

# Visiting the Zoo's Small Mammal House

National Zoo Social Narrative: Small Mammal House



Smithsonian  
*National Zoological Park*  
*Conservation Biology Institute*



There are many animals to visit at the Zoo.  
Today, I am going to visit the Small Mammal House.





I know I have arrived at the Small Mammal House when I see an anteater statue and three doorways with a sign that says



**Small Mammal House.**





I may touch the anteater statue if the weather is not too hot.  
I will not find an anteater inside the Small Mammal House.





I may see signs that tell me how to be safe when visiting the Small Mammal House. I will be safe and the animals will be safe, too.





When I go inside, I may smell a different scent.  
I may see different kinds of **exhibits**. Inside, all of the animals are behind glass. I may see other people looking at the animals.





I may see a large sign with an elephant on it.  
This is a special exhibit that moves to different parts of the Zoo.



I may see an exhibit on the walls that shows animal x-rays called **radiographs**. I may see some skulls, too.





I may see photographs of the animals living in the building.





Some exhibits are dark. These nocturnal exhibits are for animals that are active at night.





I may see an exhibit that has tunnels and chambers.  
The naked mole-rats and Damaraland mole-rats live here.





Von der Decken's Hornbill



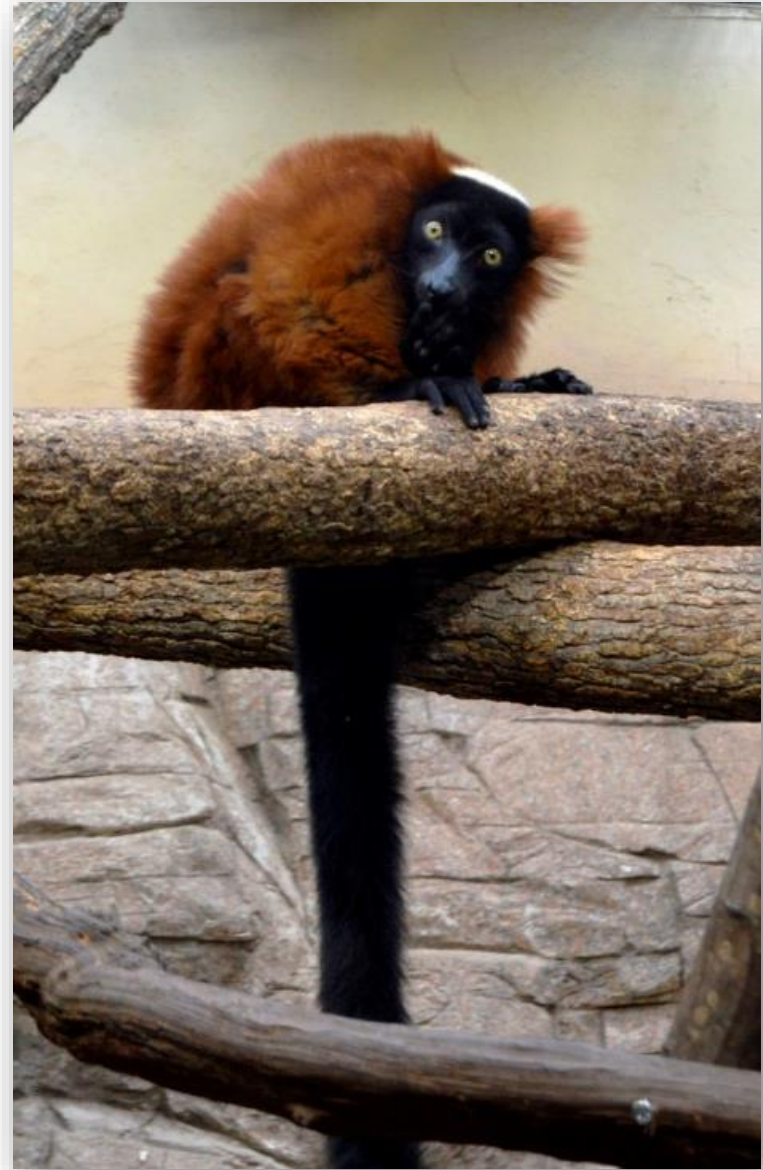
Meerkat

Some exhibits have birds, which are not mammals.  
Some exhibits have different animals in the same space.  
These are called **mixed-species** exhibits.





I may see some animals moving quickly around their exhibits, like the monkeys and armadillos.



I may hear some animals making loud noises like the howler monkeys and red-ruffed lemurs.





I may see some of the animals sleeping like these fennec foxes.



I may see animals living in groups like the degus above.





Some of the exhibits may be empty.  
I may see signs that explain why they are empty.





The keepers add toys that keep the animals busy and help them exercise. The degu is having fun with his wheel. A banded mongoose is hiding in a bag. I can look for its exhibit.







I may see special boxes in some of the exhibits.  
The left box is called a **nest box**. The animals can go inside to rest when they want to. The right box is a training **crate**.  
The keepers train the animals to go into the crate. This is helpful if the animals need to be moved from one place to another.





I may see a volunteer in a red shirt. The volunteer can tell me more about the animals and may have objects for me to touch. If they tell me it's okay, I can touch the objects if I want to.





I may see a keeper give a talk about the animals.

I may see some of the animals up-close, like these naked mole-rats.

The keeper will tell me how to be safe around the animals.





I may see a chain barrier that lets me know not to go across it.

I may see a big exit sign that lets me know that I will be leaving the building.







Outside, I may see a pathway that leads me to  
an area behind the Small Mammal House.





Along the path, I may see some large mammals, like the Przewalski's horses.

Even though these horses aren't small, the Small Mammal House keepers take care of them.







If I keep going along the path,  
I may see an area to sit and take a rest. I may see a pond, too.





I may see outdoor exhibits with different animals. In the winter, all of the animals are inside of the building to keep warm.





Next to the Small Mammal House, I may see a cactus garden.  
I may see spines on some of the plants.  
It is a nice, quiet area to visit.





The Small Mammal House  
is full of many different  
and exciting animals!

I may see more small  
mammals in other exhibits  
around the Zoo.

