



**IPPL**

International  
Primate  
Protection  
League

*News*

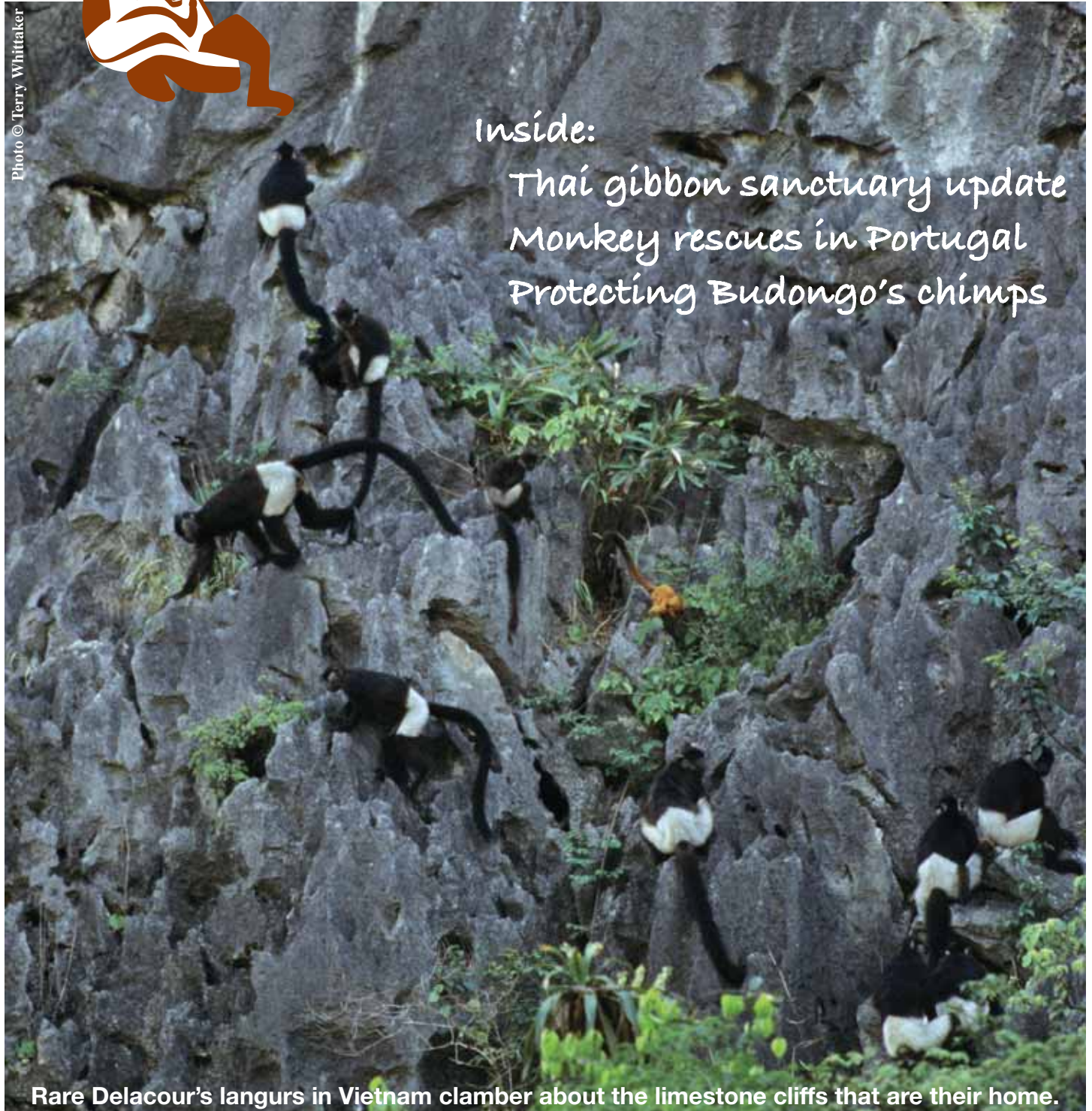
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Photo © Terry Whitaker

*Inside:*

*Thai gibbon sanctuary update  
Monkey rescues in Portugal  
Protecting Budongo's chimps*



Rare Delacour's langurs in Vietnam clamber about the limestone cliffs that are their home.

# A Letter from IPPL's Executive Director Shirley McGreal and IPPL-UK's Director Helen Thirlway

Dear IPPL Supporter,

We hope all of you are enjoying lovely spring weather. The first hummingbirds are back here at IPPL's South Carolina Headquarters Sanctuary, and our 32 gibbon friends are enjoying sunbathing. This April, the sanctuary staff and I enjoyed a visit from Helen Thirlway, Director of IPPL-UK, and her partner Keri Cairns. Helen says:

*It is a beautiful time of year to visit Summerville; there are azaleas in bloom everywhere, and the sanctuary grounds are teeming with wildlife. After a year in my post, it has been a pleasure to return to Headquarters and reacquaint myself with all of the team here, including, of course, the gibbons!*

*I have been particularly enjoying the company of Tong, one of the oldest primates here, with whom I've shared many grooming sessions in the peaceful sanctuary surroundings.*

*Although it is hard to believe, considering her friendly and trusting nature, Tong was once a pet who was abandoned when her owner left Thailand. After several changes of hands, she reached IPPL.*

*I also met another especially gentle gibbon named Whoop-Whoop, who was formerly a lab gibbon in Louisiana. Spending more time with this mild-mannered character reinforced my commitment to the phasing-out of primate testing—something we are working on in the UK at the moment prior to a European Parliamentary debate in May.*

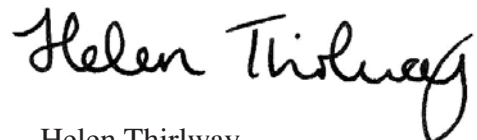
*It has also been a pleasure to hear the latest news on the amazing grassroots sanctuaries that we support overseas, and which you can read about in this newsletter, including sanctuaries in Mexico, Thailand, and Indonesia, to name a few.*

*If you are feeling overwhelmed by reports of the economic recession, the effects of climate change, and other doom-and-gloom news, it is a wonderful tonic to read about all the dedicated people working on the frontlines to protect and conserve our primate friends and their native habitat. We need only look at these projects to be reassured that there is hope.*

Helen and I send you our best wishes for a happy springtime.



Shirley McGreal



Helen Thirlway



Above, Helen (left) and Shirley enjoy some Carolina sunshine.



Left, Tong treats Helen to some old-fashioned Southern hospitality, gibbon-style.

# Delacour's Langurs: On the Brink

*Nguyen Vinh Thanh, Ph.D., zoologist at Vietnam National University, Hanoi*

An animal lover since childhood, I always had a particular fondness for primates, who seemed rather like mischievous children to me. I later came to realize that many species of primate are under threat due to human encroachment and other activities. Sadly, it is very difficult to persuade people that it is worth sacrificing economic benefit to save wildlife, and this convinced me that I needed to find my own way of helping to protect these amazing creatures.

Photo © Terry Whittaker

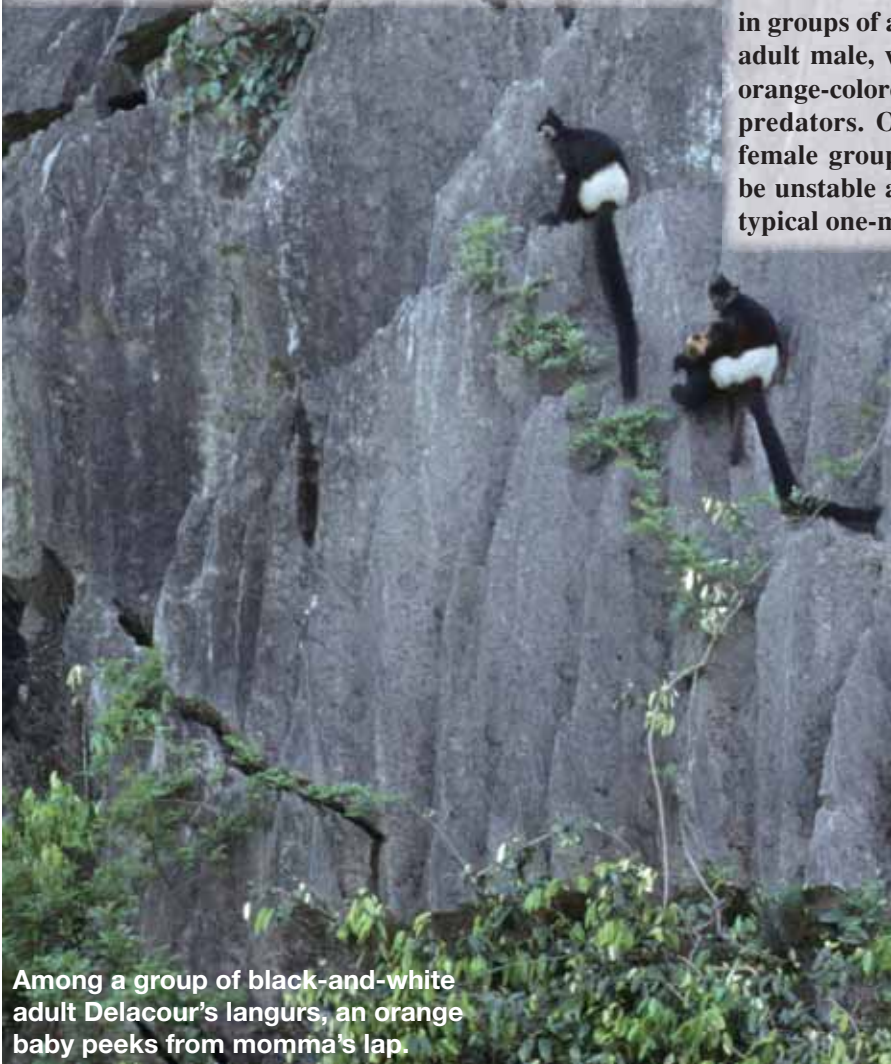
My first glimpse of a Delacour's langur was in August 2002 when I took part in my professor's project in the Van Long Nature Reserve, about 90 kilometers (50 miles) south of Hanoi, in Vietnam. Together, we spent four days with a spotting scope waiting for the langurs to appear, but with no luck. Of course, now I understand that langurs do not like to be out in the full summer sun, so they are usually most active in the early morning and late afternoon; we were simply looking for them at the wrong time of day. However, it took us a while to realize this, and it wasn't until the fourth day, when it was rainy and overcast, that we finally enjoyed our first sight of three langurs. That evening, a local man told us he would often see the langurs just before heavy rains, so, the next day, we started the survey in the afternoon before the rain started. Not only did we get to see the animals, but Professor Ha Dinh Duc managed to record a 20-minute video of them.

Reluctantly, I finished my training and left the reserve, but, from then on, I was determined to see these primates again. Three years later, I was delighted to return to Van Long to conduct a two-year project on the behavior and ecology of Delacour's langur for my Ph.D. program at Vietnam National University, Hanoi.

## The "white shorts" monkeys

The first impression one gets of a mature Delacour's langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*) is that this long-tailed monkey is wearing a pair of spotless white shorts. There are several black-and-white species of langurs, including Delacour's, that live on the karst (limestone) cliffs and in the adjacent forests of northern Vietnam and Laos and southern China. They have been dubbed "limestone langurs" to distinguish them from the gray species found in lowland forests. The golden-headed langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus*), from Cat Ba Island in Halong Bay, and the white-headed langur (*Trachypithecus leucocephalus*), from far southeastern China, who are the two closest relatives of the Delacour's langur, also have white markings on the thighs, but not nearly to the same remarkable extent.

Delacour's langurs eat leaves, fruit, flowers, and seeds, with young leaves forming the major part of their diet. Consequently, with a large amount of fiber and cellulose to be digested, these monkeys spend much of their time just resting to allow their bodies to process this food. They are known for preferring to sleep in the many natural caves that are found in the enormous limestone outcroppings that are characteristic of their habitat. They live primarily in groups of around eight or nine individuals with just one adult male, who carefully protects the females and their orange-colored infants from unknown males and potential predators. Occasionally, all-male or multiple-male and female groups are reported, although the latter tend to be unstable and will sooner or later divide into the more typical one-male-units.



Among a group of black-and-white adult Delacour's langurs, an orange baby peeks from momma's lap.



Photos © Terry Whitaker

Photo © Terry Whitaker



There are fewer than 400 Delacour's langurs left in Vietnam.

### Threats to an endangered species

The Delacour's langur is listed in the Vietnam Red Data Book as endangered, as its total estimated population is 317 individuals. Now the species is strictly protected by a Vietnam Government Decree (32/2006/ND-CP, Decree 82/2006/ND-CP) and related legislation. Although this means that all activities involving hunting, keeping, trading, and exporting the species are officially banned, the low standards of living, poor awareness of the laws by local people and local authorities, and the vested interests of traders have forced the langur to the brink of extinction.

In the 1980s and 1990s, hunting pressure was the most significant risk to these primates. People use the langur's whole body to cook a traditional medicine called "cao," and a langur can sell at around 160,000 Vietnam dongs per kilogram (a little over US\$4 per pound).

In more recent years, habitat loss has gradually become an even greater danger. The small populations left by the hunters are becoming isolated from each other through deforestation for agricultural use

and quarrying. The presence of Delacour's langurs is confirmed in only five provinces of North Vietnam and North Central Vietnam, while its existence elsewhere is uncertain. These remaining fragmented populations are in grave danger of inbreeding and eventual extinction.

According to our latest surveys, the largest population, that in Van Long Nature Reserve, has at least 55 individuals. However, since April 2006, there has been a lot of local quarrying for the cement factories near the borders of Van Long. The langurs' daily activities have been disturbed by the explosions from the mining operations, which have also destroyed all of the limestone hills surrounding the Reserve, isolating the langurs even further.

### What do these langurs need to survive?

The animals need suitable food, clean water, safe sleeping sites, undamaged habitat for raising their offspring, and room for those offspring to form new families. For this reason, our conservation efforts should be focused on:

1. Protecting the Delacour's langur populations in Cuc Phuong National Park and Pu Luong Nature Reserve from hunting. It is necessary to survey the distribution of the animals in Pu Luong Nature Reserve to accurately delimit a strict protection area.
2. Maintaining and improving the animals' conservation status in the Van Long Nature Reserve. We should ask the Vietnam government to put a halt to all quarrying activities for any purpose in the limestone hills surrounding Van Long, so that the langur population can expand into new habitat in the future. Villagers living inside the Van Long Nature Reserve should be encouraged and financially supported to move, which will help in reconnecting isolated limestone hills inside the reserve.
3. Protecting the small sub-populations scattered in other places. Scientists and conservation organizations should propose a plan of "ex-situ" conservation—including possible captive breeding in a zoo or sanctuary—but only if absolutely necessary.

## The Van Long Nature Reserve: The "Total Vietnam Experience"

*Dr. Colin Groves, IPPL Advisory Board Member*

After a conference in Vietnam's Cuc Phuong National Park a few years ago, some of us were taken to visit Van Long on the way back to Hanoi. Anyone visiting northern Vietnam simply must go to Van Long, which is about a two hours' drive south of Hanoi: it is the total Vietnam experience. You are ushered into small oval coracles, each maneuvered by a local woman in traditional dress—straw hat, embroidered blouse, black floppy silk trousers—who slowly punts you across the milky white lake, through channels in the thick floating water plants, to the margins of the towering karst outcroppings where the Delacour's langurs live. The women steer the coracles slowly along the base of the limestone block, scanning the steep sides, vying with each other to be the first to spot langurs and enthusiastically pointing them out. Eventually, they punt you slowly back again across to the landing stage, passing the rangers' quarters on a smaller block opposite. We visited on a warm, overcast afternoon, and I had perfect views of half-a-dozen langurs—or I would have if I had brought my binoculars!

# Highland Farm's Latest Projects

*Keri Cairns*

**Keri Cairns is a biologist with many years' experience caring for primates at the Woolly Monkey Sanctuary in Cornwall, England.**

In November 2008 I travelled to the Highland Farm gibbon sanctuary in northern Thailand. My goal was to help with some of the tasks that were to be carried out with the \$60,000 generated by IPPL's fall fundraising appeal for the Farm. You may have read about some of my initial ideas in the December 2008 issue of *IPPL News*.

After surveying the sanctuary property together, Highland Farm's director Pharanee Deters and I drew up plans for five new enclosures that would all be connected by runways with a double-hatch system. This would enable the dedicated staff to safely shut the gibbons out of enclosures on a rotational basis and allow a thorough cleaning of each area more easily.

There is a family of five gibbons that may soon be re-homed to Highland Farm from a holiday resort on the island of Koh

Tao. The setup of the new enclosures will be ideal for groups like this, as it will allow the animals to be housed together with the option of separating them in the event of a disagreement. It will also allow the youngsters to be gradually

removed from their parents once they are mature, as happens naturally in the wild.

## **New construction**

I am happy to report that the enclosure construction is well underway, with one



Workers at Highland Farm prepare materials for the new enclosures.

## **Highland Farm and the Plight of Thailand's Gibbons**

Gibbons are small apes found across the tropical forests of Southeast Asia, where they live high in the forest canopy. Most of the twelve or so gibbon species are considered to be endangered. The Hainan gibbon of China holds the title of "most endangered ape" in the world: there are reportedly fewer than 20 individuals left.

Thailand is home to four species of gibbon. The white handed and pileated gibbons are the most numerous, while the agile gibbon and the siamang are only found in small pockets in the south of Thailand, near the Malaysian border. In the past, the main threat to the gibbons of Thailand was from deforestation: there is less than 15 percent of primary forest left. Thankfully, this remaining forest is now protected to some degree, but the gibbons that still live there remain in danger. In some parts of Thailand, gibbons are hunted for meat, and an even more lucrative trade exists for live baby gibbons to be sold to the pet and tourism industries. Hundreds of gibbons are killed in Thailand every year.

In fact, hunters will specifically target mothers with infants. If the babies survive their mothers' death from gunshot and the subsequent fall from their native treetop home, they then face a miserable life. Many will spend their days and nights posing for photos with tourists, opportunities for which can be found in many of Thailand's beach resorts. Although this is illegal, the government is not effective in enforcing the ban. Other gibbons will find themselves chained up at bars or similar venues and made to entertain the customers. This usually involves being fed cigarettes, alcohol, and even amphetamines. Those that manage to reach adulthood usually become aggressive as they mature and are then abandoned by their human owners. Fortunately, some of the lucky ones find refuge at one of Thailand's gibbon sanctuaries.

One of these is Highland Farm. This is the base for the William E. Deters Foundation for Gibbon and Wildlife Conservation Projects. It was set up by Pharanee Deters and her late husband, Bill, in 1991. The sanctuary is situated in Tak Province, near the Burmese border. It was here that Pharanee and Bill had planned a peaceful retirement; they bought 35 acres of land and began to build a house on it.

One day a man called at their unfinished home and offered them a baby gibbon for sale. They were reluctant to pay money, as this only encourages the trade, but he was threatening to sell her to a bar in Bangkok. In the end they agreed to pay 500 baht for her, around US\$15 at today's exchange rate. This was the last time they ever paid for a gibbon. They named the young baby Miss Chester, and this was the beginning of the sanctuary. Abused and mistreated gibbons then started arriving from all over Thailand. When I visited last fall, I saw a facility where Pharanee and her staff were busy caring for 45 gibbons and seven monkeys. In addition, they were now surrounded by a replanted landscape that had been dramatically transformed and had become a much-needed haven for local wildlife.

## Jerry

The gibbon who really stole my heart at Highland Farm was Jerry. Jerry is 18 years old and arrived at the sanctuary in a terrible state. His owner was a soldier and, for some unknown reason (perhaps Jerry was approaching adulthood and becoming harder to manage), he kicked Jerry so hard that he shattered Jerry's pelvis and injured his spine, so that he remains permanently hunched over. Jerry received no veterinary treatment for this, and some time later his owner dropped him off at a rescue center near Bangkok.

Fortunately, the staff at the center contacted Pharanee and asked her to come and collect him, and she has nursed him back to health. He does not enjoy the company of other gibbons, although he likes to be able to sing and take part in any excitement going on. Jerry loves to have his back scratched, and I spent many hours sitting and grooming this sweet, gentle character.

## Coconut

In addition to the gibbons, I also got to know the monkeys that now call Highland Farm home. Coconut is a male stump-tailed macaque, a species that is also known as the "bear" macaque. In Coconut's case this name is quite apt, as he is very fond of his food and rather chubby. He must have been kept as a pet and relatively well treated, as he is very tolerant of humans.

Coconut was discovered about two miles from Highland Farm at a national park. There are no wild monkeys to be found in that area, as it consists of relatively new secondary forest, so he must have escaped or been dumped by his owners. He may have started to bite—or perhaps he was just eating them out of house and home!

already completed and the rest in progress. Jane and Nong Chai, a pair of gibbons who were previously living in the sanctuary's oldest housing unit, have already been moved and are settling well in their new, more luxurious home. We also started rebuilding the perimeter fence with a fortified design; this is vital in an area that is prone to flooding as well as to encroachment by neighbors who like to hunt the wildlife that have found refuge on the property.

Another great new development made possible thanks to IPPL's members is the completion of the on-site veterinary clinic. It is essential that there be holding and treatment facilities on-site, as a seriously ill animal may not survive the journey to the nearest vet hospital in Chiang Mai or Bangkok, both of which are a full day's journey away. Also, it is important that any ill primates be isolated from the others to halt the spread of infectious diseases. The generosity of IPPL's members has allowed Pharanee not only to complete the new structure but to furnish it with up-to-date medical supplies and equipment.

### Ape bars and monkey puzzles

For any captive primate, it is important to have both mental and physical stimulation. Gibbons are extremely agile, so during my stay at Highland Farm I devised some monkey bars (or in this case, ape bars!) out of bamboo. We put the five-and-a-half-meter (18-foot) long structure into an enclosure with seven young gibbons. There was a flurry of excitement, and straight away they were brachiating back and forth along them. Even Scotty, who has only one arm, managed to have a go.

There were also seven monkeys living at Highland Farm, so I decided to make something fun for them, too. Using a length of bamboo (it is useful stuff to have around), I made a simple food puzzle. The monkeys have to push food items—in this case, nuts and cinnamon fruit—along a series of small holes toward a large hole at one end. It was great to see the concentration on their faces. Even though it doesn't take them long to work it out, it holds their attention until all the food is gone.

The caregivers were very taken with my enrichment ideas and have begun introducing monkey bars and puzzles to the other enclosures, too.



A Highland Farm gibbon tests out the new "ape bars."



A monkey puzzle feeder provides a welcome new challenge.

*Many thanks to all those generous people who contributed to IPPL's 2008 fall fundraising appeal for Highland Farm. Without sanctuaries like this, the future would indeed be bleak for primates like Jerry and Coconut.*



## Wildlife Friends of Thailand: Gibbons and More

Before heading north to Highland Farm, I had a chance to visit the wildlife rescue center run by Wildlife Friends of Thailand (WFFT). On first landing in Thailand I was picked up and taken 160 kilometers south to WFFT's main facility. I always enjoy arriving somewhere in the dark, as you never know what to expect in the morning. I slept like a log despite the strident whining of a cicada right outside my window. I was then wakened by an altogether different and much more beautiful sound: the morning duets of 87 gibbons—whoops and hoots and rising crescendos. Gibbons are monogamous and territorial, so to reinforce the “marital” bond and proclaim their presence, most species sing duets in the morning and evening (and sometimes, when the mood takes them, during the day, as well).

The WFFT center was set up and is run by Edwin Wiek. Edwin has done an amazing job in a short time. The center was only established in 2001, but already there are around 350 rescued animals living there, including the gibbons, about 120 monkeys (five species of macaque and some langurs), lorises, bears, civets, eagles, hornbills, six elephants, a crocodile, and even a tiger. The tiger is a beautiful character called Miaow with a neurological disorder that makes him look permanently drunk; this condition is the result of his time spent chained up in front of a garage, where he was malnourished and constantly dehydrated. This is not an exhaustive list of WFFT's residents, but it gives an idea of the ambitious scale of the project.

In addition to active rescue work, WFFT is interested in educational outreach. Many of the primates at WFFT, like those at Highland Farm, are victims of the pet trade and the entertainment industry. WFFT recognizes that education is the key to preventing this travesty: tourists need to be educated not to pose for gibbon photos—and probably most people would indeed be horrified to learn that a family of four or five gibbons was wiped out for the sake of a little vacation snapshot on the mantelpiece. The next generation of Thai children is also being given an opportunity to learn that preserving Thailand's wild animals and their habitats is worthwhile. For instance, the center has started restoring a large adjacent area of degraded forest and is involving local schoolchildren in the project. Hopefully, their interest in preserving Thailand's natural heritage will grow along with the trees they are replanting.

**One of over 350 animal rescues—  
including everything from primates to  
bears to birds—living at the Wildlife  
Friends of Thailand sanctuary.**



# Kuxi K'aax, "The Jungle Place"

*Heidi Michlin, Kuxi K'aax Co-founder*

At IPPL, we are always interested in hearing about new primate sanctuaries that have developed through necessity in different parts of the world. One such is Kuxi K'aax, which means "The Jungle Place" in the Mayan language, located in Quintana Roo, Mexico. It is a much-needed refuge for spider monkeys being driven from their habitat by voracious property developers. One of the sanctuary's founders tells us how it all started.

My husband Joel Rangel and I moved to Mexico from Texas for what we had planned as our leisurely retirement; it had long been our dream to build a house on the beach. Little did we know the very different adventure that awaited us.

## **A different dream**

One evening, having dinner at a local restaurant, a Mayan lady approached us, trying to sell a baby spider monkey. We refused, as this would encourage poaching, which is unfortunately still popular in the area. However, she was persistent; she arrived at our house the next day with the

baby and persuaded us to keep him over night, saying that she would return for him the following day if we still did not want him. We soon realized that this monkey was very sick, and decided to take him to a veterinarian to have him checked.

After X-rays and a thorough examination, the vet said we were wasting our time: the baby was not going to survive. He had double pneumonia with a very high fever; he was totally dehydrated and had gastritis and amoebic dysentery. We were determined to fight, and, needless to say, the Mayan lady did not get him back. We took him for treatment every

day for three weeks, and our newly-named Chaac miraculously survived! From that point on, our "beach dream" was forgotten. We moved into the jungle, and eight months later we had four orphaned babies needing care.

Paco was found abandoned in a square cardboard box with the lid closed, his legs and tail knotted into a ball. Nenna was deserted at a friend's restaurant, and our friend brought her to us. She bore no visible signs of damage, other than being very thin. Lady was brought to us when she was about eight months old. Her teeth were filed down to the gums,

## **IPPL Visits Kuxi K'aax**

*Dianne Taylor-Snow, IPPL Board Member (with Rebecca Austin, IPPL volunteer)*

Neither rain nor heat nor broken ankle can keep me away from a primate sanctuary. My husband Pepper and I recently found ourselves in Cancun, Mexico, at a friend's wedding. I had a broken ankle and needed a wheel chair and crutches. I was looking forward to seeing old friends and a lovely beach wedding, but secretly I had another agenda.

Rebecca Austin, an IPPL volunteer, had visited a spider monkey sanctuary about 40 miles south of Cancun, and I was anxious to see it, too. Prior to my departure from California I had contacted one of the founders, Heidi Michlin; I told her I would be in the area, and, if at all possible, would love to visit. "Of course, we would be happy to see you. But I don't think we can provide a tour for all 60 people at the wedding!" I assured her that it would only be me and my husband, and we made arrangements to visit during our week's stay there.

When the time came, we rented a car and drove south to find the sanctuary. This proved harder than expected. We had been told that The Jungle Place was on the Chemuyil jungle road between Playa del Carmen and Tulum. Along that stretch of modern highway all of the off-ramp signs had been removed due to construction, so we had to use guesswork to decide when to turn off, and then locate an English-speaking local who could direct us from there. We bumped up the road for quite a bit, and all of a sudden there it was, a small wooden sign proclaiming "The Jungle Place." We were thrilled until we found the gates locked! We then had to locate Heidi and her husband Joel Rangel who, it turned out, had been in Tulum purchasing supplies and were only four minutes behind us. "Stay where you are!" Heidi commanded. "We'll be right there!" Then, sure enough, they came bumping up the road, unlocked the gates, and we drove into a wonderland.

A few years prior to our visit, a terrible hurricane had beaten an ugly path through the area, and Heidi said that not one leaf was left on any of the trees. Luckily, they did not lose any animals. The day of our visit we saw a lush jungle hideaway housing 16 spider monkeys, with spacious, clean enclosures at least 30 feet high and connected by overhead runways. The monkeys are fed three times daily with a diet of yogurt, oatmeal, extra protein, and varied fruits.

The Mexican government recently gave them a five-star rating, saying it was the "best sanctuary in the State of Quintana Roo" (where they are a government licensed sanctuary). There are a number of cottages scattered about for small groups of paying visitors or students working on their doctorates, but it is not open to the general public. It is a beautiful refuge for non-human primates and quite an adventure for "sanctuary hunters."

However, just outside the sanctuary, all is not well. The road from Cancun to The Jungle Place is lined with huge parcels of pristine jungle habitat on sale for future land development. Mexico is home to two species of howler monkey and one spider monkey species; all are becoming increasingly rare. In fact, about 70 percent of the original tropical forests, where these species were found, have now been lost as a result of human activity. Many are also captured from the wild for the pet trade, only to be confiscated from bars and private homes at a later stage. Sadly, this situation is not unique, and more attention to habitat protection is needed before the world is devoid of many, many primate species.



The enclosures at Kuxi K'aax are surrounded by lush jungle vegetation. *Right*, sanctuary co-founders Heidi Michlin and Joel Rangel pose next to Mr. Bojangles, one of their spider monkey residents.

a finger was missing, and she had a tight cord around her neck cutting into her skin. With constant attention as well as proper nourishment, they all lost their initial fear, and settled into their new home.

When the monkeys reached the age of two, the human environment was too dangerous for them. They would try to lock each other in the refrigerator, swing on ceiling fans, and even take apart electric boxes! It was time for them to start living more like monkeys again, so we built them a 10-cubic-meter (350-cubic-foot) cage, with trees, rope swings, a cozy little indoor enclosure, and a swinging bed. Since then, we have built three more such enclosures with connecting runways.

### More arrivals

Teva came a year later; street workers brought her. Her tiny right arm was broken in two. We had it put in a cast (on which we wrote the names of the other monkeys!) and the arm healed up as good as new. Pagliachi came shortly after this. Some Mayans brought him in a plastic bag. He was totally starved and started eating rocks and dirt as soon as they let him out. He has been so mistreated by humans that even today, after two years, the closest he will

get to me is to hold my finger through the chain link fence.

Boshnic, a tiny baby, was left on our doorstep. He was very scared but showed no visible damage. Goyo was about five years old and had been abandoned in the jungle very near us. He was well-fed and clean, but was unable to climb even a small ladder and had terrible seizures. Rumor had it that he was released from a test lab. His seizures have drastically diminished now, and he is a lovely character.

Mr. Bojangles was a wild monkey, about four or five years old and very skinny, who came and would not leave. He liked the food in The Jungle Place. After a year and a hurricane, he managed to confine himself in one of the enclosures, and he has been happy there ever since. Ixchel was brought by a lady who had been in a car accident, had two broken legs, and could not take care of her monkey anymore. None of the local zoos and reserves wanted her, as an infant is "too much trouble."

Baby Maya, our most recent rescue, was brought to us after we answered a call for help. She was totally malnourished, but she is fine now. We also had a little surprise in the form of Luna, the tiny baby daughter of Lady and Chaac.

### A lot to learn!

Six years ago, when we got our first baby, I knew very little, if anything, about the black-handed spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*). I had to start doing extensive studies on them, starting with the Internet. I also called zoos, veterinarians, and wildlife parks. My big break in this endeavor came when I met anthropologist Dr. Linda Duchin, who has generously given her time, knowledge, advice, and encouragement, and has continuously supplied me with books and articles pertaining to my work.

So I have developed and perfected a frugivorous diet, which the monkeys are thriving on. I have also, to a certain extent, learned their "language." Their emotional health is every bit as important as their physical health, and I have supported this by interacting with them, but also by allowing them to bond with each other. We avoid boredom at all costs, as they are so intelligent and need constant mental stimulation.

In 2003, we received our official sanctuary license from the Mexican government: it was a proud day in our lives, but this does not include funding of any kind. We hope to be able to continue expanding to accept other orphans in the future.

# Chinese Report on Trade in Crab-eating Macaques

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), any export of species listed on Appendix II must be accompanied by certification that the animals to be exported were legally removed from the wild with no “detriment” to their species. Mexico organized an International Expert Workshop on non-detriment findings, which was held in Cancun from 17 to 22 November 2008. Unedited extracts from the official Chinese presentation on the trade in crab-eating macaque monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*) give insight into that country’s perspective. Note that China has no wild crab-eating macaques, although it has native rhesus macaques.

## The Chinese view on its monkey trade

*Before 1980s, domestic experimental primates in the country were mostly rhesus monkey, Macaca mulatta. China ratified CITES in 1982...*

*During early 1980s, since... market economy reform in China, the cross-border trade was booming in the country...*

*As a result of CITES enforcement,*

*illegal trades of the crab-eating monkeys were detained and seized along the international border trade posts in southern China. Those macaques all were sent to local wildlife rescue centers...*

*Comparing with rhesus monkey, crab-eating monkey is easier to breed in captivity; those confiscated macaques formed the initial founder populations of crab-eating monkeys in China...*

*Late 1980s, the international demands for primates as laboratory animals increased. Around 1990, for breeding Macaca fascicularis, four primate breeding companies were established. The founder animals mostly came from the crab-eating macaques kept at those local wildlife rescue centers with the breeding stocks supplemented from primate breeding centers in Southeast Asia...*

*Mounting demands in international market for crab-eating monkeys greatly stimulated the breeding of crab-eating macaques in the country. In August 2008, there are 40 primate breeding companies in the country, which keep about 170,000 crab-eating macaques mainly for the export and to meet the growth of demand*

*for experiment animals worldwide...*

*From 2004 to 2007, China imported 36,620 crab-eating macaques, and exported 12,244 crab-eating macaques. All macaque trades are with CITES permits and come from captive populations...*

*Chinese national CITES authorities set up an import and export quota system for Macaca fascicularis; annual export quota is discussed and evaluated by the wildlife experts commission. The import quota is to control the inflow of crab eating macaques, even though those macaques are legally bred in artificial breeding bases abroad, while the exporting quota is for controlling the sale of artificial bred macaques to international market. Both quotas regulate the Macaca fascicularis population size in the country. National and provincial CITES authorities and wildlife management authorities also conduct annual or periodic inspections on these primate breeding centers...*

*In legal trade level, China CITES authorities authorized exporting of 2,580 living crab-eating macaques in 2005, 3,474 living crab-eating macaques in 2006, and 6,190 living crab-eating*

## Protest the Monkey Trade!

The increase in the traffic in crab-eating macaques is leading to depletion of the species in some areas of Southeast Asia and to lives of immense suffering for those monkeys captured to supply pharmaceutical and biowarfare laboratories. China is the hub of this trade, although it has no native crab-eating macaques. Please write letters to the CITES Secretariat and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement requesting a thorough investigation of this trade and whether wild-caught monkeys are being fraudulently declared as captive-bred on shipping documents.

*CITES Secretariat  
International Environment House  
11 Chemin des Anémones  
CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva  
SWITZERLAND  
Fax: +41-(0)22-797-34-17  
E-mail: info@cites.org*

*Benito Perez, Director of Law Enforcement  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203  
USA  
Fax: 703-358-2271*

Protests about China’s massive monkey exports may be addressed to the Chinese embassy in your country of residence. A list of Chinese embassies can be found online (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/wjbj/zwjg/2490/>).

*His Excellency the Ambassador of China  
Embassy of China  
2201 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20007  
USA  
Fax: 202-588-9760*

*His Excellency the Ambassador of China  
Embassy of China  
49-51 Portland Place  
London W1B 1JL  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Fax: 0044-20-76362981*

macaques as experimental animals in 2007. The main destination of the trade was the U.S.A.

Because of the high cost in maintaining laboratory animals and animal welfare issue, many companies in developed countries want to move their animal experiments overseas, especially to the developing countries. To cater to this demand, those primate breeding companies in developing countries should be transformed into animal laboratories with experimental facilities, trained personnel and advanced animal keeping and health techniques.

### More questions than answers

The statement above that China exported a total of 12,244 crab-eating macaques from 2004 to 2007 appears nonsensical to IPPL given that, according

to records provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States imported 13,952 crab-eating macaques from China in 2007 alone. This staggering discrepancy requires an explanation.

IPPL has received many reports alleging that China is promoting the unrestrained capture of wild primates from nearby countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, and even Indonesia, leading to fears of catastrophic declines in the populations of wild monkeys in their native lands—a clear “detriment” to the species. There are several Chinese-owned monkey holding centers in Cambodia that are conveniently placed to receive large numbers of these animals. Reports suggest that these “breeding” facilities are not engaged in breeding monkeys to any significant extent but are primarily way-stations in an unsustainable trade route.

It is suspected that many wild-caught animals are transferred from such centers in Cambodia and elsewhere to China for onward shipment to world markets using falsified “captive-bred” export documents.

IPPL is appalled that many pharmaceutical companies, including U.S.-based firms, would wish to transfer their research work to China. At least one U.S. drug company is planning such a move. The Chinese are quite candid about the fact that overseas companies are moving to China to escape the animal welfare regulations (as minimal as they often are) in their home countries. In addition, there is no strong animal protection movement in China to offer grassroots advocacy. Sadly, the future for monkeys caught in the Chinese trade machine looks grim indeed.

## Special Gifts to IPPL

Given by:

- ❖ **Ruth Stone Feldman**, in memory of absent friends
- ❖ **Elissa Blake Free**, in memory of Ann Cottrell Free
- ❖ **Patricia Christenson**, in memory of her father Alfred Meyers
- ❖ **Brien Comerford**, in honor of all God’s creatures
- ❖ **Lesley Day**, in memory of Linda Howard
- ❖ **Doreen Heimlich**, in memory of her husband Seth Heimlich
- ❖ **Jacqueline and Wilson Hepler**, in honor of Doreen Heimlich
- ❖ **JoAnn and Larry Hertz**, in honor of Nancy Tobin’s birthday
- ❖ **Joan King**, in honor of Robert S. D. Harding
- ❖ **Angela Kwan**, in honor of Russell Shipley
- ❖ **James and Sidney Martin**, in memory of Sam
- ❖ **Heather McGiffin**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Shirley McGreal**, in memory of Arthur Hunt
- ❖ **Larry L. Miller**, in memory of Travis the chimpanzee
- ❖ **Judy Moresco**, in honor of the birthday of Dan Dasinger
- ❖ **Gloria Munson**, in memory of Leon J. Munson
- ❖ **Marsha Rabe and Thomas A. Brown**, in memory of Travis the chimpanzee
- ❖ **Tavia Robb**, in honor of Barry A. Yelvington
- ❖ **Lorraine Stecher**, in memory of Jake Gagnon



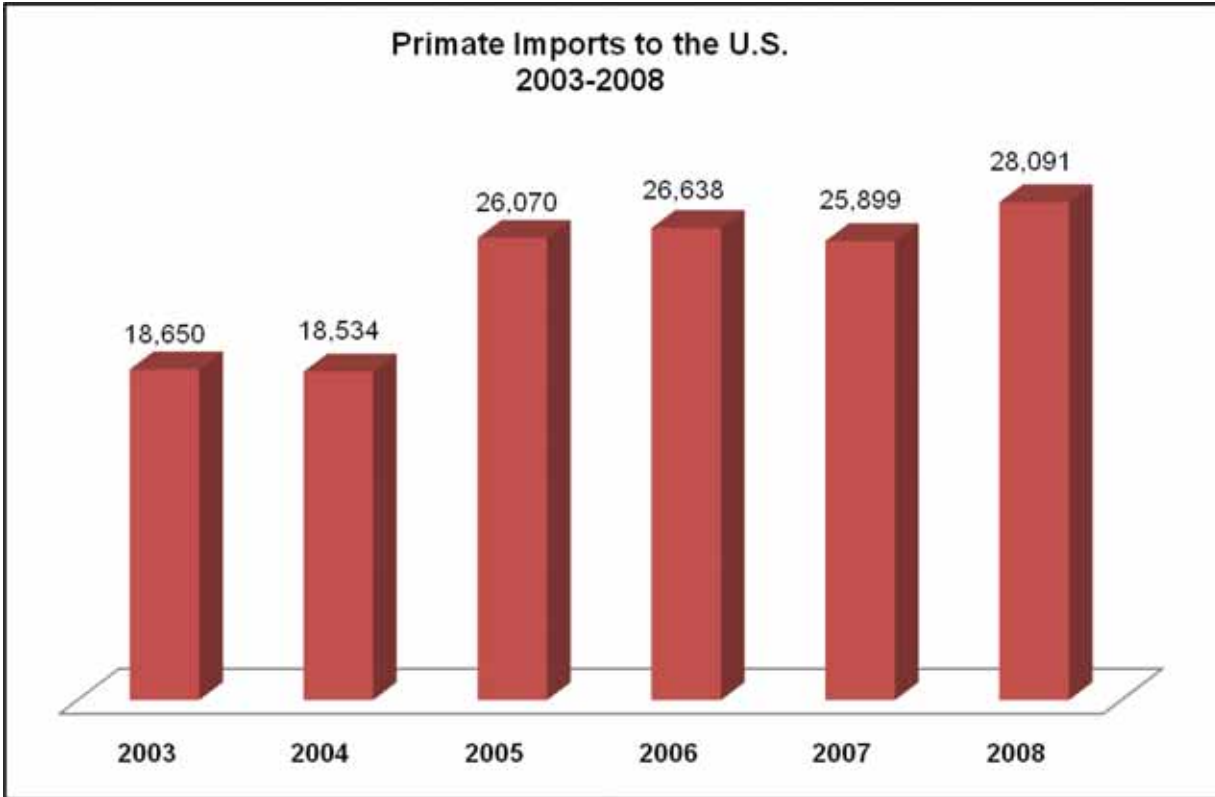
## IPPL Mourns the Loss of Carole Noon

IPPL is sad to report that our long-time friend and Advisory Board member Carole Noon died at her home at the Save the Chimps Sanctuary, Fort Pierce, Florida, on 2 May 2009. Carole was a speaker at IPPL’s first Members’ Meeting in 1990, as well as at subsequent meetings in 1994, 1996, and 2000, telling us about her work at the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in the north of Zambia.

After earning her doctorate, Carole founded Save the Chimps in 1997. Thanks to generous funding from the Arcus Foundation, the sanctuary is now home to over 300 chimpanzees, mostly lab veterans rescued from the notorious Coulston Foundation. Some of these chimpanzees are descendants of chimpanzees involved in the U.S. space program.

# U.S. and UK Primate Imports

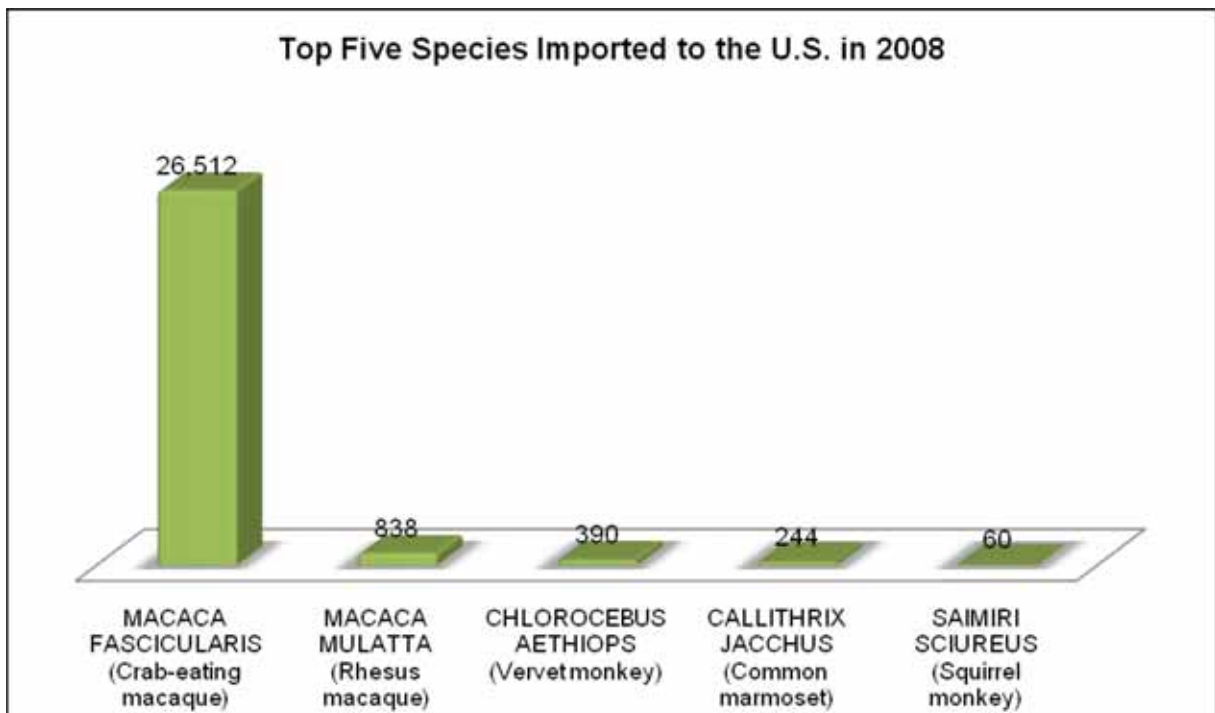
Helen Thirlway, Director, IPPL-UK

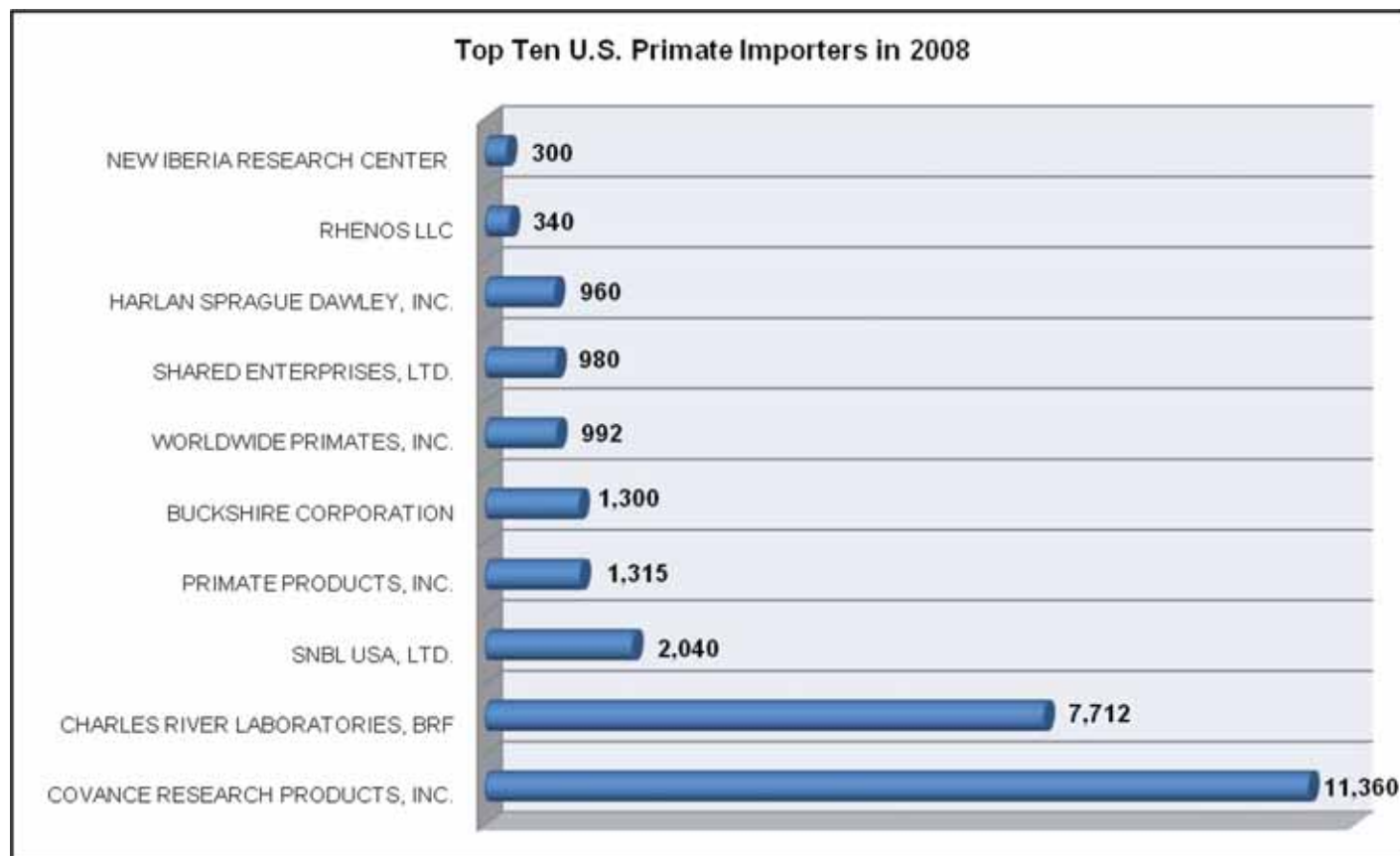
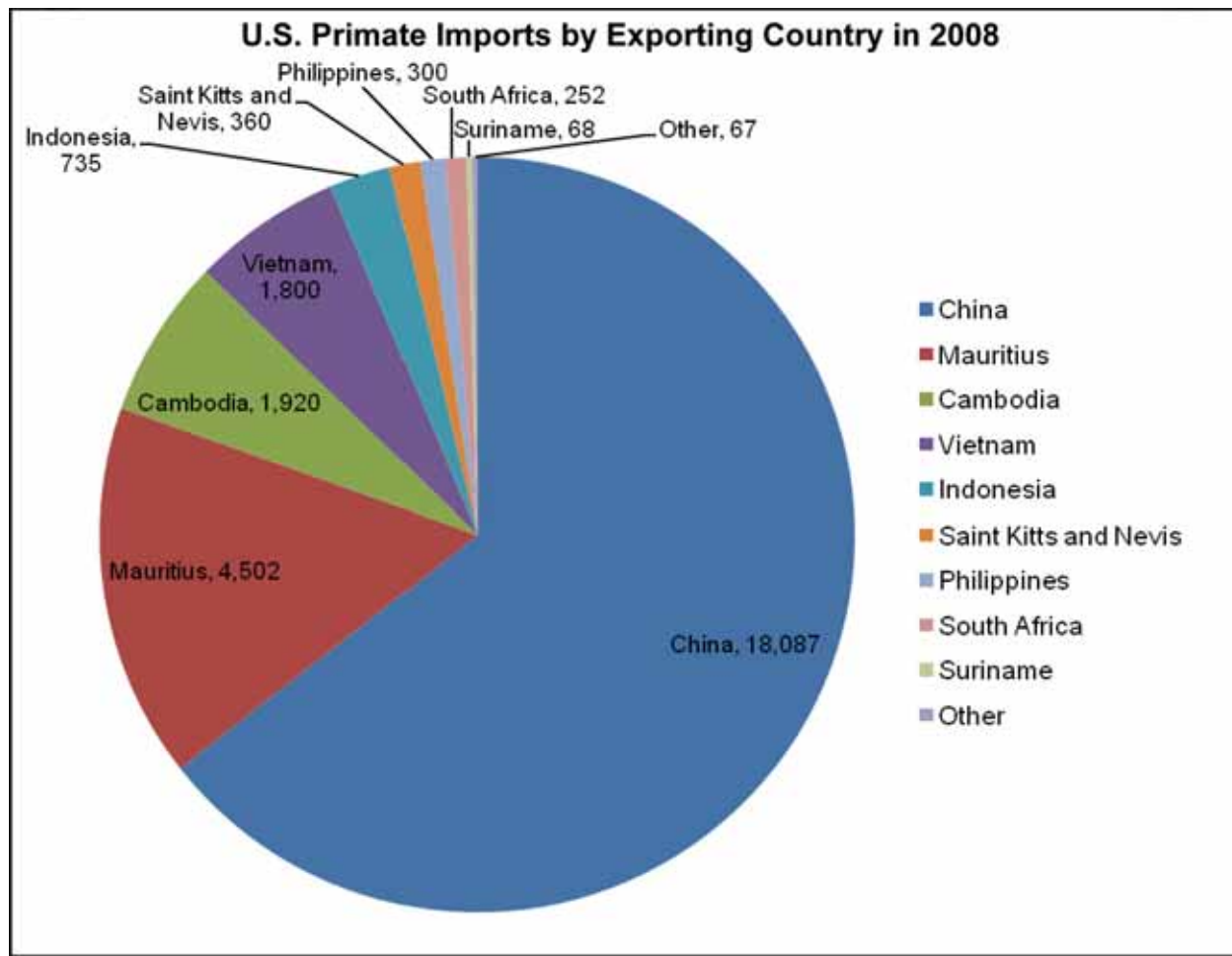


IPPL now has the figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the number of non-human primates imported into the U.S. from different countries around the world through 2008. Sadly, the number continues to

rise, with a particular increase since 2005. Over 99 percent of the primates imported in 2008 were for use in scientific research or pharmaceutical testing. It is illegal to import primates for the pet trade, and less than one percent

was imported by zoos. Crab-eating macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) are still by far the most popular primates for use in experimentation, although there are other species being imported, as shown in the chart below.





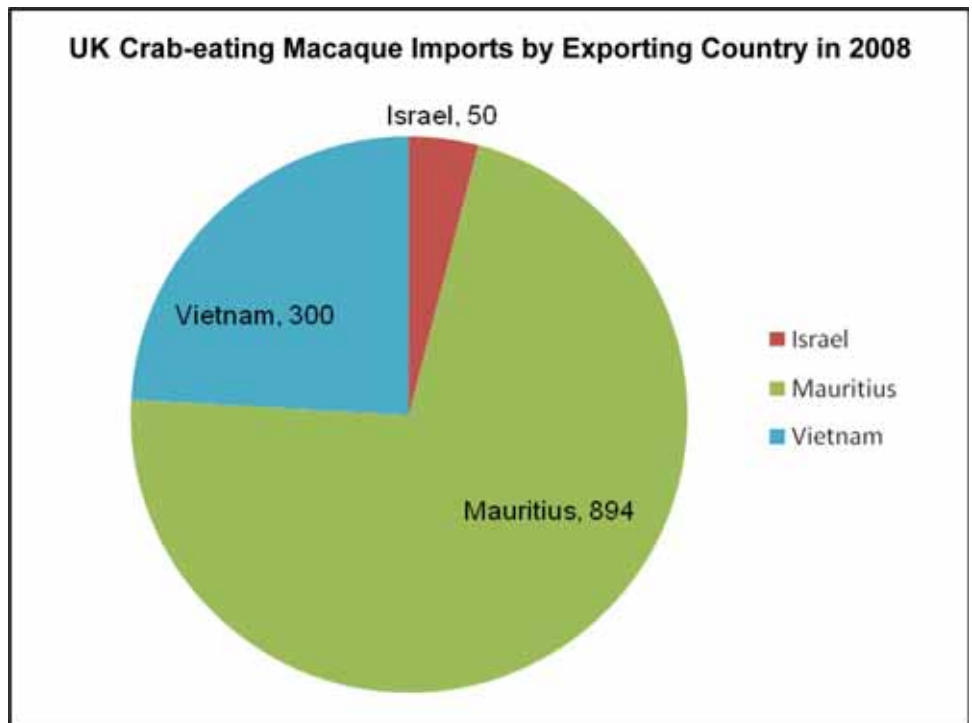
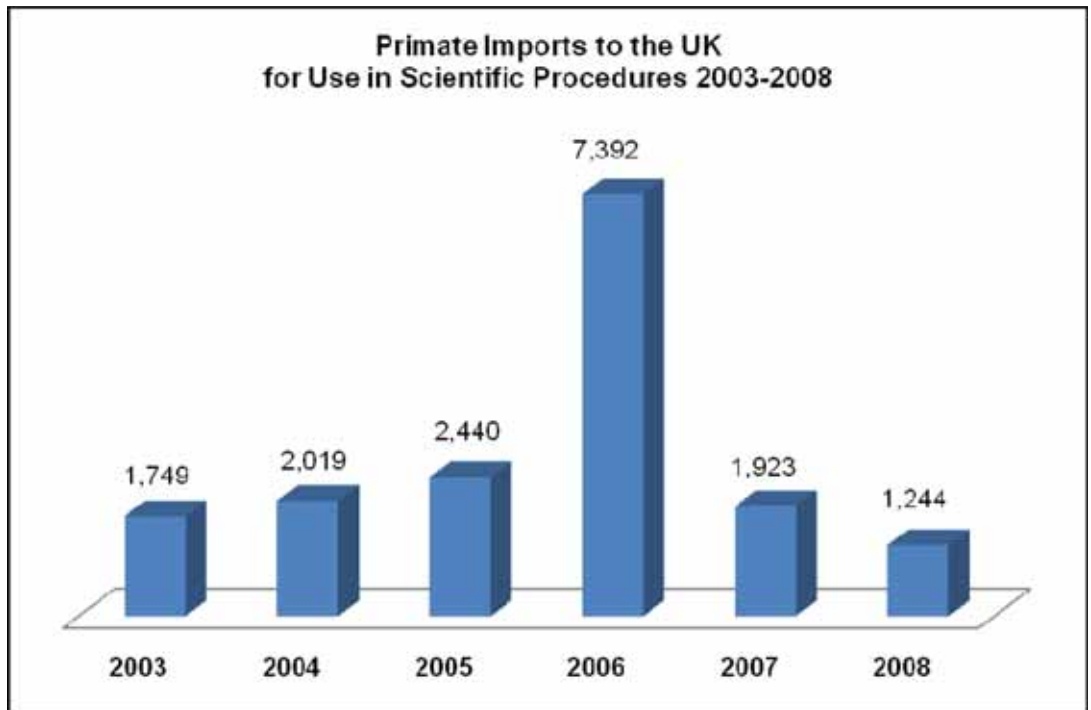
IPPL-UK has now confirmed the figures for primates imported into the UK for use in scientific procedures for 2008. The graph to the right shows the numbers each year for the last six years.

The huge spike in 2006 did not correspond to an increased use of primates in scientific procedures that year or the following year, so it seems likely that the large number was due to one establishment (or more) “re-stocking” its animals. It also appears as though the numbers decreased significantly in 2008.

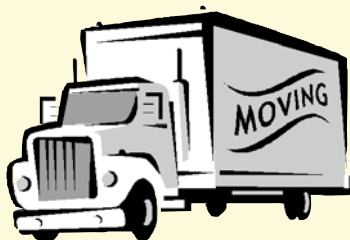
However, import licenses—which have yet to be used—were issued in 2008 for an additional 1,890 primates, so one cannot be too confident that imports are actually decreasing. In fact, imports could increase in 2009 if those licenses already granted are all used.

Although rhesus macaques, common marmosets and squirrel monkeys had also been imported in previous years, in 2008 every single primate import was a crab-eating macaque. There was one license issued early in the year for 50 common marmosets from the U.S., but it has not been used.

The vast majority of these macaques were from Mauritius, where this non-native species (thought to have been introduced in the early 1600s) is considered a nuisance. The use of these monkeys in research has even been sanctioned by some conservationists as a means of “turning a pest into a resource.” Roughly a quarter came from Vietnam, and a small number from Israel, which must have come from its only primate breeding farm, BFC. No primates were imported from China, compared to five percent of primate imports in 2007.



## Moving Soon? Let Us Know!



Millions of people around the world change their place of residence every year. That makes it hard to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. You can help lower our postage costs by telling us of your new address in advance. Just send us an e-mail ([info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)) or postcard with your old and new addresses. That way we can spend less money on overhead and more money on primates! (And you won't miss a single issue of *IPPL News*!)



# Saving Chimpanzees in Uganda's Budongo Forest

*Dr. Vernon Reynolds*

**Dr. Reynolds has been a member of IPPL's Advisory Board since 1974 and has long been involved in chimpanzee research and protection.**

In addition to its magnificent mahogany trees and other wildlife, the Budongo Forest is home to about 700 chimpanzees. The Budongo Conservation Field Station (BCFS, which I established in 1990 as the Budongo Forest Project) is a Ugandan non-profit organization with a field site in the middle of the Budongo Forest Reserve, a protected area in northeastern Uganda. The primary mission of the BCFS has always been to study and conserve the local chimpanzee populations, but this goal has hit a "snag." As in other forested areas of Africa, the illegal snaring of animals for bushmeat is common; while this activity is aimed mostly at duikers and wild pigs, chimpanzees unfortunately can get caught in the snares.

placed so that a duiker will put its head into the loop as it walks along. Chimps put a hand or sometimes a foot into the noose.

The second kind of snare is the sprung snare. In this case, the snare is attached to a sapling that has been bent over and is held in place by a toggle near the noose, which is set in front of some bait. When the duiker puts its head in the noose to eat the bait, it dislodges the toggle and the sapling springs up. As before, a chimp can get a hand or a foot into such a snare.

## Chimp injuries from snares

The main type of injury we see in our chimpanzees is the "claw-hand." When the snare tightens around the wrist of the victim and the victim pulls back, the wire or nylon snare starts

**A sprung snare, like this one, is made with a bent sapling.**



Photo © Frank Fox-Wilson

**A simple noose snare can maim a chimp for life.**



Photo © Cat Hobaiter

**"Man-traps" like this are placed near gardens.**



Photo © Vernon Reynolds

## Snares and traps

Snares can make use of nylon string, but mostly they are made of steel wire, which people can get from various sources—telephone wire and wire from vehicle tires are popular. The wire can be bought in local markets but is often just taken where it is found, or it may be traded between hunters. A man will make half a dozen snares in his home and then go into the forest, look for animal tracks, and set his snares along them.

Two types of snares are made: simple noose snares and sprung noose snares. The simple noose snare is attached at one side to an upright sapling, and the noose is

Traps, sometimes called "man-traps," are totally different from snares. Traps are not set in the forest but at the side of people's gardens (or "shambas"). They are there not only to get meat for the cooking pot but to catch animals that may be inclined to forage in the garden. Baboons, pigs, and sometimes vervet monkeys engage in crop-raiding—and so do chimpanzees from time to time. In this way they can easily lose a hand or a foot, and we have several chimps who have done so. Traps are illegal in Uganda, but only very rarely does a case come to court; when it does, the fine is very small.

to bite into the skin and the flesh, eventually de-activating the tendons and nerves of the wrist. This produces flexion of the wrist joint, hand, and fingers. The hand becomes hooked and loses functionality. If the injury is severe, muscles, tendons, and nerves are severed and the hand flops around uncontrollably.

Sometimes the snare catches one or more fingers rather than the whole hand. In such cases, one or more fingers can be lost or lose their functionality. We see all shapes of fingers and hands in our injured chimps.



Photo © Cat Hobaiter

**Kalema's hand, severely damaged by a snare, flops about uselessly.**

### Chimp removes another's snare

In some cases, especially with our younger chimps, the snare is removed by patient pulling and biting at it with the teeth. I think young chimps get their snares off more easily because they lack the strength to pull the snare very tight in the first place, so it doesn't cut into their skin and underlying tissues as much. They can make a full recovery, though that is sadly not always the case.

Very rarely does one chimp help another that has been snared, but it can happen. On 18 January 2008 one of our field assistants, Stephen Amati, was with a party of 27 chimps in the forest. At 16:53, one of our senior and respected adult female chimps, Kwera, started to scream, and other chimps joined in. Kwera's right hand had become caught in a nylon snare attached to a sapling. (A full account of this event was published in *Pan Africa News*, the Newsletter of the Committee for the Care and Conservation of Chimpanzees and the Mahale Wildlife Conservation Society, June 2008. I wish to express grateful thanks to the editors of *Pan Africa News* for permission to publish this story, which was initially written by Stephen Amati, Fred Babweteera, and Roman Wittig.) Here is how Stephen tells the story:

*A couple of minutes after she got caught, the alpha male Nick arrived and displayed at Kwera, who was immobilized. After hitting Kwera a couple of times, Nick*

*stopped and sat next to her. Nick broke off the small sapling so that Kwera was able to move again. However, the snare was still around her hand, which was still attached to a stick of about 30 cm [12 inches].*

*The party continued travelling towards the south. At 17:18 the party started to move through an area of thick undergrowth, quite common in Budongo Forest. The stick attached to Kwera's snare got stuck between the little trees. Again she started to scream while pulling on the snare. Nick came back and displayed again towards her. He pulled on the stick which made*

*Kwera scream more. Kwera presented to him and Nick started grooming her. While being groomed, Kwera manipulated the snare with her teeth trying to bite through the nylon string. After 5 minutes, Nick took Kwera's right arm, held it up and investigated the snare. He started to manipulate the nylon with his teeth while holding Kwera's arm and the stick firmly in position. After a few minutes the snare fell off and the party continued moving.*

This is the first time we have seen a snare removed from one chimpanzee by another chimpanzee at Budongo, and there are very few similar reports from elsewhere. This is perhaps surprising given the high intelligence of chimpanzees, but it is a fact nonetheless. Most chimps who are caught by a snare are left to fend for themselves and suffer accordingly. But as this case shows, it is possible for chimps to cooperate and get a snare off. We hope this habit may spread within our community of chimps! Well done Nick, and also well done Kwera for allowing him to do this; it must have been a very painful experience.

### Budongo Forest Snare Removal Project

For the past ten years, the BCFS snare removal team has been active on a daily basis. Sometimes we remove 10 or even 20 snares from the forest on a single day.



**Members of the BCFS snare removal team.**

Photo © Cat Hobaiter

We cover the vicinity of our camp as well as more distant areas. Our objective is to cover the whole forest in the course of a year. At first we employed two snare removers; now we employ four. They work in pairs. They are all ex-hunters themselves, so they have a keen eye and know where snares are likely to be placed. They can locate snares you or I could easily overlook.

Besides using our staff for snare removal, we have an education program in the schools and villages around Budongo Forest. For this we employ two education officers. On Wednesdays they talk in one of the many local schools, and on Sundays they give talks in local villages. One of the key features of our education program is to teach local people the idea of

### Results from a recent month's worth of snare removal activity in Uganda's Budongo Forest:

Forest Compartment	Location of Compartment	Number and Type of Snares Removed	
		Wire	Nylon
N-2	Southeast of Research Area	20	2
N-3	Research Area	1	1
N-1	South of Research Area	75	2
B-1	West of Research Area	38	9
W-22	Northeast of Research Area	6	0
W-21	Northeast of Research Area	15	0
<b>Total (169)</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>14</b>

“Oakland Zoo raises funds for the Budongo Snare Removal Project by inviting a well-known speaker to address their Friends and Patrons once a year. IPPL’s Shirley McGreal was the speaker at their 2008 fundraiser, and she did very well for us, raising over \$10,000 that will all be spent on snare-removal over the coming year.”

*Vernon Reynolds*

conservation, which is a Western concept and not immediately comprehensible to up-country Ugandan village people.

#### The vet team in action

Meanwhile, we continue to remove snares from the forest. In addition, we remove snares and traps from chimpanzees as and when opportunity permits. When one of our chimps is seen with a new snare, our veterinarian, Tonny Kigeda, is alerted. He calls in one or two of his colleagues and, with a dart gun at the ready, they look for a chance to immobilize the chimp. This is not easy. Any adult males who are around may misinterpret what is happening and

could attack the vets. Others are liable to give fear screams and cause panic among the animals, with the result that the one we are trying to dart runs away.

Despite these logistical problems, we have had some success. Last year a young adult male, Kwezi, the son of Kwera mentioned above, was successfully tranquilized and his snare removed. He recovered fully and showed no fear of people afterwards. Even more recently, in January 2009, a juvenile female chimp belonging to a community living in the Bulindi forest fragments was successfully extricated from a trap. This is an area where the forest has been much reduced

and chimps have to cross farmers’ fields, where they inevitably do a bit of snacking, running the risk of getting caught by one of the terrible “man-traps.”

The chimp, unnamed because she belonged to an unstudied group that was not used to humans, was screaming in pain and fear when our team arrived. They anesthetized her and removed the trap. She is making a good recovery—thanks to the BCFS snare removal team and the vets who work so conscientiously to save our endangered cousins from injury and death in Africa.

*I would like to thank the following people in particular for their help with our snare removal program: our Director Fred Babweteera, and our four snare removers, Azima Ofen, Andi Dominic, Atayo Gideon, and Moses Lemi. We are all grateful to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland at Edinburgh Zoo for providing core funding for BCFS.*

## Paddling for Primates

Helen Thirlway, Director of IPPL-UK, is planning to attempt the Great North Swim, a one-mile open water swim across chilly Lake Windermere in England’s scenic Lake District. She will be taking the plunge in this mass-participation event on 12 September 2009. Helen is currently looking for sponsors who are interested in helping her raise funds to support IPPL-UK’s monkey protection work. Helen has created a fundraising page where it is easy, efficient, and secure to submit pledges (<http://www.justgiving.com/monkeyswim>). One of her donors, Alan Wall, has cheered her on with this comment: “Apparently it is one mile to the **bottom** of the lake, also—you can’t fail.”

# IPPL Funds New Home for Nakola the Silvery Gibbon

*Kate O'Connell, Committee Member, and Karen Payne, Vice President, Silvery Gibbon Project*

Since the September 2007 issue of *IPPL News*, readers have followed the story of Nakola, a rescued silvery gibbon (or Javan gibbon) then living at the troubled Cikananga Rescue Center in Indonesia. In mid-2008, after three years at Cikananga, Nakola was transferred to the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC). The JGC is a rescue and rehabilitation facility near Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park in Java; it specializes in the care of members of his species and is now home to 30 rescued silvery gibbons (up from five in 2007), many previously kept as illegal pets. The Centre's ultimate aim is to be able to rehabilitate and release suitable gibbons into protected habitat in the wild so that they can once again be free. The development and operation of the JGC is supported by the Silvery Gibbon Project, a non-profit organization based in Perth, Australia.

Nakola has made considerable progress since his arrival at the JGC. Since moving to his larger enclosure, Nakola has managed to put on needed weight, regrow a substantial amount of fur on his arms and legs, and generally improve his condition. However, some damage from his former life as an abused pet is permanent, like his "hunchback" and missing toes. Despite these disabilities, Nakola manages to move around well, has a good appetite, and enjoys enrichment activities.

## Nakola's special needs

However, it seems that Nakola is hostile to other gibbons, rather like the retired lab gibbon Igor living at IPPL's Headquarters Sanctuary. Despite initial improvements shortly after his arrival at the JGC, an assessment in January 2009 revealed that Nakola's physical condition had not continued to improve as much over the



previous six months, and that some of his fur loss had returned. It was felt that this was probably due to over-grooming, the result of stress from being housed next to another gibbon. Nakola had been observed to be aggressive towards other gibbons despite numerous attempts to pair him with a suitable female. Instead, he seems to prefer human companionship. In light of this, the Silvery Gibbon Project aims to build Nakola a new enclosure that will be separated from other gibbons and closer to the keeper house. This enclosure will hopefully reduce Nakola's stress levels and help him to regain his body and coat condition. Construction of Nakola's new enclosure has been made possible thanks to funding generously provided by IPPL.

Housing a gibbon on his own and closer to human company are conditions

that would not be recommended for a gibbon capable of full rehabilitation for potential release. However, due to Nakola's physical handicaps, it is likely that he will not be suitable for release, and we feel this is the most appropriate way to accommodate him and improve his quality of life. Nakola's condition will continue to be closely monitored by Silvery Gibbon Project and JGC staff. Although he may not be able to return to the wild, he is a valuable ambassador for his species, highlighting the consequences of the illegal pet trade.

## IPPL's long-term support

IPPL has been a strong supporter of Nakola, providing funding during his time at Cikananga, helping to fund his transfer to the JGC, and now funding his new enclosure. IPPL has "adopted" Nakola and all the other available gibbons at the JGC since the adoption program began in 2007. Funding raised through this program will help to ensure that Nakola can live out a happy and fulfilling life. The Silvery Gibbon Project is very grateful for the ongoing financial support received by IPPL that has allowed us to provide care to these amazing animals and to move closer to the ultimate goal of seeing these gibbons back in their wild environment.

Like all ape species in Indonesia, the survival of the silvery gibbons is under serious threat due to habitat degradation and fragmentation and the illegal pet trade. Much publicity is given to the gibbon's larger cousins, the orangutans. Few people, however, realize that the first ape extinction this century will likely be a species of gibbon. If we do not take action, the call of the silvery gibbon could be silenced forever.

## IPPL Members Can Still Help Nakola

IPPL thanks all our members who have made donations in the past to help improve Nakola's quality of life. If you would like to make an additional gift, please make a donation by check (made out and mailed to IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484) or by credit card on our secure Web site ([www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)); be sure to note in the memo line or online comments section that your donation is for Nakola.

# Pet Chimp Attacks Owner's Friend

On 16 February 2009, a fourteen year old pet chimpanzee named Travis escaped from the Connecticut home of his owner Sandra Herold, and attacked Charla Nash, a friend of his owner, causing Nash severe injuries. Herold had bought Travis from Missouri animal dealer Connie Braun who has been dealing in chimpanzees for many years.

Herold had unwisely summoned her friend to help catch the roaming chimp, rather than calling on authorities and animal control officials who could have tried to tranquilize the animal and recapture him safely. As soon as Nash arrived on the scene, wearing no protective clothing and not carrying any safe capture equipment or weapon, Travis attacked her. When the police arrived on the scene after a frantic 911 call from Herold, Travis approached their vehicle, and they felt they had no choice but to shoot the chimpanzee to death.

## The lawsuit

Nash was initially treated at the Stamford, Connecticut, hospital for her injuries and was then flown by the Cleveland Clinic's private plane to the clinic, which is famous for its handling of severe trauma.

On 15 March, Nash's distraught twin brother, Michael J. Nash, filed a lawsuit for \$50 million against Herold. The lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court, Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk at Stamford, Connecticut. Extracts from the lawsuit detail the grisly nature of the case:

*The Defendant permitted the Chimpanzee to live with her inside the Defendant's house (the "House") at the Defendant's Premises. The defendant reportedly treated the Chimpanzee in a quasi-familial manner, allowing the wild animal to ride in cars, drink wine from a stemmed glass, dress and bathe itself, and even to use a computer...*

*Upon information and belief, prior to February 16, 2009, the Chimpanzee had displayed violent and erratic behavior typical of its wild nature. Upon information and belief the Chimpanzee, in 1996, bit a woman on her hand and tried to drag her into a car; in 1989, the Chimpanzee bit a man on his thumb; in 2003 the Chimpanzee*

*escaped the Defendant's vehicle and roamed for hours in downtown Stamford traffic before it could be captured...*

*Shortly after Charla arrived at the Defendant's Premises, the Chimpanzee*

*violently and savagely attacked Charla without provocation causing her egregious, life-threatening and catastrophic injuries...*

*Immediately after the Chimpanzee*

## Excerpts from the 911 Call

**DISPATCHER:** Stamford 911 where's your emergency?

**HEROLD:** Inaudible...241 rock, Rockrimmon Road (chimp begins screaming) send the police!

**DISPATCHER:** What's the problem? (chimp screaming)....

**HEROLD:** The, that the chimp killed my, my friend.

**DISPATCHER:** What's wrong with your friend? (chimp screaming)....

**HEROLD:** He's killing my friend!...

**DISPATCHER:** Oh, your chimpanzee is killing your friend?

**HEROLD:** Inaudible...yes he ripped her apart. Hurry up! Hurry up please!

**DISPATCHER:** Inaudible...there is someone on the way.

**HEROLD:** With guns, please just shoot him!...

**DISPATCHER:** What is going on? What is the monkey doing? Tell me what the monkey is doing.

**HEROLD:** He, he ripped her face off!

**DISPATCHER:** He ripped her face off?

**HEROLD:** He tried, he tried trying to attack me! Please! Please! Hurry!...

**DISPATCHER:** If the monkey moves away from your friend, let me know OK? So we can try to help your friend.

**HEROLD:** I...inaudible...no, no I can't, she's dead! She's dead!

**DISPATCHER:** Why are you saying that she's dead?

**HEROLD:** Inaudible...he ripped her apart!

**DISPATCHER:** He ripped what apart, her face?

**HEROLD:** Everything...inaudible....

**DISPATCHER:** They're on their way. Ma'am I need you to calm down now. OK? I don't want you to say anything. OK? Do me a favor, breathe....

**HEROLD:** Please hurry!...

**DISPATCHER:** Is the monkey still by your friend, or can you get close to your friend?

**HEROLD:** Yes, he's eating her! He's eating her.

**DISPATCHER:** He's eating her?

**HEROLD:** Please, God, oh please!...

**DISPATCHER:** Do me a favor, there is a police officer out there already...

**HEROLD:** I can't go out of my car. I can't.

**DISPATCHER:** Nope, do me a favor, stay in your car, stay in your car. I don't want you to leave your car. Stay in your car, OK?...

**HEROLD:** Shoot him! Shoot him! He, he....

**DISPATCHER:** Sandra, stay in your car....

**HEROLD:** They got to shoot him, please! I've tried stabbing him and, and he's hurt now too. So, so, so, he's going to attack anybody. I can't get out of this car!

**DISPATCHER:** Sandra, just stay....

**HEROLD:** Please tell them I already stabbed him.

**DISPATCHER:** I already told them that you stabbed him. I told them that already. I need you to stay in your car until I tell you to leave, OK?

**HEROLD:** (Sobs)

(Shots heard in background)

**DISPATCHER:** OK, still stay in your car. Don't leave the car until I tell you to, OK?

**HEROLD:** (Sobs)....

**DISPATCHER:** Breathe, Sandra, I need you to breathe.

attack, Charla was rushed to Stamford Hospital by ambulance where she underwent eight hours of emergency surgery in order to stabilize her and to begin to address some of her many catastrophic wounds. On February 19, 2009, Charla was airlifted to the Cleveland Clinic on the clinic's private critical-care airplane. To date, she remains in critical condition and is heavily sedated...

Charla suffered egregious, life-threatening and catastrophic injuries, all or some of which are permanent in nature, including but not limited to:

- a. traumatic facial injury (including loss of her nose, upper and lower lips, eyelids and the bony structures in her mid-face);
- b. loss of both hands;
- c. traumatic brain injury;
- d. traumatic eye injury that threatens her vision;
- e. broken bones; and
- f. lacerations...

Charla has been forced to expend (or is or will be obliged to pay) large sums of money for surgeries, procedures, medications, emergency room, doctor and hospital bills and the like, and will likely require additional multiple surgeries, procedures, transplants, therapies, medications, psychiatric care, in-home assistance to perform activities of daily living, and other medical care in the future.

In an affidavit in support of the claim, Michael Nash stated,

*Since the attack, I have come to learn from published reports that the Chimpanzee had been violent in the past. Apparently, Leslie Mostel-Paul, a former Stamford resident, told NBC's "Today" show that in 1996, the Chimpanzee had bit her hand and tried to drag her into a car. The Associated Press reported that Bill Janocha was bitten by the Chimpanzee in*

## Another Chimpanzee Shot

On Wednesday 1 April 2009, a nine year old chimpanzee kept as a pet in Winston, Missouri, escaped from his enclosure. Sheriffs' deputies were summoned, but unfortunately the chimp opened the door to their car and grabbed an officer, who then shot the chimp to death.

Officials then searched the owner's home and found 200 dogs and three monkeys in appalling conditions. Humane Society officials arrived later, but the monkeys and most of the dogs had already been removed from the premises.

Later, the Missouri Department of Agriculture located the monkeys and charged three people with running an illegal breeding facility, animal abuse, illegally disposing of dead animals, and keeping unlicensed wild animals.

*1998 when he tried to pick up a toy doll that the Chimpanzee had dropped. Also, Lynn DellaBianca, who ran Stamford's animal shelter, told the Associated Press that said she warned Sandra Herold of possible dangers in 2003 after the Chimpanzee escaped Herold's vehicle and roamed in downtown Stamford traffic for a few hours. Accordingly, it would appear that the Defendant was aware of the Chimpanzee's violent tendencies, its likelihood to escape confinement, and the difficulty in recovering the Chimpanzee once it escaped.*

*No amount of money can compensate my sister for the injuries she has suffered. Nevertheless, it is my belief that probable cause exists that judgment will enter in favor of Plaintiff in the amount of at least \$50,000,000.00.*

According to an Associated Press story dated 7 April 2009, doctors reported that Nash would be blind for life and faced multiple reconstructive surgeries.

### The dealer

The dealer who sold Travis to Herold is named Connie Braun (formerly married to Mike Casey, who lost the tip of his nose to a chimp in 1992). In the late 1960s Braun opened a pet shop called Braun's Barn along Highway CC near Festus, Missouri, U.S.A, and bought her first chimp, a male, in 1975 for \$12,000. She

then bought another chimp, a female. The pair started to produce offspring, and Braun got into the business of removing baby chimps from their mothers and selling them for entertainment and use as pets.

One of the breeding chimpanzees was named Suzy. She produced six babies, one of whom was Travis. Suzy escaped in 2001 and was shot to death by a local man.

Braun also had a program called "Chimparty" and took chimps to birthday parties and various local events. On 1 April 2009 the U.S television program "Inside Edition" rented a house in St. Louis and installed hidden cameras. They arranged a "Chimparty." Braun showed up with a nine month old diapered baby chimp named Michaela, who was wearing human baby clothes. The unfortunate baby was nervous and rocked back and forth.

"Inside Edition" reporter Paul Boyd asked Braun if she still sold baby chimps and she told him that, yes, she did, and that the going price for a chimpanzee was \$65,000. Thinking that Boyd might buy a chimp, Braun invited him to her compound. There he met 26 chimpanzees, most of them adults, some of whom had appeared on TV shows and movies. Michaela, the party chimp, was in the nursery with a three month old baby.

### Legal status of pet chimps

Twenty-one U.S. states ban the possession of non-human primates, 12 regulate their possession, and 17 have no laws, according to Born Free USA, a U.S. animal protection group. A U.S. Senate committee has taken up the Captive Primate Safety Act, which would prohibit interstate sale of all non-human primates.

## Poor Travis! Poor Charla!

IPPL extends its sympathies to Charla Nash and her family. We are also sickened that Travis's fourteen years of life were so appalling—being kidnapped from his mother at just a few days old and sold to people who had no clue about raising a chimp and who deluded themselves into thinking he was a human. Being forced to try to conform to human behaviors every day of his or her life is a terrible fate for any captive chimpanzee or indeed any wild animal. We hope that a way can be found to bring to an end the activities of the people engaged in this trade, by a combination of laws and education.

# IPPL Rescues Monkeys in Portugal

*Helen Thirlway, Director, IPPL-UK*

In the UK, IPPL has been working with the Portuguese group ANIMAL to improve the situation for primates in Portugal. The authorities there say they have identified and officially “seized” around 100 monkeys being kept illegally, either from violating the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), or from failing to meet animal welfare standards—and usually both. However, the police have no suitable facilities in which to place the confiscated animals, and there are no dedicated primate sanctuaries in Portugal. This means that the primate’s owner will usually have to be appointed as the animal’s legal temporary holder, and the unfortunate creature will be left to languish in appalling conditions, just as before. The authorities are only working reactively, not proactively, to enforce the animals’ legal protections, so these cases are just the ones to which they have been alerted by concerned individuals or animal welfare groups. There must be many more monkeys—and even apes—suffering in secrecy around the country.

To help these poor creatures, IPPL’s strategy is to focus on individual cases and, through them, increase awareness and educate the public on why primates should be left in the wild. One of the first situations that we heard about was a case of a chimpanzee already “seized” but then placed in the care of his original owner. He was being kept in a small



Cuca the vervet monkey, gone but not forgotten. Because of her sad fate, more primates languishing in illegal captivity in Portugal will have a better chance at rescue.

cage outside a garage. He originally had a mate, but the poor female had already perished. Fortunately, our good friends at the Stichting AAP rescue center in the Netherlands had already been informed of this chimp and, working with the CITES authorities, they whisked him away to a better life before he suffered the same fate as the female.

## Cuca’s story

The next situation we came across was that of a poor little female vervet monkey called Cuca. This sweet, gentle individual was chained up by her neck in someone’s

back garden. She was lonely and under-stimulated and had plucked out most of the hair around her face. Appeals to her owner fell on deaf ears, so we started to plan a rescue. However, even though two European sanctuaries confirmed that they could take her, we still needed her to be placed temporarily in Portugal while the matter was pursued through the courts. A wildlife park initially said they would offer her shelter, only to delay confirming when they could take her. We were poised and ready to carry out the rescue as soon as they gave us the go-ahead, but it never came, and, in the meantime, Cuca died. This was a blow for all of us; we had worked hard to give her a chance at a better life. We were determined that this unnecessary delay would not occur in future cases and that Cuca would not be forgotten. Just before she died, having realized that time was running out while the people from the park were deliberating, ANIMAL made contact with another wildlife park called Monte Selvagem, where the staff was much more willing to help. Next time, thanks to Cuca, we would be ready.

## More secret suburban monkeys

It was only days later that we heard of three more vervet monkeys in dire need. The group consisted of three females: a mother and her two daughters. The mother had been born in the wilds of Africa, only to end up in a squalid cage in the



Three female vervet monkeys—Laurinda, Benguela, and Luena—were found living in this filthy cage in their owner’s back yard in Portugal. Thanks to the efforts of ANIMAL in Portugal and IPPL-UK, these animals were successfully relocated.

Portuguese suburbs. She, together with her mate, was caught from the wild and sold to a Portuguese army official who brought them back on a military flight, unchecked by customs. An enclosure was cobbled together using scrap building materials on the owner's land, and there they stayed undetected by the police for around twelve years, surrounded by rotting food and feces. After fathering two babies, the father sadly passed away. Thankfully, the story of the three remaining family members did not end there.

We sprang into action immediately and, working together with the local authorities, we seized these primates and got them safely to their new home at Monte Selvagem. The excitement of the three females on seeing their new home was obvious. They are now in a large enclosure where they can climb trees, swing on ropes, forage amongst natural vegetation

and socialize as they please. There is also, of course, an adjoining indoor enclosure where they can shelter or simply have some quiet time alone.

Next to them, in a separate space, are three more vervet monkeys, who are curiously watching the new arrivals. The team at Monte Selvagem will work on gradually introducing the mother and her two daughters to this resident trio, giving

all of them the opportunity to develop into a larger and more complex social group. The story of their dramatic rescue was featured on television and in newspapers across Portugal, with a strong educational message about the deprivation these wild animals suffer when kept as pets instead of free in their native habitat.

IPPL's UK team will continue to work with ANIMAL to help more primates in need. In the meantime, we are delighted that these three ladies are enjoying the happy ending that they so deserve.



Laurinda, Benguela, and Luena check out their new neighbors at Portugal's Monte Selvagem reserve. The staff hopes to eventually integrate these new rescues with the park's existing vervet group.

## Monkey Wars in Europe

*Helen Thirlway, Director, IPPL-UK*

The European Union (EU) Directive 86/609/EEC, which legislates animal testing in Europe, is currently under review for the first time since it was adopted in 1986. Around 12 million animals are used on a yearly basis within the EU, so any changes could have far-reaching consequences.

Back in 2007, 433 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) signed a written declaration drafted by Animal Defenders International, urging an end to the use of great apes and wild-caught monkeys in experiments and a timetable for the phasing out of the use of all primates. In November 2008, the EU Commission published its proposals for revisions to the new Directive, which was starting to look like a promising piece of legislation. The revisions included an overall ban on the use of great apes (with a safeguard clause permitting their use in exceptional circumstances), and the phasing out of the use of wild-caught monkeys.

Needless to say, these potentially significant changes have resulted in intense

lobbying on both sides. Animal protection groups have been hoping to strengthen the revisions further, while pharmaceutical companies and the scientific research community have sought to weaken them. Sadly, it appears that, so far, the latter are winning out. The Agriculture Committee voted on tabled amendments on 31 March, and many of the hard-won improvements now look set to disappear from the final Directive.

The Agriculture Committee rejected the idea that tests using non-human primates should be restricted to "life-threatening or debilitating" conditions. Looking at UK figures, of the 3,964 procedures carried out on non-human primates in 2007, 79 percent were for pharmaceutical safety testing, so it is most likely that pressure from the pharmaceutical industry has played a part in the dismantling of this progressive legislation. The committee also sought to weaken the ban on wild-caught monkeys, calling for a feasibility study and an extension of the phasing-out period from the proposed seven years to ten.

Alarming, there has also been an attack on the greater control and transparency called for by the revised Directive. In their final vote, the Agriculture Committee indicated that they wanted "the prior authorization required for animal tests to be limited to projects where the pain would be 'severe' or those carried out on primates." This would mean that there would be no means of assessing the case for any testing when the pain that will be inflicted is thought to be only "moderate." Considering that the committee also pushed for allowing the same animal to be tested on continually, not only in cases of "mild" pain (as proposed in the revised Directive), but also in cases of "moderate" pain, their recommendation that this testing be exempt from the authorization procedure is extremely worrisome.

The full European Parliament will vote on the revisions and the proposed amendments on 4 to 7 May 2009. IPPL-UK will be contacting MEPs prior to this and hope that ethical principles will prevail when it comes to the final vote.



# A New Home for the Aketi Five Chimpanzee Orphans

*Cleve Hicks, Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, University of Amsterdam*

Five years ago, Cleve Hicks was asked by The Wasmoeth Wildlife Foundation and Karl Ammann, the conservationist and wildlife photographer, to study the famously mysterious “Bili apes” of the northern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Cleve discovered that, although these apes are most probably just Eastern chimpanzees (but perhaps a new subspecies), the animals exhibited a remarkable and unique material culture. Living relatively undisturbed by humans, the animals were seen to construct large numbers of ground nests (like gorillas), create eight-foot-long ant-fishing sticks (the longest seen in Africa), and smash open land snails and hard-shelled fruits with their bare hands.

Sadly, in June 2007, the Bili chiefs broke their signed agreement with the foundation, as well as Congolese law, by inviting several thousand gold miners into the area. Two enormous gold mines appeared 35 miles from where Cleve had set up a field station in the Gangu Forest, an area populated by chimpanzees unafraid of humans. Unable to return to this area, he instead spent September 2007 to November 2008 doing wildlife surveys near the town of Aketi, 75 miles southwest of Bili and in close proximity to the “Wild West”-style gold and diamond mining town of Buta.

Amazingly, he discovered that, as at Bili, chimpanzees could be found everywhere, along with nests and tools much like those seen farther north. Tragically, these chimpanzees and their unique culture, along with many other rare and endangered species, are under imminent threat of destruction by the rapidly-emerging commercial bushmeat trade that is sweeping across the area. This illegal commerce is intimately linked to the expanding artisanal mining industry, which is radiating outwards from the town of Buta into previously untouched forests and savannas. Heavily-armed commercial poachers have already cut a swath of destruction through the okapi-, elephant-, and chimpanzee-rich forests to the immediate south of Buta.

During his one and a half years of work at Bili, Cleve saw no chimpanzee meat or orphans. Now things are different. Here, he introduces five chimpanzee orphans that he managed to rescue.

The chimpanzees of the northern DRC have recently become the target of an enormous commercial trade. Old taboos against eating apes are dying fast as a new “quick-cash” gold- and diamond-mining culture spreads. Chimpanzees are not only popular as an ingredient in soup and medicines but also for sale as pets, both within the DRC and for export. Chimpanzee families, often protected in the past by local Zande and Benza taboos forbidding women to eat or cook their meat, are now being pursued through their forest homes by commercial poachers with dogs and poisoned arrows. Terrified of the dogs, chimpanzee mothers flee up trees for refuge, and there they are easily shot. In the long fall to the ground, their babies are often injured or killed.

## Five chimp orphans

Tragically, between September 2007 and February 2009, we encountered 40 live chimpanzee orphans for sale in the Buta/Bambesa/Aketi region in the northern DRC in addition to 34 chimp bushmeat carcasses. Chimpanzees are kept as pets by

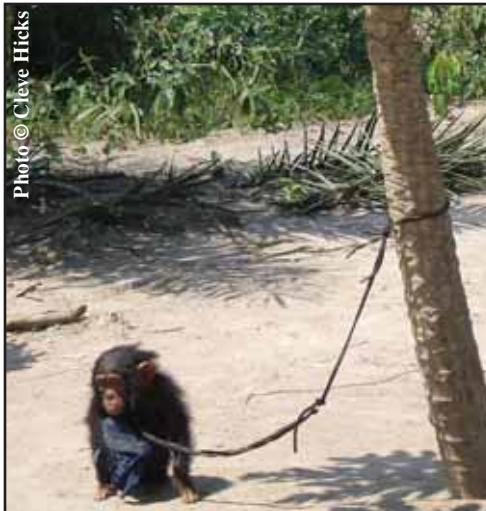


Photo © Cleve Hicks

a wide range of people, including peasant farmers, government officials, Catholic bishops, commercial traders, and wealthy businessmen. Most of the chimpanzee orphans that we found were living in abysmal conditions: tied to short ropes, sitting alone in the dirt, sometimes with their front teeth knocked out to prevent biting. We have seen chimpanzee babies wasting away of illness and malnutrition, treated as disposable playthings to be

cooked and eaten once they become too big and strong to be kept.

The Congolese police have until recently shown no interest in helping us confiscate baby chimpanzees. We have had to rely on tact and persuasion. Under no circumstances did we ever exchange money or gifts for a baby chimpanzee, as this would merely drive the market. Nevertheless, we managed to convince villagers to turn over five orphan chimpanzees, the Aketi Five.

## The Bonganzulu Refuge

After a few false starts and innumerable administrative hurdles, we finally managed to find a suitable place for a refuge for the growing number of chimpanzee orphans in our care: a patch of forest about 500 yards across the savanna from the Aketi town limits. We established the Bonganzulu Refuge in June 2008.

Bonganzulu is the perfect place for baby chimpanzees. The numerous oil palms and fig trees in the forest offer excellent foraging opportunities, and the chimpanzees could spend their morning

hours climbing through the canopy. Two of the orphans, Kathé and Bolungwa, even started to make ground nests (a special cultural feature of the local forest chimpanzees) in addition to sleeping in the trees or beneath the shelter we had built for them.

We employed four local men (Djodjo, Damien, Antoine, and Papy) to live at the sanctuary with the chimpanzees, tending to their every need. In addition, we hired a security guard. Polycarpe organized the administrative details of the sanctuary while I was away on forest surveys. We also made an arrangement with the local chief that his people would avoid travelling through the area, to avoid run-ins between chimpanzees and children.

In October of 2008, I was joined in Aketi by Laura Darby and Adam Singh from the United States. In November, they took over the running of the sanctuary

from me when I left the DRC to write up my Ph.D. Laura has extensive experience working at a chimpanzee sanctuary in Goma (in the eastern DRC), and speaks fluent French. All was going well.



## Finding a permanent home for the Aketi Five

Running the refuge is unfortunately expensive. In addition to the costs of food and medicine for the chimpanzees, we have to pay salaries along with food and housing construction costs for the workmen, as well as travel expenses for our educational efforts to explain to people why they should not buy or eat chimpanzees.

The Bonganzulu Refuge, of course, was conceived only as a temporary sanctuary for these bushmeat orphans, who were growing rapidly. Fortunately, the Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro (CRPL), near Bukavu in the DRC, agreed to take in the Aketi orphans. In late March, we hired a flight to transport the five chimpanzees from Aketi to their new home....

## The Evacuation of the Aketi Five

*Laura Darby*

Waking up at 3:00 a.m. on 31 March 2009, the air was tense. The chimpanzees had been brought over to the house at Bonganzulu the night before and were sleeping, unaware of the day that awaited them. Though we had all the legal paperwork for transferring the chimpanzees to the Center for Primate Rehabilitation in Lwiro (CRPL), we'd been having problems with local officials who were keen to thwart our efforts. The cover of night and the element of surprise were our best allies: only the Director of Immigration knew the date and time of the arrival of our plane, and we were hoping to keep it that way!

When the plane arrived, we nearly didn't believe it. We'd caged the chimps with some difficulty already, but a crowd had gathered around the airfield, and I worried for the safety and health of the animals. We started loading everything onto the plane, when a local official came

to the field, trying to stop us.

One of his men (not wearing a uniform) seized the orphan Aketi Kigoma by the leg as he tried to open the cage door, causing the baby chimpanzee to scream. This man risked receiving a serious bite. We had spent the previous four months fostering this orphan—and we had to act. We yelled at this man, insisting that for his own safety as well as that of the chimpanzee's he **must** stop touching the orphan, but he refused to listen. Adam protectively blocked the man from the cages and stood sturdily between him and the chimpanzees.

Though much arguing ensued, we gained the support of an official from the National Intelligence Agency (ANR), the equivalent to the CIA in the DRC. After his blessing and handshake, we boarded the plane, the chimpanzees already in the back. We were just ready to leave when additional policemen came to the

field, demanding that we get out of the plane. The pilots told them they were on a schedule, and during the argument we managed to close the doors. We did finally take off, the crowd only clearing once the pilots turned on the propellers. As we felt the wheels leave the ground, we cried as we exhaled, after nearly a month of struggling, knowing that the chimpanzees were finally safe.

The Aketi Five are now in quarantine at Lwiro and spend all of their time with their new caregiver, Claude. They're certainly excited about all of the new foods they're being offered: Eastern Congo has famously fertile volcanic soil that produces a great variety of delicious fruits and vegetables. Recently, a bucket of passion fruits and mangos was brought to the chimps' enclosure. Aketi Kigoma promptly crawled inside—and there he sat, eating his choice of fruits, for nearly three hours!

## *Thank you to IPPL!*

*Thanks to a gracious donation from IPPL to provide for the care and transportation of these animals to an established sanctuary, we are now able to ensure that these five infants can carry out their lives in safety, in the company of their own kind. Pant hoots and tree drums to IPPL from Kathé, Bolungwa, Django Mayanga, Baby Mangé, and Aketi Kigoma!*

# Meet the Aketi Five!

## Kathé

I first met Kathé in the town of Likati, where she had spent the last year of her life squatting on the muddy ground tied to a short tether. We were told by her “owners” that this young chimpanzee had been bought in the town of Ngombo, between the larger towns of Buta and Aketi. There is heavy mining activity in this region, and it is likely that Kathé’s mother had been shot for meat by gold or diamond miners. Her front teeth had been pried out with a hot knife to soften her bite. By the time we met her, Kathé had grown too big to be sold for anything other than her meat, and, despite the fact that some members of her family felt some affection for her, she was beginning to cause “problems,” such as escaping and breaking the family radio. Clearly Kathé’s days on earth were numbered. Fortunately, we managed to talk Kathé’s “owner” into handing her over to us, even after he grumbled a bit about us not giving him any money.

Kathé is the oldest, largest, and strongest of our five orphans and serves as an older sister or mother-figure for the younger chimpanzees. She has a gentle and affable—if mischievous—personality: she enjoys trying to smash open interesting pilfered objects, including cassettes and jam jars. She has also noticed that we humans are obsessed with money, and sometimes resorts to subterfuge to get it, gazing lovingly into one’s eyes while her hands sneak into a pocket to withdraw cash—which she then promptly puts in her mouth. Kathé is an irrepressible teaser, constantly swaggering up to her human friends wearing a play-face, grabbing our hands and pulling them into her favorite tickle spots, between her chin and chest and also in her groin. She will then reward us with breathy peals of chimpanzee laughter.

## Bolungwa

We first met Bolungwa (“Baby Bo” for short) in the small town of Dembia. I estimated her age at around two years. She had been in captivity for several months. Bolungwa’s mother was shot in the nearby Bima River Forest. A local chief had confiscated her from the hunter and kept her as a pet. We found her tied to a tree by the roadside, gazing at us with wary curiosity. A high-ranking traditional chief took Bolungwa from his subordinate and gave her to us as a gesture of good will. We gently explained to the family keeping Bolungwa why she would not make a good pet and that she would probably end up dying if she were kept there.

Back in Aketi, Bolungwa showed herself to be a very wary and observant individual, carefully judging any situation or relationship before acting. However, once she let her guard down she became a big fan of hugs. In fact, when Laura later introduced the decidedly more-extroverted



Photo © Cleve Hicks

**Name:** Bolungwa  
**Sex:** Female  
**Favorite Food:** Peanuts  
**Favorite Activity:** Hugging

**Name:** Kathé  
**Sex:** Female  
**Favorite Food:** Fish  
**Favorite Activity:** Tickling

orphan Aketi Kigoma to the refuge, Bolungwa thwarted the newcomer's play-time plans by shadowing him closely all day and hugging him at every opportunity. When Aketi finally managed to escape, she sat pouting and whimpering.

Bolungwa is also a big fan of the game blind man's bluff. She never wastes an opportunity to cover her eyes with a cloth or hat and then stumble around bumping into things!

### Django Mayanga

While staying at Buta in July 2008, we encountered a staggering number of chimpanzee orphans who had been brought in from the surrounding forests for sale. A local businessman told our motorcycle driver that he owned a baby chimpanzee, who came from Bili, and he asked if we would like to see him. We went to visit, and found an orphan male of perhaps one and a half years of age, languishing in misery with a frightening case of diarrhea. The little chimpanzee had lost his appetite and refused to eat. The "owner" was worried that the baby would die, and asked us if we could help. We explained to him why we could not give him any money for the baby, not even to compensate him for the bananas that he had purchased, and he agreed to hand him over.



Photo © Cleve Hicks

**Name: Django Mayanga**  
**Sex: Male**  
**Favorite Food: Onions**  
**Favorite Activity: Dentistry**



Photo © Cleve Hicks

**Name: Baby Mangé**  
**Sex: Male**  
**Favorite Food: Boiled plantains**  
**Favorite Activity: "Inch-worming"**

We cleared up the orphan's diarrhea with medication, and pretty soon little Django regained his spirits and his appetite. He ended up becoming a boisterous member of the Bonganzulu family. I suspect that he is considering a career as a dentist: his first priority is always to rush up to any newcomer, human or chimpanzee, and carefully inspect their mouth, even poking in a finger if possible. (We have discouraged this habit, of course, it not being a very sanitary one!)

Django does continue to display one peculiar tic, which may be a response to the loss of his mother: he often sits quietly and sucks on his lower lip, in much the same way young children suck their thumbs for comfort.

### Baby Mangé

Of all the chimpanzee orphans, Mangé was clearly the most traumatized and is the least well-adjusted. This is probably because, at six months or so, he was also the youngest when his mother was shot. When I first saw him in the town of Lebo, he seemed to be completely disoriented, and could barely focus his eyes on what was in front of him. He also had a deeply infected foot wound, and we worried that he would not survive long.

His face was scarred from where he had fallen from a treetop while clutching onto his dying mother's fur.

I sent Mangé back 150 miles to Aketi, where Polycarpe spent the next three months as his “substitute mother,” healing his wounds with antibiotics and adjusting him to a diet of powdered milk. The little orphan recovered his physical health but continues to display disturbed, stereotypic behaviors. In particular, he often moves from place to place by “inch-worming” across the floor (although his legs are perfectly capable of walking). He constantly clutches a plastic bag or, if he can, a forest leaf. Although curious about Aketi Kigoma when we adopted the latter orphan, he seemed afraid and preferred the company of Polycarpe and/or his “security bag.”

### Aketi Kigoma

Aketi Kigoma lost his mother in November 2008 to a local hunter from Aketi, who returned with the baby from a nearby forest along with an orphan agile mangabey. Laura, Adam, Polycarpe, Dido, and I found Aketi in miserable conditions, tied up on the floor of a mud hut in the darkness, lying shell-shocked in a puddle of his own urine and feces. He was listless and rapidly losing weight. Ominously, the agile mangabey that our assistants had filmed the day before had already been sold, and we knew that Aketi might follow him quickly.

Although the “owner” was not present, we convinced his family to let us take the baby. They agreed that he was not eating and would soon die if not given better care. Of all of the younger chimpanzees that we have taken in, Aketi seemed to be the least traumatized and the quickest to bounce back. Cared for around the clock by Adam and Laura, we watched his distinctive personality unfurl within days: cheeky, methodical, and rather brazen. He shows no fear of anything! Considering what he had just been through, this resilience of spirit amazed us.



**Name:** Aketi Kigoma (a.k.a. “Aketi Spaghetti”)  
**Sex:** Male  
**Favorite Food:** Pasta!  
**Favorite Activity:** Eating

## IPPL Archives: A Treasure Trove

Thanks to long-time IPPL member Dr. Mich Kabay, all past issues of *IPPL News*—from 1974 to the present—are now online. Dr. Kabay spent many hours scanning in hard copies from IPPL’s library so that electronic versions of the newsletter could be made available on the IPPL Web site. IPPL’s Chairwoman Shirley McGreal did her doctoral research in the National Archives of India, New Delhi, India, and is especially appreciative of the important contribution Dr. Kabay has made to preserving IPPL’s history by his massive scanning project.

There are now over 100 issues accessible to you. To visit the archives, go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and click on “IPPL in Action” and then on “Archived Newsletters since 1974.” You can enter a word search to locate articles or you can just browse. Reading from Volume I Number 1 to the

current issue would provide you with IPPL’s entire history. It would be a great basis for a term paper or dissertation.

A search on “Dian Fossey,” for example, turns up over 70 references, including two links to collections of Dian’s letters to Shirley. These will give you a wonderful perspective on this remarkable pioneer in mountain gorilla research and conservation. You will also find the story of the death by poachers of her favorite gorilla, Digit, along with the extraordinary photos of Dian sitting with Digit during his lifetime and, later, sitting in the same pose with her beloved friend’s mutilated body. Also you’ll find out about the estate trial where Dian’s mother and stepfather fought Dian’s wish to leave all her estate to her precious gorillas—and won.

In January 1982, *IPPL News* told the detailed story of the arrival of IPPL’s

first lab gibbon, Arun Rangsi, at IPPL’s Headquarters Sanctuary in South Carolina. His sweet face appears on the cover of that issue. Other articles over the years have described the histories of many other gibbon rescues who made their way to IPPL’s safe haven.

There are also dramatic articles about IPPL’s investigations of smuggled gibbons, orangutans, gorillas, and many more primate species. The first IPPL investigations in the mid-70s looked into the trafficking of wild-caught gibbons to a research laboratory in California and the smuggling of gibbons from Thailand and Malaysia to the West via Singapore, which has no wild gibbons. As you can read, IPPL’s campaign received worldwide publicity and ended the “Singapore Connection,” at least for gibbons.

Happy browsing!

*Thank You, Mich Kabay!*

# New Gibbon House Completed at IPPL Sanctuary

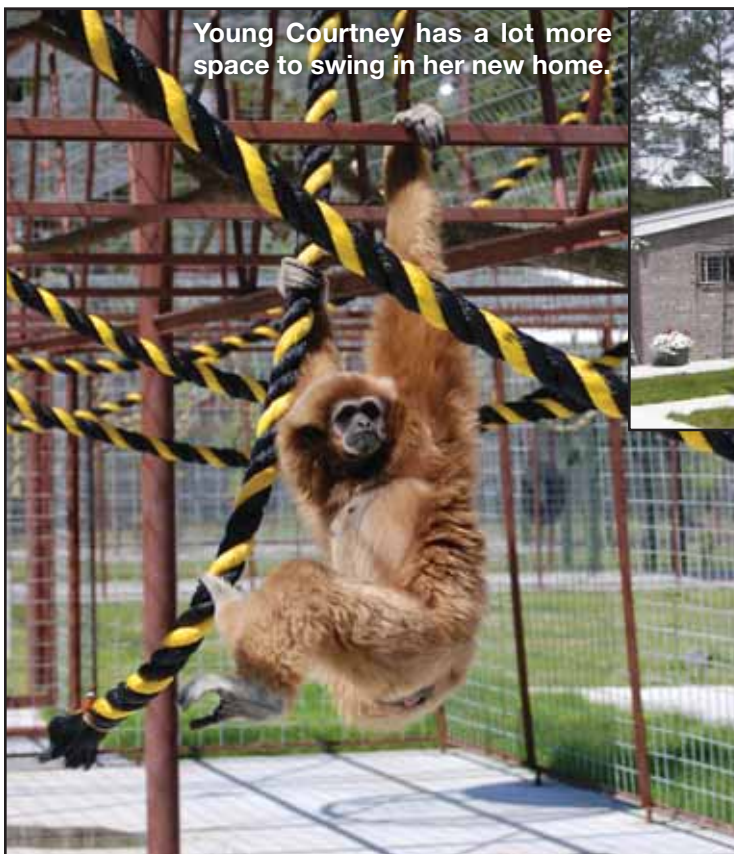
Last summer IPPL began working on a new two-unit gibbon house especially designed for “introductions.” In the wild, single adult males and females seek out each other to form a pair and establish a territory where they can raise their offspring. Here at IPPL’s Headquarters Sanctuary, the gibbons need a little help from their human caregivers in forming couples without running the risk of fights between individuals with “irreconcilable differences.” IPPL does not breed gibbons (we vasectomize all our males to ensure this), but we know pair-housing is important for the animals’ emotional well-being.

When forming a compatible pair out of two single-housed animals, we always begin by gradually introducing the prospective partners to one another. An introduction house has two adjacent indoor spaces that are separated by layers of wire mesh of different densities, which can be removed by degrees. The animals can also be given access to each other outside through “doorways” made of four-inch-square wire mesh. After several weeks of observation, if the animals seem to be bonding, all barriers can be removed to allow them complete access to each other.

Early this past March, IPPL finished

Gibbon House 8, with its two adjacent sleeping quarters, each connected to its own spacious outdoor enclosure. Within a week, we had moved in the first pair of animals: Courtney, who was hand-raised at IPPL and is just reaching maturity, and Whoop-Whoop, a gentle former lab gibbon. So far, they seem to be enjoying their new home—and each other’s company.

*Thanks to all who helped with this project, funding for which was provided by the estates of the late Hannah Wit and Violet Soo-Hoo, the Helen Brach Foundation, and Dr. Robert Shillman.*



Young Courtney has a lot more space to swing in her new home.



IPPL's latest gibbon house.



Courtney, left, grooms Whoop-Whoop through a wide-mesh door.



Courtney enjoys rolling in the fresh-cut bamboo provided for enrichment.

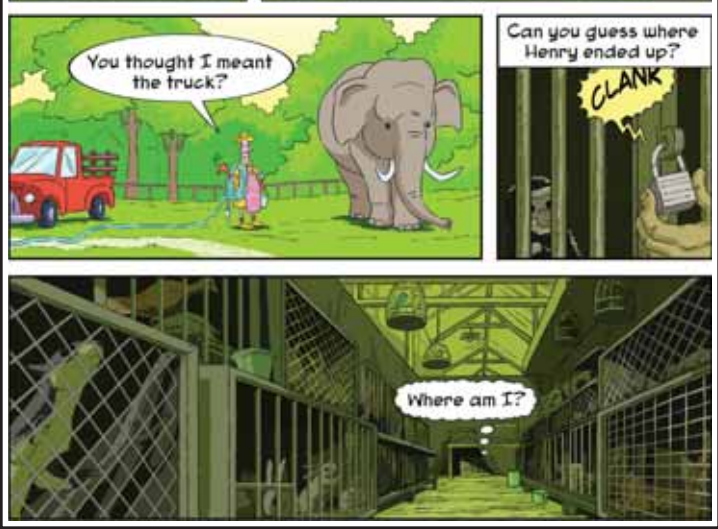
# Comics from Thailand



We've just heard about a brand new comic book that's all about the gibbons of Thailand. It tells the story of Henry, a little gibbon living in the wild with his family. That is, he **was** living free—until the day he was captured to be a little girl's pet. She thought he was cute, but she couldn't care for him like his own mother.

Henry was finally rescued from the small, lonely cage where the girl had kept him. Since he couldn't go "home" again, he was taken to live at a rescue center, with other gibbons like himself.

That rescue center is a real place called the "Wildlife Friends of Thailand," and the man who runs it is named Edwin Wiek. (He's the funny guy in the pink apron, below!) He has printed out these comic books in the Thai language, too, so that children living in Thailand can learn that it is bad for gibbons to keep them as pets.



**If you would like to learn what finally happens to Henry, you can buy a copy of this comic book (in English!) from IPPL:**  
 Yes, please send me the *Gibbons: Calling for Home* comic book!  
 Send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy/ies at \$5.00 each: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a check made out to IPPL.  
 I would like to pay with a credit card (circle):  
 Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number or e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please mail your payment to: IPPL ♦ P.O. Box 766 ♦ Summerville, SC 29484.)  
 Please send my comic book/s to:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

# Taking Care of Primates—Now and Forever

Since our founding in 1973, IPPL has greatly benefited from caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills.

**Y**ou, too, can help us ensure that future generations will also have the opportunity to know and love a world in which primates are protected—where those in the wild will be able to live free from fear of abuse at human hands, and where those remaining in captivity will have access to expert, loving care.

Thanks to the foresight of many of our departed supporters, IPPL has been able to accomplish many wonderful things to improve the lives of the primates we cherish:

- ◆ Providing the best possible care for the special gibbons at our Headquarters Sanctuary.
- ◆ Giving support to primate rescue centers overseas, in countries where primates are native.
- ◆ Assisting grassroots wildlife groups in their efforts to promote concern for primates.
- ◆ Carrying out investigations of primate trafficking and abuse worldwide.
- ◆ Doing outreach in the community and at our education center to share with others the plight of the world's primates.

By making a legacy gift to IPPL, you will ensure that IPPL can continue to protect the primates you love. I hope that you will consider including IPPL in your estate plans, to ensure that primates in need will have our hard-working and experienced organization to stand by them now and in the future. Please contact us at **IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA**, or **843-871-2280** if you would like to discuss providing enduring help for IPPL. IPPL's tax identification number is 51-0194013.

**Thank you for your concern for IPPL's future.**



Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director



## IPPL Supporter's Membership/Donation Form

If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL member, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world's primates by contributing your financial support. By sending in a membership contribution, you will be sure to continue receiving thrice-yearly issues of *IPPL News*. You may also donate online, if you wish, on IPPL's secure Web site ([www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)). All donations are welcome!

**Please accept my contribution to support the work of IPPL. I have enclosed the following donation:**

- \$20 regular membership       \$50 sustaining membership       Other amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (membership)  
 \$100 patron membership       \$10 student/senior membership       Other amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (one time donation)

- I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL.  
 I will be paying via credit card (circle):    Visa    MasterCard    AMEX    Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a **monthly** donation with my credit card:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
amount / month  
(\$5 / month minimum)  
until the end date of  
\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
(month / year)

Please mail form and payment to: IPPL ♦ P.O. Box 766 ♦ Summerville, SC 29484 ♦ USA. **Thank you!**



# Primate Paraphernalia!



**Orangutan Baby T-Shirt:**  
100% cotton; brown  
**Sizes:** Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL;  
Child S, M, L, XL  
**Cost:** Adult US\$15 (US)/US\$22 (overseas)  
Child US\$12 (US)/US\$16 (overseas)



**IPPL Baseball Cap:**  
100% cotton; khaki;  
adjustable; with  
gibbon design  
**Cost:** US\$12 (US)/  
US\$16 (overseas)



**IPPL Window Clings:** Repositionable  
4-inch polyester cling with light-tack  
adhesive (similar to a Post-it note).  
**Cost:** US\$3 (US)/US\$4 (overseas)

**Mountain Gorilla T-Shirt:**  
100% cotton; black  
**Sizes:** Adult M, L, XL, XXL  
**Cost:** US\$15 (US)/  
US\$22 (overseas)



**Gibbon Notecards:** 12 cards  
and envelopes, 3 each of 4  
IPPL gibbons (Arun Rangsi,  
Courtney, Igor, and Tong)  
**Cost:** US\$10 (US)/  
US\$14 (overseas)

**IPPL Gibbon T-Shirt:** 100% cotton; green  
Shirts feature 3 IPPL gibbons: **Arun Rangsi**,  
who came to IPPL as a baby from a  
biomedical lab; **Igor**, who spent 26 lonely  
years in research; and **Beanie**, who was  
blinded by illness.  
**Sizes:** Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL; Child S, M, L  
**Cost:** Adult US\$15 (US)/US\$22 (overseas)  
Child US\$12 (US)/US\$16 (overseas)



You can also order IPPL merchandise using our secure server.  
Go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and select **How to Help > Shop at our online store.**

**Method of payment:**

- Check/money order**, payable to **IPPL**.  
(Overseas checks to be drawn on US banks.)  
 **Credit Card** (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Card Number	V-Code
Signature	Expires
Phone Number	E-mail

**Order form:**

Description	Size	Qty.	Each	Total
<b>Order Total</b>				

All prices include shipping and handling.

**For verification purposes**, if the credit card billing  
address is different from the **Ship to** address below,  
please provide the billing address information:

Address		
City	State	Zip

**Ship to:**

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IPPL • P.O. Box 766 • Summerville, SC 29484 • USA  
**Questions? Call 843-871-2280 or e-mail [info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)**

# Adopt an IPPL Gibbon!

Each of the many gibbons living at IPPL Headquarters deserves a happy life. Many of IPPL's residents have come to the sanctuary after years in research, as pets, or in sub-standard living conditions. By adopting an IPPL gibbon, you help to ensure that your chosen animal (and all the IPPL gibbons) will continue to get the best care possible: a quiet, peaceful life in sunny South Carolina, living in spacious enclosures with their mates, and eating only fresh, natural foods. For a donation of \$15 or \$25 per month for at least six months, you will receive the following:

- A signed Certificate of Gibbon Guardianship.
- A large glossy photograph of your gibbon.
- A biographical sketch of your gibbon.
- An IPPL sanctuary fact sheet.
- A gibbon fact sheet.
- An IPPL window cling.
- A quarterly update on your gibbon.

In addition, if you choose to adopt a gibbon at the \$25-per-month level, IPPL will send you one of our forest-green T-shirts featuring several IPPL gibbons. And remember: adoptions make wonderful gifts that will last all year.

---

## Yes, I want to adopt an IPPL gibbon!

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if this is an adoption **RENEWAL**:

I would like to adopt (insert name of gibbon)\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to **pay in monthly installments**  **OR** I would like to **pay in full** :

1. At the **\$15 per month** level for 6 months (in full: \$90) \_\_\_ 1 year (in full: \$180) \_\_\_ 2 years (in full: \$360) \_\_\_

**OR**

2. At the **\$25 per month** level for 6 months (in full: \$150) \_\_\_ 1 year (in full: \$300) \_\_\_ 2 years (in full: \$600) \_\_\_

For the \$25/month level, select the desired size of T-shirt (circle). **Adult sizes:** S M L XL XXL **Children sizes:** S M L

**This is a gift.** Please send the adoption packet and updates (and T-shirt, if applicable) to the following recipient:

Recipient's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL.

I will be paying by credit card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Name (on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card billing address (for verification purposes): \_\_\_\_\_

For information about adopting your gibbon through a monthly automatic checking account withdrawal, or if you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail ([info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)).

You can also adopt a gibbon on our Web site: go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and click on the "Adopt an IPPL Gibbon" link.

Please mail your application to: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA; or fax it to 843-871-7988.

## IPPL Gibbons Currently Available for Adoption

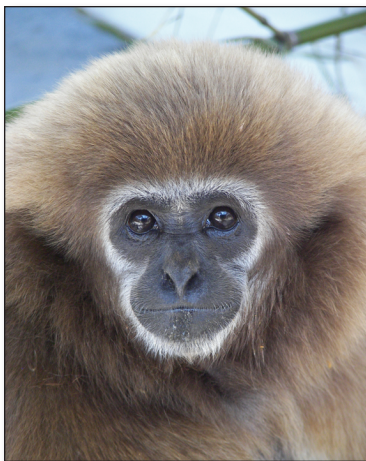
**Tong** belongs to a different species from most of IPPL's gibbons. She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and was wild-born in her native Vietnam probably around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold as a pet to an American serviceman stationed in Vietnam; her mother may have been one of that nation's many wild animals that succumbed to Agent Orange or other hazards of war. When Tong's owner left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, the servants did not know much about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Eventually, in 1973, Tong was transferred to the protection of newly-founded IPPL, and she has been a part of the family ever since. By adopting Tong, you'll share in IPPL's commitment to lifelong care for beautiful apes like her.



**Arun Rangsi** was born in 1979 at a California research laboratory. Abandoned by his mother at birth, he was raised with a substitute mother made of wire to which he clung. Then the laboratory lost the funding for its program, and IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal, acting on a tip-off, rescued him from possible euthanasia. Once he arrived at IPPL's sanctuary, his physical and mental condition greatly improved, thanks to a good diet and lots of love. Today Arun Rangsi lives happily with Shanti, another former laboratory gibbon. To keep this sweet, gentle ape happy and healthy, we'd love for you to adopt him.



**Courtney** was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was just 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving the little 12-ounce infant with a terribly mangled leg. Thanks to the skill of our veterinarian and months of attention from Courtney's special nannies, her injuries have healed remarkably well. She has had minor follow-up surgery, but is nonetheless extremely active. If you saw her leaping around, you would hardly believe how badly she had been hurt. Since she is now mature, we hope she'll soon be ready to pick a gibbon companion to share her life—but she still enjoys regular visits from her human friends. We hope you'll consider adopting this spunky and determined little ape.



**Igor** was born in the wilds of Thailand some time in the 1950s. Most likely his mother was shot and he himself kidnapped while still an infant. Eventually, he was sold to an animal exporter who shipped Igor to the United States to live in a laboratory. Igor spent a total of 26 years in different labs. At some point early in his "career," he developed a bizarre and distressing behavior: he became a self-mutilator, savagely biting his own arms whenever he caught sight of another gibbon. As a result, he was forced to live isolated behind black Plexiglas. In 1987, Igor was allowed to "retire" after his years of service. Since arriving at IPPL, where he lives out of sight but within earshot of IPPL's other gibbons, he has not attacked himself once. Please think about adopting this wonderful, resilient fellow.



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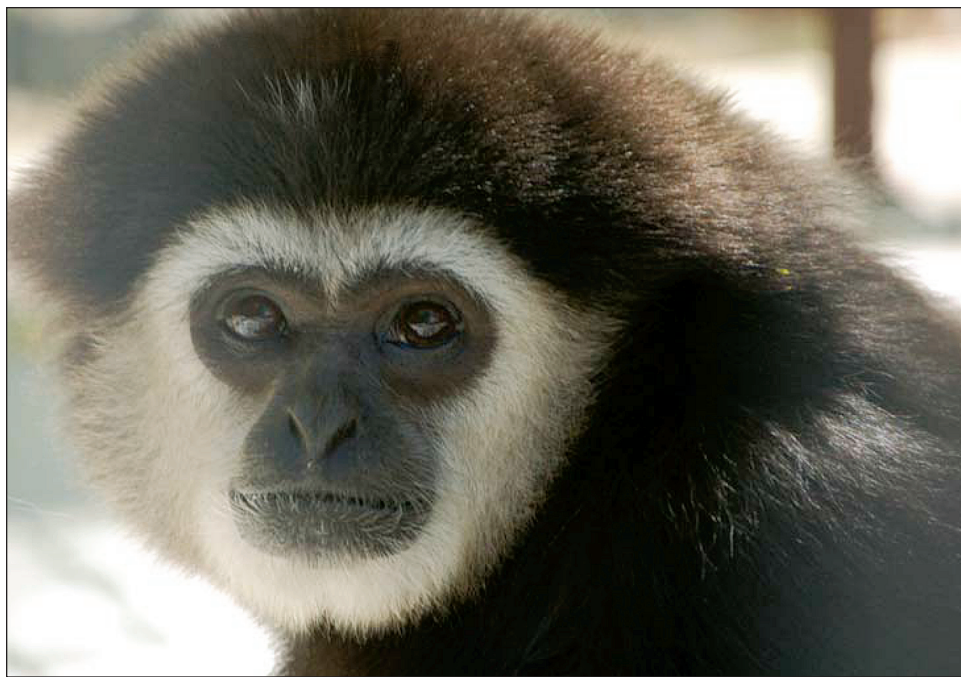
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## Meet IPPL's Robbie!



Robbie was born on 20 January 1994 at IPPL's Headquarters Sanctuary. His mother is E.T, a gibbon who reached IPPL from a New York laboratory as a tiny baby along with her elderly mom and dad, Penny and Blackie, in 1983. When E.T. grew up, she was paired with Nicholas (who has since been successfully vasectomized); he's a handsome zoo gibbon who had reached IPPL on 29 April 1993.

Penny, who was living alongside E.T. at the time Robbie was born, simply adored babies: she actually kidnapped Baby Robbie from his own mother! Fortunately, we were eventually able to persuade her to relinquish the baby and return him to E.T.'s care.

Robbie has always been a very distinctive gibbon, as he has a few white hairs on the top of his head that have never quite disappeared. Robbie now lives with his companion Dianne in a large enclosure behind the animal care cottage. The gibbons love watching through the back window as their food is being prepared. They especially enjoy lunch, which always consists of fresh fruits. Mangoes are among their favorite treats.

There are many trees alongside Robbie and Dianne's enclosure. Robbie will grab a leafy branch and let Dianne eat leaves, and then it will be Dianne's turn to hold the branch while Robbie eats leaves. Robbie and Dianne both enjoy wrestling, playing chase, and sun-bathing. And whenever caregiver Hardy wears a wide-brimmed hat, Robbie likes to knock it off his head. He never gets tired of doing this!

### IPPL: Who We Are

IPPL is an international grassroots wildlife protection organization. It was founded in 1973 by Dr. Shirley McGreal. Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of *all* nonhuman primates, great and small, around the world.

IPPL has been operating a primate sanctuary for gibbons (now numbering 32) in Summerville, South Carolina, since 1977. IPPL is also proud to help support a number of other wildlife groups and primate rescue centers in countries where primates are native, to reduce the illegal trafficking in these animals.

*IPPL News*, which first appeared in 1974, is published thrice yearly. It and IPPL's Web site ([www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)) provide information about primate conservation and welfare.

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