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Chimp Tina happy with new family

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KUALA LUMPUR: There was anxiety in the air when Tina, a chimpanzee from Taiping Zoo and Night Safari, was introduced to a three-chimp clan at Zoo Negara here.

The zookeepers watched closely as she and resident chimpanzee Cumbi entered the enclosure with Raja, the dominant male in the clan.

They were worried about him as he could have acted aggressively towards Tina.



New home: Tina (left) and Black hanging out together in an enclosure at Zoo Negara in Kuala Lumpur

Their anxiety disappeared as Cumbi quickly took Tina under her care and fiercely protected her from Raja.

However, Raja was not aggressive towards her.

From that moment, they knew seven-year-old Tina would do well in her new surroundings.

Tina, born in Taiping Zoo, was taken to Zoo Negara as part of a programme to increase the number of female chimpanzees.

Before her arrival, there were five males and one female.

Yesterday, Tina and her new “family” were introduced to the media.

Proving how at home she was, she treated the crowd to a kiss with Black, another member of the clan.

Zoo Negara director Dr Mohamad Ngah said he was very happy with how Tina was doing.

“This was the hardest animal integration we have done in the six years I have been here. We are pleased to see harmony within the hierarchy in such a short span of time,” he said.

Dr Mohamad said it was the zoo’s responsibility to provide animals with a life as normal as possible and this included finding them mates.