

**The Onset of Siamang, Hylobates (Symphalangus)
syndactylus,
Vocalizations in Captivity and the Role
Of the Exhibit Environment**

Abstract

The onset of Siamang vocalization in captivity and the wild are for many of the same reasons. Vocalizations establish a territory, increase group cohesion, and create a buffer zone between territories. In captivity many factors, such as food availability and shelter, remain consistent and do not inhibit a necessity to vocalize; in fact, because of the increased idle time (resting, grooming, etc.) vocalizations occur more often in captivity. Furthermore, the exhibit environment plays a key role in establishing a territory by providing a naturesque ecosystem that emulates feral environments at the same time educating the public. This study, therefore, explores the role of the exhibit environment in four North American zoological gardens. A traditional, semi-traditional, semi-stimulational, and stimulational exhibits are explained, as well as the extent that environmental stimulation and the weather contribute to vocalization onset. Results indicate that stimulational exhibits establish a defendable territory more readily than traditional exhibits.