White paper analyzes changes in dental hygiene education

Research distributed through support from Johnson & Johnson Consumer

Zoo primate takes dental care seriously

Female hamadryas baboon seen using bristle from old broom to clean her teeth

Baboons at Paignton Zoo in Devon, United Kingdom, have learned to floss. A female hamadryas baboon was seen using a bristle from an old broom to clean her teeth.

Paignton Zoo volunteer Liz Chisholm, who took the photos, said: "As I passed Baboon Rock I noticed that the baboons had been given broom heads to play with." Some young baboons were seen sweeping the ground around the in-house vet team, possibly mimicking the actions of their keepers.

"One of the older baboons was inspecting her broom head. Then I saw her pull out a bristle, examine it, pull it taut between both hands and very deliberately use a bristle, examine it, pull it taut being her hand. Then I saw her pull it taut between both hands and very deliberately use it to clean her teeth." 

Paignton Zoo Curator of Mammals Neil Bemment explained: "The baboon is called Geo..." 

Case with the baboons:

It's not the first time that Paignton Zoo baboons have been seen using tools. In 2000 another female hamadryas baboon was observed using a splinter of wood to clean out her offspring's eye. The incidence was reported in Primate Eye issue 72, which was published in 2000 by the Primate Society of Great Britain.

Macaque in Thailand are known to use strands of human hair to floss. Perhaps soon Paignton Zoo's baboons will be using their own toothbrushes and rinsing with mouthwash.

(Source: Paignton Zoo)
Barrier protection critical with any dental-care glove

While caring for their patients, dental and health care professionals are constantly exposed to bodily fluids that may carry viruses and other infectious agents. It is therefore critical that the gloves these professionals use provide the best possible barrier protection.

Many types of gloves are available today, but it is important to know that not all gloves have the same barrier capability, depending on the type of material used. For example, natural rubber latex gloves have long been acknowledged for their very effective barrier properties, while non-latex gloves, such as vinyl (polyvinyl chloride), have inferior barrier capability as shown by numerous studies.

Other synthetic gloves, such as nitrile and polysulfone, perform much better than vinyl but are more costly, especially polyisoprene gloves. Using appropriate non-latex gloves, such as quality nitrile and polyisoprene gloves, that can now work alongside their coworkers wearing the improved-low protein, gloves without any heightened allergy concern.

However, for latex-allergic individuals, it is still important they use appropriate non-latex gloves, such as quality nitrile and polysulfone gloves, that provide them with effective barrier protection.

Extended array of brand, prices

Selecting the right gloves should be an educated consideration to enhance safety of both patients and users. For decades, gloves made in Malaysia have been synonymous with quality and excellence, and they are very available and wearable in an extensive array of brands, features and prices.

They can be sourced either factory direct (www.mrp.com/flush and click “medical devices”) or from established dental product distributors in the United States.

(Source: Malaysian Rubber Export Promotion Council)
Work with confidence

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Malaysia is the largest source for U.S. imports of natural and synthetic rubber gloves as reported in tariff and trade data by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission
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**Case Study**

Photos: Dr. Nick Shumaker

- Failed implant Removed
- Large Buccal Defect Grafted
- New Host Bone Formation
- 20 Week X-Ray Implant Placed

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