

newsletter of the
international
PRIMATE
protection
league

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May 1974



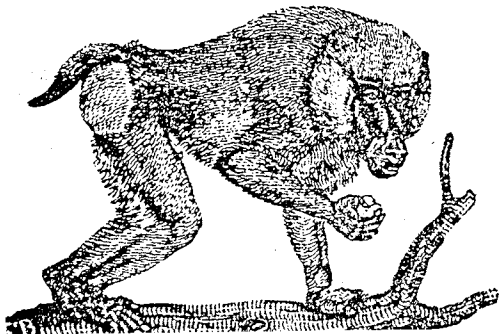
URGENT...

Because many species of primates throughout the world are approaching extinction and others are being severely reduced in numbers, it is felt that a group is needed with the exclusive goal of promoting primate welfare.

Therefore, the International Primate Protection League is founded with the following goals:

- a) to assemble data on all species of primates and identify threats to their well-being;
- b) to preserve the natural habitat of primates;
- c) to prevent illicit trade in primates;
- d) to promote the well-being of primates in zoos, research laboratories, and other captive environments;
- e) to improve shipping conditions for primates, whether by air, sea or overland, and when in holding centers;
- f) to work with other groups sharing our goals.

The Switzerland-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature publishes a yearly list of species that are in danger of extinction. Among these, the fate of the primates whom Mr. Kalyan Gogoi, our Assam Representative, (see Meet Our Field Representative) calls "our brothers under the skin" should be particularly appalling to us. For, if their numbers dwindle virtually every day, it is owing to the thoughtlessness, negligence, cruelty, and greed of one uncommonly successful primate species...MAN.



Principle causes of this wanton destruction are:

- a) shooting of mothers in order to procure babies;
 - b) improper care at the hands of dealers, as a consequence of which, no more than a small fraction of orphaned infants will survive;
 - c) certificates of good health delivered by unscrupulous vets when animals are in poor health;
 - d) poor shipping conditions aboard airline carriers;
 - e) cramped conditions and poor facilities in zoos and laboratories;
 - f) cruel and unusual (and frequently unnecessary) experiments performed for scientific or military purposes;
 - g) destruction of primate habitat;
 - h) smuggling of animals from supposedly "protected" areas.
- Since the beginning of recorded history, each scientific advance seems to have brought about a concomitant broadening of the spectrum of ethical values. The time has come to ponder man's obligations to his closest relatives.

In response to these threats to the welfare of wild-living and captive primates, the IPPL has embarked on the following programs:

1. Preservation of habitat and prevention of smuggling.
- The IPPL encourages and supports all movements to save the natural habitat of primates from destruction. It endeavors to educate government officials in particular and the public in general on the senselessness of excessively reducing the world's few remaining areas of unspoiled jungle and forest. The IPPL is attempting to persuade logging, oil, and other companies operating in areas of primates habitat to adopt policies and work practices favorable to primate conservation. One of the species most directly endangered by human activities is the orang-utan. There are no more than 5000 orang-utans alive today in Indonesia and Malaysia (probably many fewer) and their numbers are

Declining every year. The destruction of their habitat by logging and other interests goes on apace. Although the orang-utan is legally protected by the Indonesian government, the trade in smuggled animals is thriving. The IPPL has received confidential information that orang-utans and other rare wild animals have been successfully and regularly smuggled aboard private planes and helicopters belonging to United States companies and operating under minimal government supervision in remote areas. Accordingly, a letter of enquiry has been sent to the American Ambassador in Djakarta suggesting that a policy statement of non-interference with Indonesian wildlife be prepared and distributed to Embassy personnel. We have received a reply and are in further correspondence. Letters are also being sent to the home offices of U.S. oil, logging, and other companies currently operating in Indonesia.

Air Shipping

The present regulations regarding the transportation of primates by air are minimal and ineffective. Many animals never survive the journey and others arrive nearing death due to neglect and inadequate conditions. The investigation and revision of regulations covering air shipment of primates is long overdue. At present the IPPL is working to improve this situation. Our first step has been to submit a list of recommended regulations to the United States Aeronautics Board.

These recommendations are as follows:

- 1) All deaths in shipment of primates and other animals should be obligatorily reported to the I.A.B. In cases where an entire shipment is lost due to airline negligence, the airline should be penalized. Fatality statistics of all airlines should be published annually.
- 2) Minimum cage sizes should be established.
- 3) An adequate supply of bananas or monkey chow and of water should be furnished by the shipper, but



airlines should keep supplies on hand or furnish more where needed or in case of delay. Shipments without proper provisions should be refused.

d) The Station Manager at Honolulu has reported that Pan American Airlines does not water animals there. All primates in shipment from the Far East to the U.S. should be watered at Tokyo or Taiwan, Honolulu, and the U.S. gateway if they are going further. If going by the Atlantic, they should be watered at Tel Aviv, Teheran or Beirut, and Paris or London. Water should not be furnished in areas where very poor hygiene conditions are the rule.

e) Plastic water bottles such as those called "Oasis Ball-point" Guinea pig bottles manufactured by ATCO Manufacturing Co., 6 Walnut St., Napa, Calif. should become a standard part of all shipping cages retailed by the airlines. The cages should have either an outside

wire holder or a built-in compartment for the bottles. Only the ball-point tip projects into the cage, so the bottle could be refilled without opening the cage.

f) Very immature primates should not be accepted for shipment. In most cases, baby monkeys and apes are captured by shooting the mother; only about ten to twenty percent of the babies survive. This trade is repellent and uncivilized.

g) Flight engineers and cargo handlers, in cases where they do not do so already, should receive instruction in the care of primates especially of the dangers of respiratory disease if the animals are exposed to rain or cold.

h) Substantial shipments of primates and any shipments including animals on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's List of Endangered Species, should be accompanied by an attendant at the shipper's or consignee's expense.

i) Shippers of primates should supply TB test reports for all animals shipped, to be performed by a reliable veterinarian with a reputation for incorruptibility, to be appointed by the airlines. This would have the desirable side-effect of getting disinterested people behind the locked gates of some of the notorious "animal farms" of the Far East.

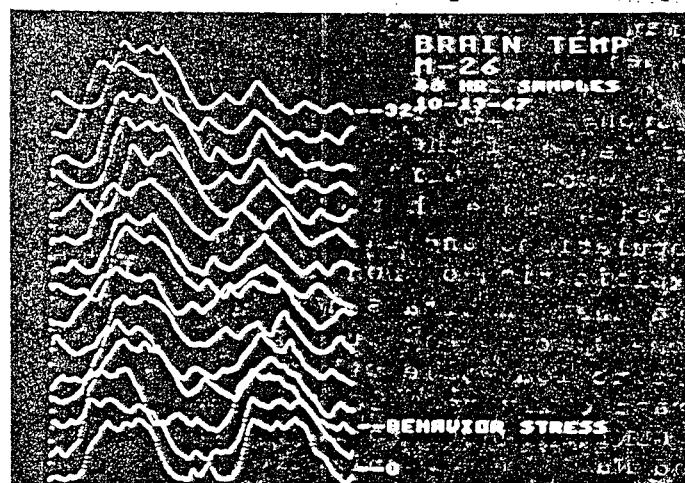
j) Flight routings for primates should be carefully determined in advance by the carriers to avoid long delays and minimize trans-shipment. Consignees should be immediately informed of the arrival of shipments.

k) A Committee should be set up to determine mandatory standards of cage size, cabin temperatures and operating procedures not only for domestic pets, but for commercially shipped animals, who are even more subject to abuses.

l) Any regulations established should be made applicable to all carriers, both American and foreign. Shipping primates either to or through the U.S. Enforcement should be strict.

experiments on primates--- experiments which, on the basis of available information, appear to be wasteful or cruel.

It is not IPPL's intention or desire to curb responsible, justifiable experimentation of primates, but rather to discourage unnecessary usage of primates as experimental animals---particularly



where extreme or prolonged suffering and death of the animals are consequences.

There is no question that, because humans are primates, nonhuman primates make excellent research animals and that findings obtained from experiments on them are not only more publishable but being widely read; yet many experiments for which primates are being maimed or sacrificed in ever-increasing numbers could be performed with satisfactory results on less expensive and faster-reproducing species. Non-primates species of laboratory animals are especially to be preferred for preliminary research, and in situations where primates are particularly needed, smaller numbers of them will often suffice.

Toward the conservation of our valuable primate resources in captivity as well as in the wild, the IPPL is instituting Project Labwatch to collect, verify, and evaluate reports of misuse or abuse of experimental primates. Guidelines of evaluation follow the policies expressed in the "Appeal for Conservation of Nonhuman Primates" passed by the Inter-

The International Primatological Society, composed of scientists of many disciplines and different countries:

- being aware of the unique value of nonhuman primates as man's closest relatives and as models serving the Biological and medical sciences in the advancement of human health, welfare, and knowledge;
- being aware of their responsibility to preserve the existence of the whole spectrum of contemporary primate species;
- being aware that expanding human populations and the growing exploitation of nonhuman primates and their habitats have threatened some species and sub-species with extinction while others have become drastically reduced;

URGENTLY SUBMIT to International and National Organizations the following appeal that:

a) scientists be selective in the usage of nonhuman primates, employ other animal models when they are appropriate, and not carry out research on endangered and rare primates which would adversely affect their survival in their natural habitats; And that

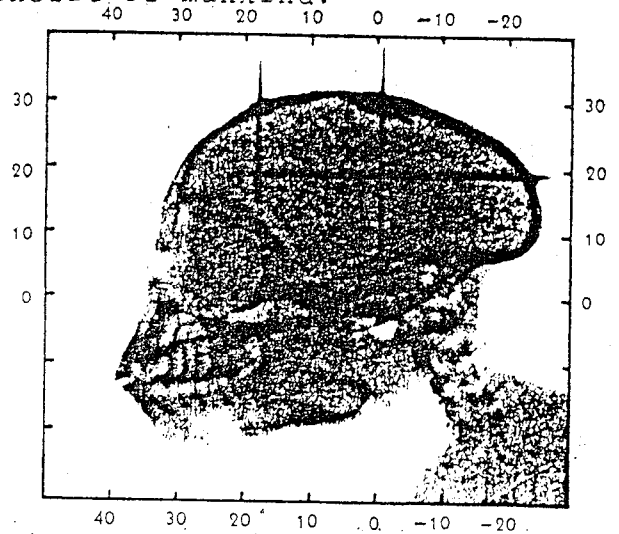
b) scientists contribute to the conservation needs of nonhuman primates by:

- introducing and insisting upon humane and efficient procedures for their capture, translocation, and maintenance prior to and during their use;
- recommending that the use of all primates as pets be prohibited;
- insisting upon the development, enforcement, and international support of laws and provisions regarding acquisition, capture, and transportation of nonhuman primates;
- promoting the development of knowledge on the natural distribution and status of nonhuman primate populations and of management and husbandry methods which ensure

their survival in nature as economic and scientific resources;

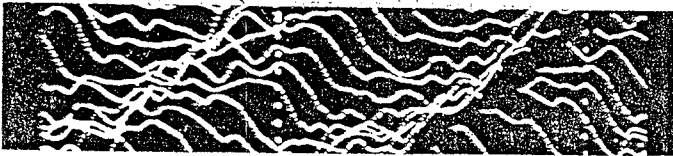
- promoting the development of permanent breeding programs meeting the long-term requirements for different species;
- urging cooperation, financial support, and investments from government agencies, research institutions, and pharmaceutical and other industries to accomplish these aims.

This we do to ensure the survival of all primates and their natural habitats for posterity and the benefit of mankind.



Project Labwatch needs more consultants with medical research backgrounds to help evaluate specific experiments. Volunteers may contact Anne Jones, 1636 Cedar Street, Berkeley, Calif. 94703. The same address may be used for bringing to IPPL's attention published or unpublished research projects felt to be of marginal justifiability or wasteful in terms of primates used, and/or questionable in the manner of use of primates.

At some time in the future, IPPL may wish to test in the courts what constitutes the "properly conducted scientific experiments" which is permitted by state law in California; the statute presently on books is certainly a step in the right direction, but the vagueness of this key phrase on which its enforcement hangs tends to preclude successful prosecution of all but the most flagrant violations of humane and efficient procedures.



How you can help:

The IPPL needs the help of concerned people of all nationalities, possessing a variety of talents and interests, to help in furthering its goals. Here is a list of some of the areas where your help is needed:

- a) Serve as a zoo-watcher at your local zoo.
- b) Investigate the care and keeping facilities of primates in research laboratories and pet shops.
- c) Work toward the creation and vigorous enforcement of legislation prohibiting the sale of primates as pets.
- d) Prepare proposals for future IPPL programs.
- e) Become an Area Representative for the League. Help devise means of protecting primates threatened by smuggling, unhealthy conditions, senseless experiments, or neglect.
- f) Form a Primate Study Group or IPPL branch in your area so that you can unite with others to design more effective local programs for primate protection.
- g) Inform your friends about the IPPL and its programs.



Meet our field representative

In each newsletter we will introduce you to one of our field representatives. Mr. C. Kalyan Gogoi of Assam is a Marine Engineer by profession. He holds the positions of Director of Inland Water Transport and Chief Ship Surveyor, Life Member of Kaxiramga Wild Life Society, and Advisory Board Member of the State Zoo Botanical Garden. Presently he is doing research on wild-living groups of Hoolock Gibbons. The following are excerpts from direct communications with Mr. Gogoi:

"The state of Assam has been included in the forest region of Himalayas covered mainly with dense tropical vegetation. There is gradation from tropical to temperate vegetation though the purely alpine flora of the higher Himalayas is largely absent. The distribution and the character of the animal and primate life is similar to the Northern Indian



Himalayan ranges, except in the southern hill areas where the flora and fauna is distinctly Malayan in type. These Malayan types are traceable all through the state into the hill ranges of Assam, with an intermingling of peculiar forms. The Indo-Chinese element of the fauna also is very marked in the Eastern Himalayas, North Eastern Assam.

The whole of north-eastern India and particularly Assam is very rich in primates. The Hoolock Gibbon, common langur, capped langur, Golden langur, Assamese macaque, Rhesus macaque, slow loris, and Tree shrew are all found in the forests of Assam. Stump tailed and pig tailed macaques are also occasionally found in the southern hill forests.

Up till now no systematic study has been conducted on these animals except in the case of the Golden langur, which was discovered and described by the late E.P. Gee, a renowned naturalist of India. The Golden langurs are found only in the Manas and Sonkosh river areas of Western Assam, and they are very beautiful and fascinating animals with golden-colored fur covering the whole body, excluding the black facial mask. These animals inhabit the Manas Wildlife Sanctuary which is hopefully on the way to the status of a full fledged national park in the near future."



Notes from the Field

Charles Shuttleworth of Taiwan has inspected the NAMRU labs and found conditions satisfactory. He is keeping an eye on Taipei Zoo. He has a vast knowledge of animal smuggling patterns and techniques gained from experience with Barbara Harrison and the Orang-utan Recovery Service.

Shirley McGreal is working to secure the release of four orangs impounded five years ago at an animal dealer's in Bangkok. They are still with the dealer where they are maintained in wretched conditions. Their impoundment and the blocking of the dealer's interest in them certainly helped put an end to the dirty trade in orang babies but let's try to get these animals released to some good zoo before



they die of neglect. Zoo directors interested in helping, please contact the IPPL through Dr. McGreal. Dr. McGreal is also investigating the racket whereby orphan baby gibbons, (captured from the dead bodies of their mothers), are used by the Pattaya Beach hotels as a gimmick to attract tourists. The infants, which are chained up, cling pathetically to the tourists, who thus obtain souvenir photographs of their trip. S. Theodore Baskaram of Madras, India is concerned about the fate of the Slender Loris, which he says is "on the skids". He writes: "They are caught in great numbers and sold. A small rope touched by these animals is supposed to have medicinal properties and is tied around the waist of sickly infants...so you see a number of chaps carrying these animals, along with colorful strings, tied to a bar..."

Anne Williams of Australia will shortly become the League's Burma Representative on taking up her post at the Australian Embassy in Rangoon.

The IPPL is still in the process of lining up Field Representatives and is anxious to hear from people wishing to play an active role in the organization. At the present time committee members are as follows:

Co-Chairpersons: Dr. Shirley
(Bangkok, Thailand), Sheila Curtin
(Instructor, Anthro. Dept. SF State
Univ.)
Treasurer: Don Miller
Secretary: Anne Jones
Field Representatives: Charles
Shuttleworth (Taiwan), Vijay Bhatia
(Univ. of Delhi, North India), S.
Theodore Baskaram (South India); C.
Kalyan Gogoi (Assam), Jeff McNeely
(Nepal), Jean Martin (Canada)

HOW TO JOIN:

Complete the form at the bottom of
the page and send it along with a
check or money order payable to the
Treasurer, The International
Primate Protection League Head-
quarters, c/o Sheila Curtin, Dept.
of Anthropology, San Francisco
State University, San Francisco,
California 94132.

I wish to join the IPPL as a:

Student Member \$2.00

Regular Member \$5.00

Sustaining Member \$25.00

Name _____

Street Address _____

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Special Interests, Comments,
Suggestions, etc.

Names and addresses of people who
would be interested in receiving a
"Newsletter"

