

February 25, 2026

**Regarding the health conditions of the Japanese macaques and the environment of the facility**

A lot of visitors are currently coming to the zoo to see baby monkey, Punch. Many of them ask us about the health of the Japanese macaques, and we would like to explain their current condition and our plans.

Regarding the observed hair loss

A few macaques in the troop exhibit significant hair loss, or alopecia. First, we would like to apologize to the many visitors who have expressed concern about this issue. The amount of food they receive and their weight are appropriate according to a veterinarian's diagnosis, and no clear sickness is evident. We believe the main cause is excessive grooming habits. To improve this issue and promote healthy group life, three staff members have been working together since June 2025 to develop approaches and conduct testing. However, due to seasonal tendencies, macaques gather closer together to keep warm during winter months. As a result, they spend more time grooming, which leads to further alopecia. We will continue studying and testing to improve the conditions, referencing both domestic and overseas case studies.

Regarding the facility environment

We are aware of various opinions concerning the environment of the monkey mountain. Animal welfare is the top priority in the current environment, and we are doing our best to improve the monkeys' living conditions. Four rooms are always open at the back, which is invisible to visitors, and Punch also uses this space to hide.

Also, many of the trees provided for environmental enrichment have become excellent play tools, especially for the young monkeys including Punch. We are always seeking the best ways to improve the environment. However, Punch is currently trying to integrate with the troop. Making a radical change to the monkey mountain environment would upset the macaques and may lead Punch being bullied. For this reason, we would like to prioritize Punch becoming a member of the troop safely while improving the monkeys' health conditions as much as possible. By observing the conditions, we can implement measures to improve the environment for the Japanese macaques on the monkey mountain.

We ask for your continued support of Punch and the other troop monkeys.

Ichikawa City Zoological and Botanical Garden