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A-22

Sometimes a foreign male will drive off the male of a one-male-many-female group and kill an infant to stop a mother from lactating and resuming ovulation. This allows the new male to move in. This is interesting to me because it reminds me of humans and step-parents. Though humans do not usually kill the offspring of their mate’s previous offspring, the new male sometimes prioritizes any new children he has with his new mate.

Primates employ some rudimentary tool use and teach their young to use these tools. Tool use is different from group to group and it is clear that tool use is a cultural element. Grooming patterns are also different from group to group with no sign that these differences are genetic. The capacity of primates to learn is pretty amazing.

Researchers have noticed that primate vocalizations are not just involuntary reactions to their surroundings but contain meanings. Some primates have even begun putting prefixes on these vocalizations to change the meaning. Many primates have the ability to learn how to use sign language and buttons with symbols on them and have the communication ability of about a 2 year old human.