Visiting the National Zoo’s Great Ape House
I may see different primates on my trip to the zoo. Monkeys, lemurs, gibbons and great apes all live at the zoo. It can be fun to look for and see these wonderful animals.
I may see gorillas. Gorillas are primates. They live in the Great Ape House. Gorillas have a strong scent.
I may see a gorilla beat his chest, run, throw a toy or hit the glass. These behaviors are called **displays**. Gorillas display to show how strong they are. I will be safe.
I may see orangutans. Orangutans are primates. They live in the Great Ape House. Orangutans have reddish hair.
I may see big exhibits and lots of people looking at the apes. The people may be loud with excitement. I can sit on the benches if I want to.
The enclosures are large and they have toys for the great apes. The apes live indoors behind glass. I will be safe.
The gorillas have an outdoor yard. They enjoy being outdoors and sitting in the sun.
I may see a zoo keeper putting bamboo in the enclosures for the apes to eat. The gorillas and orangutans love to eat bamboo.
I may see a tall wooden structure in the gorilla yard. They like to climb the structure and sit up high.
The orangutans have an outdoor yard, too. They like to climb up the blue tower.
If I look up, I may see long ropes between the tall blue towers.
I may see an orangutan crossing over the O-line above my head. The orangutan is moving like a wild orangutan would through the trees and it will not fall down. I will be safe.
I may see two gorilla statues near the gorilla yard. I can touch them.
When I leave the Great Ape House, I may see an orangutan statue if I look up high.

I can stay and watch the gorillas and the orangutans. I may see them eating food, playing with each other or sleeping. They may even look at me.

There are other places in the zoo where I can visit to see more animals.
The orangutans and gorillas are the large primates that live in the Great Ape House. I may see other kinds of primates in different areas at the zoo.