

Physical Characteristics of the Two Orangutan Species	
<i>Bornean (Pongo pygmaeus)</i>	<i>Sumatran (Pongo abelii)</i>
Hair Color	
darker, almost maroon (1)	lighter, more cinnamon colored (1)
young have bright orange hair darkening to chocolate or maroon (3)	young are paler orange and become cinnamon (3)
never have white hairs (4)	may have white or yellow hair on face, beard, or groin (3,4)
uniform dark pelage (3)	light and dark hairs in pelage (3)
less color variation (5)	more color variation (5)
Hair Length	
less hair around the head and neck (1)	less hair around the head and neck (1)
thinly haired young (1)	densely haired young (1)
shorter hair overall (3)	longer hair overall (3)
Hair Texture	
stiff, shiny and brittle (3)	fine, fleecy, and dry (3,4)
Facial Hair	
beard less noticeable (1,5)	beard always present and well developed; even females have beards; upper jaw hair gives a mustached appearance (1,2,5)
young face is usually bare (1)	young have hairier faces (1)
beard is darker, from orange to dark red (3)	males may have long pointed or double pointed yellow or orange beards (3)
rough and tousled appearance (3)	neater appearance (3)
Face Shape	
Broad with prominent muzzle; but great deal of variation (3)	Elongated and flat with definite O-shape (2)
upper and lower jaws are pronounced (1,4)	less pronounced jaw (1)
figure eight-shaped face (4)	oval face with marked cheek hollows (3,4)
Face Color	
bluish cast around eyes (1,6)	grey face (6)

Eye Color	
dark (1)	usually clearer and paler (variable) (1,4)
Cheek Pad	
male development starts in 8th year, fully developed by 15th year (1,5,6)	male development starts in 10th year, fully developed by 20th year (1,4,5,6)
naked or covered with short, bristly hairs; quite shiny (1)	light hair, noticeable and silky (1)
dark brown or black; usually naked or sparse red hair (3)	tufts of short white or yellow hair (3)
curve outward from face (1,5)	rest flat against face (1,5)
swing forward like “blinkers”, appear rounded and lumpy; develop laterally from both top and sides of face giving a square appearance (3)	extended laterally, parallel to the face, gives a diamond-shaped appearance (3)
junction of the pads above the brow results in a deep wrinkled pad (3)	
*Subordinate males may have inhibited cheek pad development in the presence of a more dominant male.	
Throat/Gular Pouch	
large and pendulous in adult males (1,4,5)	less noticeable in adult males (1,4,5)
generally naked (3)	usually hairy (1,6)
Body Size/Build	
tendency to become obese in captivity (1,5)	appears more muscular; thinner, lankier; less prone to obesity (1,3,5,6)
Foot Placement/Location	
hooked foot cannot be placed flat on the ground (3,4)	foot more plantigrade (3,4)
walk with foot curled on outside edge (3,4)	walk with feet splayed, but flat or nearly flat (3,4)
spend less time bipedal (3,4)	in captivity spend more time bipedal, often walk with chest out (3,4)

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