

MUMBO “Geek of the Week”



1. My name is Mumbo, and I am an orangutan.
2. The root word *orang* means “person” and *utan* is derived from *hutan*, which means “forest.” So, orangutan literally means “person of the forest.”
3. Orangutans are only found on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo in Southeast Asia. I’m not exactly sure how I ended up in Loganville, Georgia.
4. My arms stretch out longer than my body! That used to make me feel awkward, but now I’m okay with it. People just have to love me the way I am! (My dad’s arms stretch out 8 feet from fingertip to fingertip! He’s cool with it.
5. I am an arboreal creature, which means I spend most of my time slowly walking, swinging, and climbing through the dense rain forests.
6. I LOVE to eat fruit, especially wild figs! YUM! YUM!
7. I also eat bugs, small vertebrates, and birds’ eggs. The mama birds don’t like that so much.
8. For the first few years of my life, I held on tight to my mother’s body as she moved through the forest canopy.
9. My dad and older brother are fighters. They charge each other, wrestle, and bite each other’s heads and cheekpads. They sometimes look like Sumo wrestlers! It’s hilarious to watch.
10. Like humans, I have opposable thumbs. My big toes are also opposable. Unlike humans, I do not have toe nails on my big toes. Some orangutans do, but I don’t.
11. I have tremendous strength. I can swing from branch to branch and hang upside-down from for long periods of time. This is how I get all of those delicious figs!
12. I love to travel and write! I am looking forward to flying to Romania and meeting some new friends! I will be keeping a travel journal while I am there.