

MALE TRANSFER IN CAPTIVE AND WILD RUFFED LEMURS (*VARECIA VARIEGATA*).

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Black and white ruffed lemur groups have been studied from 1985 to the present under both free-ranging conditions, at the Duke University Primate Center (DUPC), and in the wild, within Ranomafana National Park in southeastern Madagascar. Following four years of behavioral observations on *V. variegata* at the DUPC, fences separating two established enclosure groups were removed. The lowest ranking males from each of the two groups transferred from their natal group into the unrelated neighboring group. The youngest of the two males transferred into a single-male, single female group and rapidly attained dominance over the older dominant resident male. The male transferring into the larger group (6-8 individuals) did not become dominant but did mate with both adult females (mother and daughter) in the group. Both transfers were marked by low aggression rates among males, both prior to and following the transfers. In the wild, evidence of male transfer, either permanent or temporary, was observed between study groups in three different forest types.