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 food out or because she likes the sensation. A number of the Sulawesi crested macaques do it, too.

So, while zoo keepers clean their enclosure and provide free meals and the in-house vet team keeps an eye on their health, personal grooming is obviously important to these primates.

Director of Conservation and Education Dr. Amy Fawley said, “Animals like dogs and even chimpanzees are taught to do things, which is very clever but it’s much more interesting scientifically if animals spontaneously do something with a tool without being taught, which would be the 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 incident was reported in Primate Eye issue 72, which was published in 2000 by the Primate Society of Great Britain.

Macaques in Thailand are known to use strands of human hair to floss. Perhaps soon Paignton Zoo’s health-conscious 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 polysulfone gloves. Using gloves with inferior barrier capability could expose both the patient and user to harmful infections.

Quality, safety top priorities
Malaysia is the world’s largest medical gloves exporter (latex and nitrile). Both quality and users’ safety are of top priority to the nation’s glove industry. To this end, a quality certification program (the Standard Malaysian Gloves, or the SMG) has currently been formulated for latex examination gloves. All SMG-certified gloves must comply with stringent technical specifications to ensure the gloves are high in barrier effectiveness, low in protein and low in allergy risks, in addition to having excellent comfort, fit and durability — qualities that manufacturers of many synthetic gloves are trying to replicate.

Natural, sustainable resource
Latex gloves are green products, derived from a natural and sustainable resource, and are environmentally friendly. (You can learn more online by visiting www.smg-gloves.com or www.latexglove.info).

The use of low-protein, powder-free nitrile gloves has been demonstrated by many independent hospital studies to markedly reduce the incidence of latex sensitization and allergic reactions in workplaces.

More importantly, latex allergic individuals donning non-latex gloves 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.

Extensive 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 affordable in an extensive array of brands, features and prices.

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

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

Malaysia:
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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

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