs, against which they have little resistance. For this reason the general public is not permitted into the Chimps' Den, but watch the Demonstrations through the big picture window. Photographers will be allowed into the Den this morning, but are requested to wear face-masks because of the danger of infection.

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