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## Gorilla Threats and How They Stay Safe



Gorillas are powerful animals, but they still face many dangers in the wild. While they do not have many natural predators, a few animals can threaten them. Large cats like leopards have been known to attack young or weak gorillas. However, these attacks are rare because gorillas live in groups called troops. The silverback, the strongest male, protects the troop by scaring away threats.

One of the biggest dangers gorillas face is human activity. People destroy forests to make space for farming and buildings, reducing the gorillas' homes. This is called habitat loss. When forests are cut down, gorillas lose places to find food and shelter. Poaching, which means illegal hunting, is another serious threat. Some people hunt gorillas for their meat or to sell them illegally.

Gorillas can also get sick from diseases, just like humans. They can catch illnesses from people, especially when humans come too close to their habitats. Some common diseases that affect gorillas include the Ebola virus and respiratory infections.

Despite these dangers, gorillas have ways to stay healthy and safe. Silverbacks help by leading the group, keeping watch for danger, and defending their troop. Gorillas also stay healthy by eating a plant-based diet full of leaves, stems, and fruits, which provides them with essential nutrients. Grooming each other also helps keep their fur clean and prevents infections.

Conservation groups work hard to protect gorillas. They create safe areas called wildlife reserves where gorillas can live without human interference. Teaching people about the importance of gorillas helps protect these incredible animals for the future.