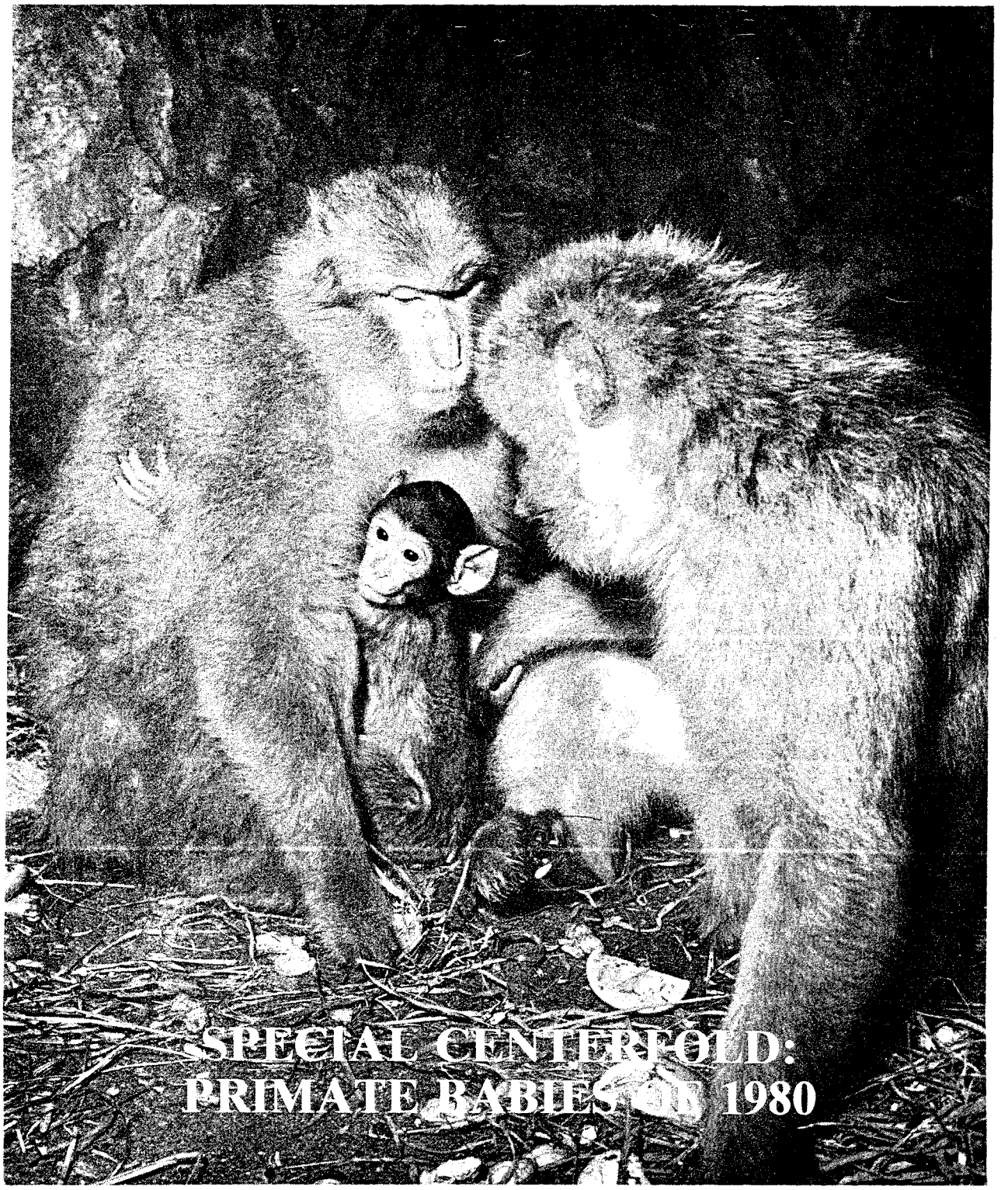
NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE

Vol. 8 No. 1 January 1981



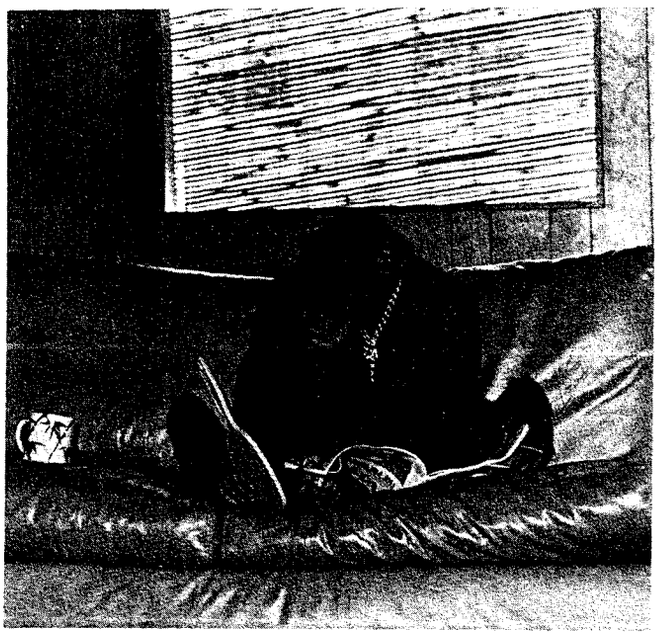
"Clark," Barbary macaque born 11 August 1980 at The Bronx Zoo, New York

Photo: Dennis De Mello

FREE AGAIN

by Janis A. Carter

In this article, Ms. Carter tells about her work at the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center in The Gambia. This project is partially supported by the International Primate Protection League.



Lucy reading in Oklahoma

My involvement with chimpanzees began as a psychology graduate student at the University of Oklahoma. I was working in the ape language project when I first met Lucy. Lucy was born in captivity and taken from her chimp mother at 2 days of age. Her life began as an experimental subject in a study devised by Maurice and Jane Temerlin to see how humanly socialized a chimpanzee could become when reared in a richly stimulating human environment, as well as to explore the primate origins of the self-concept. At age 5 she became part of the language acquisition project being carried out by Roger Fouts in which chimpanzees are taught the American Sign Language of the deaf.

As Lucy matured, her human "family" was faced with the problems most exotic animal owners eventually have to confront. As an infant, Lucy's needs were easily filled by her human family, but, as she grew, she developed needs they were no longer able to satisfy and the human home became an unsuitable environment.

As most captive chimpanzees approach puberty, they become unmanageable. Outgrowing their usefulness in many research projects, the laboratory chimps are relegated to a life of confinement. The options open to home-reared chimps are few: zoos, research facilities, or euthanasia. Their humanized upbringing and the trauma of separation from their "human family" are severe disadvantages in their questionable adjustment.

At 11½ years of age, a young adult, Lucy's least unacceptable alternatives were a zoo or research facility in which her acceptance and continual security would depend on her performance as a breeder. It was at this time that we became aware of a rehabilitation project for young chimpanzees run by Stella Brewer in Senegal. After considering the available alternatives, Lucy's "parents" wanted to offer her more than a future in a cage. Aware of the risks involved in releasing an adult home-reared chimp, the Temerlins made arrangements for Lucy's trip to Africa.

One year prior to the move to Africa, Lucy was joined by a 3½ year old female chimp, Marianne, who was born and raised in a primate research laboratory in the U.S. Marianne's presence allowed Lucy the opportunity to interact with another chimpanzee as well as form her first long-term relationship with a member of her own species.

To provide Lucy with emotional support during her initial adjustment, all Lucy's "human family" members, myself as her human companion, and Marianne accompanied her to Africa. Within a few weeks, the Temerlins returned to America, leaving Lucy, Marianne, and myself to begin our new life in Africa.

During the following months, I acquired several other chimpanzees with varying backgrounds; some wild caught and confiscated by the local government during illegal trading, and some reared in captivity.

Many of the confiscated chimps arrived sick, emaciated, and physically abused. Dash, the oldest male in my group, was captured in Guinea and illegally brought into The Gambia, where he was sold as a pet. After a month, his owner brought him to the veterinarian's clinic. He was found to be suffering from pneumonia. Spotted by a Gambian Conservation Officer, Dash was confiscated and needed several months of physical and psychological rehabilitation before training to live in the wild could even begin. Dash was fortunate. In late September 1980, Mr. Ceesay, Warden of the Abuko Nature Reserve, confiscated a 5 year old male chimpanzee who was in such bad physical condition that he died within a few weeks in spite of close attention and every effort to keep him alive.

My first 18 months in Africa with the chimpanzees were spent in the protective sanctity of the Abuko Nature Reserve, 12 miles from The Gambia's capital, Banjul.

Lucy eating a wild fruit

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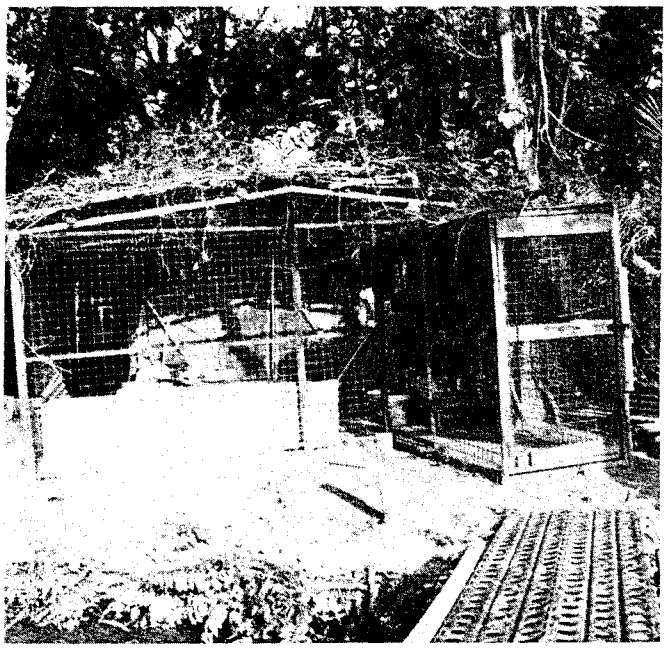
As the reserve was open to tourists, the larger and potentially more harmful members of the group lived in a large outdoor enclosure. The younger individuals were allowed free movement under my supervision throughout the day, and protective cover at night. During this period the slow process of acclimatization, and a limited amount of training took place. Before their ultimate release, the chimps needed to become familiar with the climate, wild foods, and, in many cases, their first confrontation with a member of their own species. After successfully adjusting to these basics, they were taught further necessary skills such as nesting, specialized techniques of feeding, appropriate fear responses to potential predators, and certain communicatory skills that aided in group integration.

It was at this time that the Wildlife Conservation Department of The Gambia, directed by Eddie Brewer, was in the process of designating a group of 5 islands 170 miles up the Gambia River as a new National Park. The Director generously offered the use of the largest island, 1200 acres, to the project. Although The Gambia historically had chimps, they are now extinct. Surveys of the island showed it contained appropriate habitat for chimpanzees. In early 1979, I began transferring the chimps to their new home on Baboon Island, where they would continue their training under close supervision until they proved themselves to be a stable and self-sufficient group.

Observational studies in the wild have revealed a wealth of information concerning the chimpanzees' natural behavior and complex social organization. These studies have contributed to the understanding of the chimpanzees' social needs and the crucial role played by family attachments, in particular the mother-infant bond. As in humans, chimpanzees experience a lengthy childhood which is necessary to insure the learning of the required skills and behavior patterns which help them to function successfully as adults. The infant acquires much of this vital information through observation of the mother and other group members as they routinely perform those activities guaranteeing their own survival.

Captive-reared and young wild-caught chimps are deprived of this opportunity to learn. When released, it is essential that they be given assistance in training with the appropriate models to observe and the much needed time for practice and perfection of these skills. With this in mind, I try to replicate as much as possible the daily routine of wild chimpanzees. The only contact the group has with humans is myself. In essence, I serve as the maternal tutor of whom these chimps have been deprived. As the



Cage where Janis lives

Group feeding

opportunities arise, training focuses on such basics as recognition of food sources, nest building, and recognition and avoidance of predators. With myself and the more experienced chimps as models, those lacking the particular skill or behavior pattern soon emulate our actions. All these activities occur as naturally as possible within our daily routine of foraging and exploring the environment.

Each member of the group has a distinctly different personal history with respect to age, years of captivity, and relevant wild experience. Those chimps with memories of the wild are at an advantage in their schooling. What they need most is a secure atmosphere in order to develop the self-confidence to explore and respond appropriately to their surroundings. Those chimps born and raised in captivity, with no prior exposure to life in the wild, face a far more difficult task. The young chimpanzee readily imitates and thus learning is facilitated. The adolescent and adult chimps are not as impressionable and take far more time and patience in training. In time, as in the wild, these chimps will gradually gain the knowledge for survival through observation, imitation, and practice.

Since their release, the chimps have made tremendous progress in adapting to the new environment, and developing the needed skills. Lucy has of course had the most difficult time adjusting, but she too has acquired the skills for a wild life. She now travels with her family of 8 other chimpanzees, foraging high in the canopy for wild foods, and sleeping in the trees at night. Lucy and Marianne have each adopted 3 year old chimps who recently joined the group. These relationships provide the orphaned infants with the much needed security denied them at the loss of their mother, as well as offering Marianne and Lucy the opportunity to develop and practice proper maternal behavior.

As the chimps progressively become more proficient in their survival skills, my role as group leader is becoming less necessary. I have been able to dissociate myself slowly from being a focal point, allowing the chimps to provide physical and social needs to each other. As time passes and the bonds between group members tighten, the learning of new skills will be transmitted from chimp to chimp, rather than from human to chimp. It is my hope that the chimps will soon be totally self-sufficient and independent of humans.

Wild chimpanzee populations are seriously threatened; the major threat to their survival being man. To accommodate man's

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growing numbers, the natural habitat of the chimpanzee is being cleared for cultivation and commercially exploited for timber. In many African nations, the chimpanzee serves as a source of nutrition. Commercial exploitation of the young chimp as a source of entertainment, as a pet, and as a subject in behavioral and bio-medical research takes an additional toll on the already decimated population.

Many African nations are becoming more concerned with their natural resources and, as a result, are developing regulations to eliminate the illegal trade. But even when the regulations exist and are enforced, usually no provision is made for the confiscated animal. Reintroduction into protected areas offers these animals a chance to continue their lives as free individuals.

Rapidly diminishing habitat and declining chimp populations present complex problems which require more than one solution. While preservation of existing wild groups in their natural habitat should have the highest priority, the success of both Stella Brewer's group and my group is proof that rehabilitation and reintroduction are now viable conservation techniques. Relocation of natural groups to protected locations is another possible technique which will benefit from the knowledge and experience provided by the Brewer and Carter groups.

The chimpanzee faces extinction **now**, we must develop and implement creative solutions **now**. The interest and financial support of IPPL has been instrumental in the continuation of this project. I would like to express my thanks to all members. Many thanks from the chimps of The Gambia.

The IPPL Chimpanzee Fund will remain open for the duration of 1981. Contributions should be sent to IPPL, P.O. Drawer X, Summerville, SC 29483, U.S.A. Janis Carter and Stella Brewer both thank all IPPL members and friends who contributed in 1980.

IPPL UNCOVERS HIGH SHIPMENT MORTALITY OF VERVET MONKEYS

The International Primate Protection League has obtained through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act copies of the 1978 and 1979 U.S. Public Health Service Center for Disease Control forms 4.487B, which constitute a report and record of deaths sustained during shipment and the 90-day post-arrival period of primates imported into the United States. These forms not only facilitate the monitoring of international traffic in primates involving the United States but also suggest the special vulnerability of some primate species to the conditions of shipping and, probably, trapping.

Table I summarizes for the period January - October 1979 shipments of the African monkey **Cercopithecus aethiops** (commonly known as the vervet monkey or the green monkey) from the East African countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to the U.S. importer Primate Imports Corp., Port Washington, New York. Forms for the months of November and December 1979 have not yet been obtained from the Center for Disease Control. During the same period of time Primate Imports Corp. obtained additional vervet monkeys from the exporting firm Caribbean Primates on the island of St. Kitts, West Indies, where the species was introduced from Africa during the 17th century. In all three exporting African countries only one firm, identified below, supplied Primate Imports Corp. with vervet monkeys:

Workneh & Nadir
P.O. Box 1640
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Mann & Miller
P.O. Box 44104
Nairobi, Kenya

National Game Co.
P.O. Box 1041
Mogadiscio, Somalia

Table I. Importations of vervet monkeys (**Cercopithecus aethiops**) to Primate Imports Corp. during the period January - October 1979 from Ethiopia. Kenya, and Somalia, as derived from Center for Disease Control forms 4.487B.

country of origin	exporter	number of shipments	total number of monkeys**	dead-on-arrival	90-day post-arrival deaths	total shipment-related deaths	percentage deaths/ total monkeys
Ethiopia	Workneh & Nadir	8	402	135	74	209	52%
Kenya	Mann & Miller	8	350	32	74	106	30%
Somalia	National Game Co.	22	1166	84	179	263	23%
Totals		38	1918	251	327	578	30%

** U.S. Fish and Wildlife forms 3-177 indicates that at least one October 1979 shipment from Mann & Miller is not included in this table.

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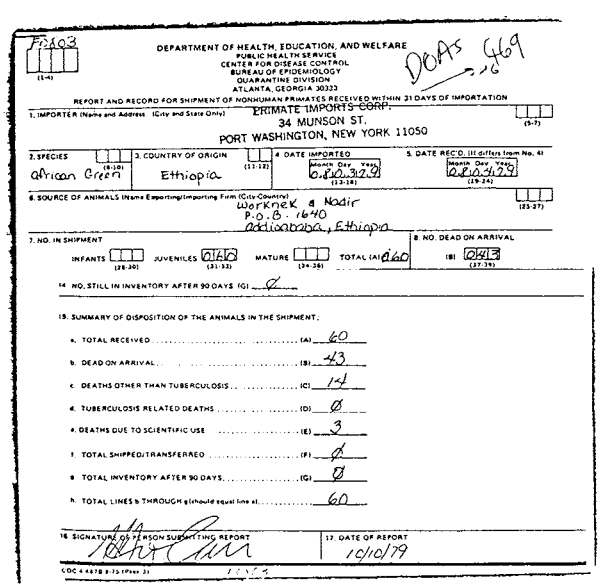
Of 1918 vervet monkeys reported on CDC forms as being imported from Africa into the United States during the first ten months of 1979, 578 (30%) died during shipment or the 90-day post-arrival period. Shipments from the exporter Workneh & Nadir in Ethiopia experienced the highest mortalities: 52% of all monkeys either died during shipment or the first 90 days after arrival in the United States. But all three exporters sent more than one shipment in which at least 40% of all monkeys had died by the elapse of the 90-day post-arrival period. Examples of these shipments are summarized below, and the appropriate CDC forms are reproduced in this article.

A shipment of 60 vervet monkeys from Workneh & Nadir, Ethiopia, imported into the United States on 3 August 1979 contained 43 monkeys (72%) dead-on-arrival and 14 more monkeys (23%) died within the 90-day post-arrival period. The three remaining monkeys were killed for "scientific use," on the Primate Imports Corp. premises.

A shipment of 50 vervet monkeys from Mann & Miller, Kenya, imported into the United States on 6 September 1979 had 7 monkeys (14%) dead on arrival, information which was not filled in on page one of the CDC form, and 13 more monkeys (26%) died within the 90-day post-arrival period.

A shipment of 64 vervet monkeys from the National Game Co., Somalia, imported into the United States on 3 July 1979 had 4 monkeys (6%) dead on arrival and 32 more monkeys (50%) died within the 90-day post-arrival period.

During approximately the same period of time as the vervet shipments under consideration, January - October 1979, Workneh & Nadir sent to Primates Imports Corp. three shipments of baboons (one of which was identified as **Papio anubis)** totalling 95 monkeys, of which only one is recorded as dead-on-arrival and one more died during the 90-day post-arrival period: 98% of the baboons are recorded as having survived shipment and the critical post-arrival period. Likewise, Mann & Miller sent to Primate Imports Corp. eight shipments of baboons (sometimes identified as **Papio anubis**) totalling 278 monkeys, of which 8 monkeys were recorded as dead-on-arrival followed by 2 tuberculosis-related deaths and three "unverified" post-arrival period deaths. These are no CDC forms indicating the importation of baboons to Primate Imports Corp. from the National Game Co. in Somalia.



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL
BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
QUARANTINE DIVISION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333

DEATS 469 / 26

REPORT AND RECORD FOR SHIPMENT OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES RECEIVED WITHIN 31 DAYS OF IMPORTATION

1. IMPORTER (Name and Address (City and State Only)): PRIMATE IMPORTS CORP. 34 MUNSON ST. PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK 11050

2. SPECIES	3. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	4. DATE IMPORTED	5. DATE REC'D. (If differs from No. 4)
African Green	Ethiopia	6.30.79	8.10.79

6. SOURCE OF ANIMALS (Name Exporting/Importing Firm (City-Country)): Workneh & Nadir P.O.B. 1640 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

7. NO. IN SHIPMENT: INFANTS ___ JUVENILES 060 MATURE ___ TOTAL (A) 060 | 8. NO. DEAD ON ARRIVAL (B) 043

14. NO. STILL IN INVENTORY AFTER 90 DAYS (G) 0

15. SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION OF THE ANIMALS IN THE SHIPMENT:

a. TOTAL RECEIVED	(A)	60
b. DEAD ON ARRIVAL	(B)	43
c. DEATHS OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS	(C)	14
d. TUBERCULOSIS RELATED DEATHS	(D)	0
e. DEATHS DUE TO SCIENTIFIC USE	(E)	3
f. TOTAL SHIPPED/TRANSFERRED	(F)	0
g. TOTAL INVENTORY AFTER 90 DAYS	(G)	0
h. TOTAL LINES b THROUGH g (should equal line a)		60

16. SIGNATURE OF PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT: [signature] | 17. DATE OF REPORT: 10/10/79

CDC 4.6878 9-75 (Page 3)

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REPORT AND RECORD FOR SHIPMENT OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES RECEIVED WITHIN 31 DAYS OF IMPORTATION

1. IMPORTER (Name and Address (City and State Only)): PRIMATE IMPORTS CORP. 34 MUNSON STREET PORT WASHINGTON, N. Y. 11050

2. SPECIES	3. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	4. DATE IMPORTED	5. DATE REC'D. (If differs from No. 4)
African Greens	Somali	7.10.79	8.10.79

6. SOURCE OF ANIMALS (Name Exporting/Importing Firm (City-Country)): National Game Co. P.O. Box 1091 Mogadiscio, Somali

7. NO. IN SHIPMENT: INFANTS ___ JUVENILES 064 MATURE ___ TOTAL (A) 64 | 8. NO. DEAD ON ARRIVAL (B) 004

9. POST-ARRIVAL DEATHS, EXCLUDING THOSE DEAD ON ARRIVAL AND THOSE DUE TO EITHER TUBERCULOSIS OR EUTHANAZIZATION OF TUBERCULIN REACTORS AND SCIENTIFIC USE:

PRIMARY CAUSE OF DEATH	0-7	8-14	15-30	31-45	46-60	61-90	TOTAL
a. ENTERIC DISEASE ETIOLOGY							
UNKNOWN (A999)							
b. PNEUMONIA ETIOLOGY							
UNKNOWN (B999)							
c. OTHER unverified (1)							32
d. TOTAL							(C)

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13. NO. SHIPPED OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FACILITY OR ORGANIZATION:

CONSIGNEE (Name, City, State, Telephone No.)	0-7	8-14	15-30	31-45	46-60	61-90	TOTAL
Zoo, Natl Washington, D.C. (E)			0 X 16				20
Micro-Biological Walkersville, Md. (E)			0 0 6				6
TOTAL							(F) 26

14. NO. STILL IN INVENTORY AFTER 90 DAYS (G) 0

15. SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION OF THE ANIMALS IN THE SHIPMENT:

a. TOTAL RECEIVED	(A)	64
b. DEAD ON ARRIVAL	(B)	4
c. DEATHS OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS	(C)	32
d. TUBERCULOSIS RELATED DEATHS	(D)	0
e. DEATHS DUE TO SCIENTIFIC USE	(E)	2
f. TOTAL SHIPPED/TRANSFERRED	(F)	26
g. TOTAL INVENTORY AFTER 90 DAYS	(G)	0
h. TOTAL LINES b THROUGH g (should equal line a)		64

16. SIGNATURE OF PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT: [signature] | 17. DATE OF REPORT: 10/11/79

CDC 4.6878 9-75 (Page 3)

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(Continued on page 8)

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"Charley," Chimpanzee born 16 October 1980 at Detroit Zoo.

Photo: Paul Cooney

"Julia," female lowland gorilla born at the Los Angeles Zoo on 6 July 1980.

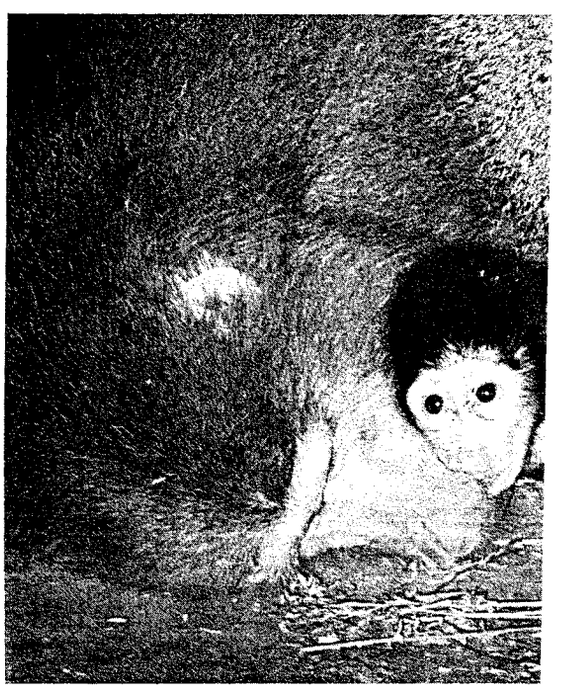
Photo: Neal Johnston

"Moshi," born 25 January 1980 at Gladys P Brownsville, Texas.

Photo: Dennis De Mello

"Murray and Marmaduke," Cotton-top marmosets born 2 January 1980 at The Bronx Zoo, New York.

"Mocho and Nubby," White-handed gibbons born at The Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas.



"Lenny," Hamadryas baboon borr

Jan 1981

rter Zoo,

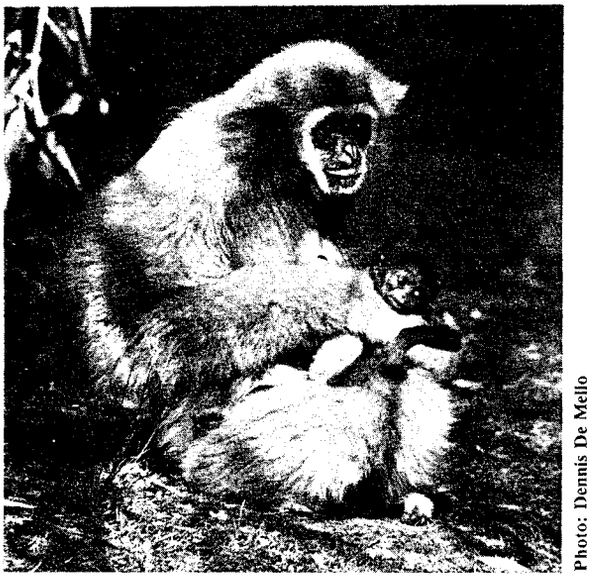


Photo: Dennis De Mello

"Yoda," White-handed gibbon born 2 August 1980 at The Bronx Zoo.

PRIMATE BABIES OF 1980

Lowland Gorilla born at Toronto Zoo on 4 November 1980.

Photo: Charlie Archambault

August 1980 at North Carolina Zoo.

Photo: John Mackey

"Rust," Orang-utan born 27 January 1980 at Seattle Zoo.

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On not one of the 38 CDC forms filled out by Primate Imports Corp. for the shipments of vervet monkeys from East Africa is the cause of death specified for monkeys dying during the 90-day post-arrival period. Primary cause of death is simply recorded as "unverified." Frequently the period of death also is not indicated on the CDC forms. Both of these practices are illustrated on the CDC forms reproduced in this article. It seems probable that establishment of cause of death by performing post mortems at Primate Imports Corp. might have contributed to the reduction of fatalities of vervet monkeys in subsequent shipments.

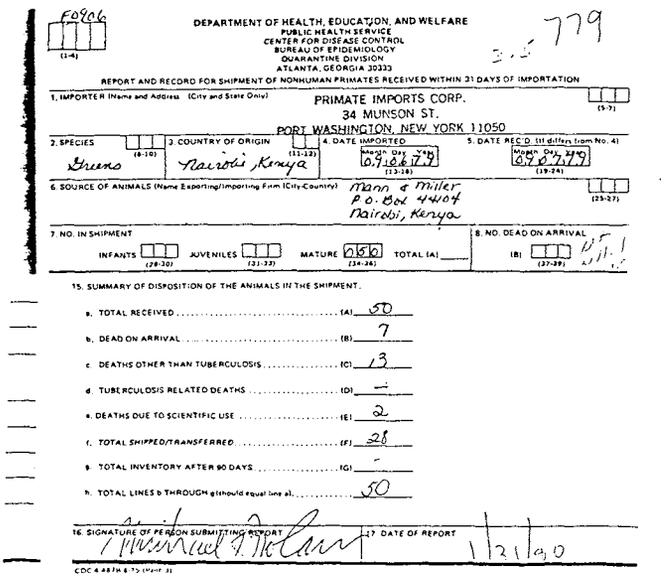
The **National Primate Plan,** which was prepared for the U.S. National Institutes of Health in October 1978 by the Interagency Primate Steering Committee, identifies the primary use of vervet or green monkeys in the United States as being the production of biological material and toxicology testing. Specifically, tissue cultures made from the kidneys of this monkey are used in the production of the Sabin oral polio vaccine. The high mortality experienced by vervet monkeys, apparently as the consequence of the stress of capture and shipment, becomes another argument for the use of the Salk injection vaccine, which is licensed for production from human fetal diploid cells in the United States, instead of the Sabin vaccine. The **National Primate Plan** also states that the U.S. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute is developing the vervet monkey as a model for the study of hypertension, which suggests that the effects of stress upon this species already may have been recognized by the biomedical community.

Although the U.S. Lacey Act provides for prosecution of those responsible for shipments containing a substantial number of dead and dying animals, no action has been taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service against those parties responsible for shipments of vervet monkeys arriving at New York with large numbers of dead and dying monkeys. It appears that the Primate Imports Corp. discards bodies of monkeys dead on arrival and dying in its possession without examining the cause of death. Mr. Michael Nolan, President of the Corporation, has failed to answer an enquiry from IPPL about how the company disposes of the hundreds of dead monkeys it receives annually. Since the causes of the animals' deaths appear not to be examined, disposal of the bodies at a sanitary landfill could constitute a significant public health problem, especially in the case of vervet monkeys, which are known to host a virus which has caused a fatal epidemic in humans (the "Marburg" incident).

Commenting on the serious implications of the apparent gross negligence manifested by participants in the primate trade, a world-famous virologist informed IPPL in a letter dated 27 October 1980:

> No in-depth study is made to ascertain the cause of death among the animals following capture. They are simply discarded and the holding station acts as a primary source of infection for all arriving animals. This same concept carries through to the importer because, although husbandry may be improved, disease control is no different than at the collecting station in the country of origin. Very little is done to determine the cause of deaths.

IPPL members concerned about the deaths of vervet monkeys in shipment and quarantine should contact the Secretary of the Treasury, Washington D.C. 20220, and the Secretary of the Interior, Washington D.C. 20240, asking that they investigate this situation and take action against the responsible parties for possible violation of the Lacey Act. Both agencies should be contacted since they are jointly responsible for enforcement of the Lacey Act. Be sure to include the facts from this article.



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REPORT AND RECORD FOR SHIPMENT OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES RECEIVED WITHIN 31 DAYS OF IMPORTATION

1. IMPORTER (Name and Address (City and State Only)): PRIMATE IMPORTS CORP. 34 MUNSON ST. PORT WASHINGTON, NEW YORK 11050
2. SPECIES: Greens
3. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Nairobi, Kenya
4. DATE IMPORTED: 07 08 79
5. DATE REC'D (If differs from No. 4): 07 08 79
6. SOURCE OF ANIMALS (Name Exporting/Importing Firm (City-Country)): Mann & Miller P.O. Box 44104 Nairobi, Kenya
7. NO. IN SHIPMENT: INFANTS ___ JUVENILES ___ MATURE 050 TOTAL (A) ___
8. NO. DEAD ON ARRIVAL: (B) ___

15. SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION OF THE ANIMALS IN THE SHIPMENT.

a. TOTAL RECEIVED	(A)	50
b. DEAD ON ARRIVAL	(B)	7
c. DEATHS OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS	(C)	13
d. TUBERCULOSIS RELATED DEATHS	(D)	-
e. DEATHS DUE TO SCIENTIFIC USE	(E)	2
f. TOTAL SHIPPED/TRANSFERRED	(F)	28
g. TOTAL INVENTORY AFTER 90 DAYS	(G)	-
h. TOTAL LINES b THROUGH g (should equal line a)		50

16. SIGNATURE OF PERSON SUBMITTING REPORT: Michael T. McCann
17. DATE OF REPORT: 1/21/80

CDC 4.68 (6-75) (Page 3)

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Gordon M. Burghardt and Harold A. Herzog, Jr.

1980 Beyond Conspecifics: Is Brer Rabbit Our Brother?
BioScience vol. 30, no. 11, pages 763-768 (November)

In this article, Drs. Burghardt and Herzog, faculty members in psychology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Mars Hill College, North Carolina, respectively, identify and describe considerations by which ethical judgments are made about human use of other animal species and which appear to be important in the development of an "animal liberation" or animal rights movement. Such considerations are grouped into four categories: (1) human costs or benefits (2) anthropomorphism, which includes perceived perception of the infliction of pain or injury on animal subjects (3) ecology, or the rarity of the species, and (4) psychology, which includes the habituation, familiarity, and desensitization of the human manipulator.

Sir Otto Frankel

1980 Our Evolutionary Responsibility.
The UNESCO Courier vol. 33, pages 25-27 (May).

Sir Otto Frankel, a distinguished plant geneticist, challenges the position that the continuing survival (and evolution) of wild species must be evaluated in terms of their utilitarian value to the human species. Noting that the predictable destruction of the habitats essential for most natural and semi-natural communities of living organisms is outside past experience, he calls for the development of an "evolutionary ethic," which ultimately will be dependent on men recognizing "other species as an essential part of their own existence."

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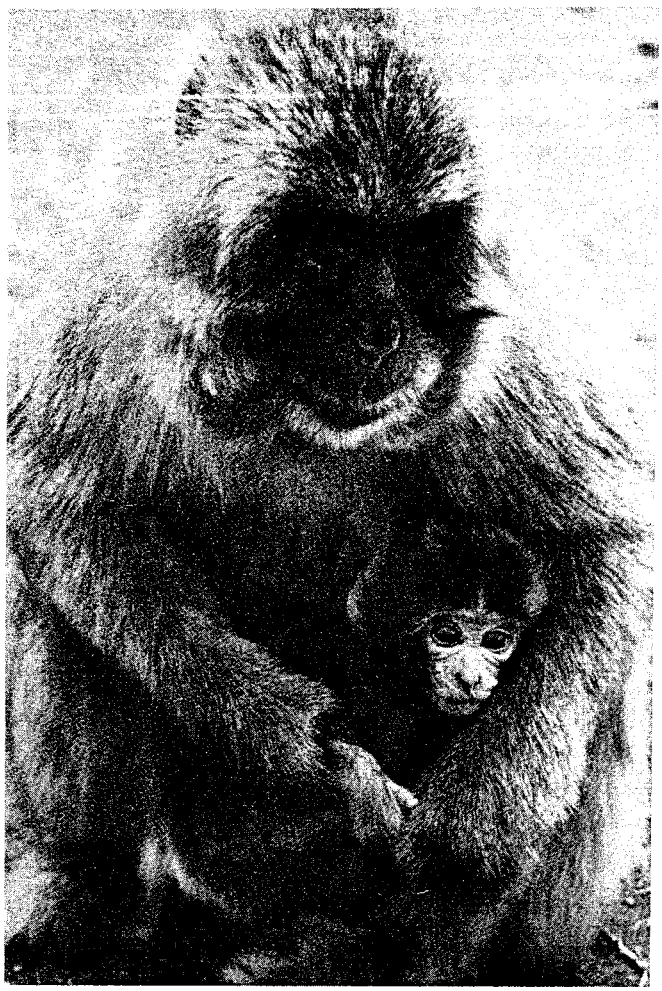
SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION OF THE ARASHIYAMA WEST JAPANESE MONKEYS

by Sharon Bramblett, Claud Bramblett, and Sabra Noyes

In the late 1960s, the Arashiyama troop of Japanese monkeys living near Kyoto, Japan grew too large and split into 2 groups called A and B. The A troop, displaced from its ancestral feeding grounds by B troop, moved to the nearby gardens and temples, upsetting the local inhabitants. Japanese primatologists, not wanting the 156-member A troop destroyed, donated it to Dr. John Emlen, a University of Wisconsin, Madison zoologist who then had to find a new home for it in the U.S. With the help of Dr. Claud Bramblett, a primatologist at the University of Texas, Austin, Emlen located a rancher-realtor-lawyer, Ed Dryden, who agreed to build a 100-acre containment fence on some of his south Texas brushland near Laredo. The monkeys were moved to Laredo from Japan in February 1972 where they remained until late summer 1980. Mr. Dryden died in December 1975 and his widow, Clementina, continued to provide all support for the troop, but in settlement of his estate in the late 1970s, she donated the troop (now numbering 279) to a private, non-profit organization, Arashiyama West Institute (AWI), set up by a Dilley, Texas couple and Bramblett. With a $30,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and donations from U.S. and Japanese primatologists and friends of the monkeys, AWI built a new 50-acre enclosure near Dilley (the electric wires at the top of the fence provide a mild shock to discourage the monkeys from climbing over). The following paragraphs describe the events that took place during the relocation from Laredo to Dilley.

Sabra Noyes, a graduate student at the University of Texas, began trapping and holding peripheral males that wandered away from the main troop in early July 1980. The first mass trapping on July 26 went as planned with about 30 students and researchers from the University of Texas at Austin and housewives on hand to help. We all spent the night before at a nearby rest stop so that our presence would not alert the troop. Our son, Robin, who had helped the current manager, Sabra Noyes, for the previous week with special enticement feedings and habituation to a second person to shut the doors, rushed down at 7:00 AM to tell us about half the troop was trapped and ready for us to catch. After Claud sedated the adult males with a dart pistol, selected individuals entered the trap with nets, burlap bags, and string to begin the bagging process. Sabra identified each monkey before it was bagged, checking it off the master list, and each bag was color coded for special consideration: mothers with new infants to be released first, medical problems to be held for vet check and treatment, notorious trouble-makers to be held until the final release, etc. We then formed a line, passing the bags from person to person from the trap to the waiting watermelon truck. After hosing down all the bags to keep them cool on the 1½ hour trip, we secured a fine mesh net over the metal truck sides and two students rode in the back with Claud to watch for bag-ripping escapees. Several cars, carrying people to serve as fence guards, queued up behind the truck and we left for Dilley by 9:30 AM. Mrs. Dryden had served a quick breakfast while preparations were made to leave.



Mother macaque and baby

Geese and monkeys

We arrived at Dilley to find additional fence guards equipped with pickup trucks, CB radios, and 'coon dogs (dogs especially trained to track and tree racoons for hunters). After dispersing all guards around the one-mile perimeter, we began releasing the 121 monkeys near a watermelon-baited area close to the two ponds. Most went into the trees and brush, but several, including some mothers with infants, went over the fence in spite of our guards' vocal and visual displays and the electric barrier. Using 'coon dogs to tree the escapees, we managed to dart some successfully and return them to the enclosure. Others returned on their own by climbing back in, others remained outside. We had predicted this based on our experience two weeks earlier when we released several 4-5 year old males as a test of the fence. There is great individual variability in reaction to the mild but annoying shock, probably related somewhat to the combination of hot wires touched and the emotional and physical state of the animal. However, by the next morning, only a few monkeys remained outside.

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We returned to La Moca late Saturday night and prepared for an early Sunday morning second catch as we had done during the eight previous annual round-ups. Unfortunately, only about 30 juveniles and subadults would enter the trap. The alpha female actively led animals away from the trapping area into the brush. Rather than risk spooking the rest of the troop, we decided against shutting the doors and to feed heavily inside the trap (they will do almost anything for peanuts) for several more days. We had overlooked that this was the season in which a favorite food, prickly pear fruit, was abundant and the monkeys were never hungry. Our helpers had to return to their various professions, but Sharon, Robin, and Claud stayed with Sabra and intermittent visitors for the most of the next three weeks, catching a few animals at a time and constantly modifying our methods as the remaining animals learned to avoid each one.

We were successful with the following techniques. First we rigged the four guillotine doors, through a pulley system, to a single line held by a remote person (previously the monkeys had associated a person standing near the hinged doors with their incarceration). Though the presence of a remote line holder did not deter them, after 50-60 had been caught this way, the remainder would not enter the trap. Claud had managed to dart Suma, the alpha male, while feeding him peanuts and placed him in one compartment of a large, divided dog kennel located near the trap. He acted as a "magnet" for other troop members, and several were caught in the adjacent compartment by a person hiding in a nearby feed shed pulling on a rope attached to the kennel door. Finally, Claud designed, and we built, individual box traps, baited with fruit, which were triggered in our absence by the monkeys themselves. Later, the guillotine doors were rigged in this same manner. Using these methods, we caught 105 monkeys. The remaining 11 monkeys were caught in baited traps by Sabra on 4 different return trips to Laredo in September.

Monkeys feeding by pond

Orphan drinks milk and "Sis" feeds from bag

Three months after transplantation a monkey was reported by a family some 10 miles north of the Laredo site. Fearing for the safety of their children, they had been trying to shoot him and, failing to do so, they contacted us to do something. As soon as possible, Sabra drove to the ranch, taking a trap. On arrival, no one was home so she waited inside the truck. After about an hour, there was the monkey, staring into the truck which had so often brought him food. Alone, he had left the main troop 14 months earlier and had not been seen since. Within a few minutes of baiting the trap, the monkey was captured. He was taken to Dilley, conditioned to the fence, reintroduced to the troop (by caging him by the ponds), then released. He was readily accepted by other troop members.

Our trapping was interrupted on August 9 and 10 by Hurricane Allen's path through Laredo, some 30 miles south of us. We had followed the weather reports and were prepared. During the height of the 60+ mph winds, we left the trailers and sat it out in cars on the lee hillside protected by thick brush. One trailer was partially blown off its concrete supports, held in place only by a telephone pole, and the outhouse was overturned. The trapped monkeys were fine and loose monkeys hungry because they had not foraged for two days. We bagged the 105 monkeys on August 17 and with only 8 handlers, it took us 4 hours. On release at Dilley, using the same techniques but with fewer guards, we had an experience similar to the first. A small group of those who had been there 3 weeks went en masse over the fence, but few new animals did. Most returned voluntarily by the next day. Suma was the last animal to be turned loose. He confidently resumed his leadership of the troop.

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bra completed censuses of the entire troop after both releases. A few dead bodies have been found inside the enclosure, 2 outside, the cause of death unknown. Many monkeys have attempted to climb over the fence, but on contact with the hot wires, vocalized and jumped back. Several vocalized and continued up and over. Again, we had experienced these same occurences when the troop was originally released at La Moca. Before the release, we attempted avoidance conditioning on two subadult males by tethering each and forcing them to climb the wire and get shocked. Neither of those two has been seen to attempt to leave. However, it was not practical to continue this because of the time involved. The electric fence has been shown to be efficient at keeping most troop members contained. The Hol-Dem cattle charger company modified one of its stock chargers to pulse more rapidly and donated it to us. Because the fence at Laredo had been inoperative for 4-5 years, the troop had gone over it at will to forage. We expected it to take some time for its members to learn avoidance again. At this time, the troop stays away from the fence with occasional deliberate tests by young members. Three adult males were seen to "herd" a newly released female away from the fence. We are providing remote watering and feeding sites for those who must "peripheralize" yet stay within the enclosure.

Several incidents concerning the relocated animals may be of interest. A 2 year old female juvenile, Sis, adopted her 2 month old brother when their mother disappeared after the move. Sis was very enthusiastic in mothering, not allowing her brother out of her reach, and not traveling unless he would cling to her. After 3 weeks, it was apparent that the infant was not getting enough nutrition. Therefore, Sis, carrying her brother, was attracted with peanuts, and the infant fed baby formula and fruit. It did not take him long to learn about handouts and after 2 months he is healthy and active. Sis also learned about handouts, and now removes stored fruit from her brother's cheek pouches, and has generalized this behavior to include all the infants. It is remarkable that such a young female could successfully take such responsibility, since usually females under 5 years of age don't give birth.

Two Toulouse geese were released on one of the ponds. They peck the monkeys when they compete for food and make an attractive addition to the wildlife in the corral.

The troop is now well-established. The breeding season has begun and several females are already pregnant. Three adult males have elected to live in the trees immediately outside the fence. They are fed daily and readily approach visitors' cars when parked outside the entry gate. Even these, our most peripheral males, have made a healthy adjustment to the new location.

A small grant from The University of Texas at Austin will pay Sabra's salary through May 1981. Four other grant proposals for support and research have been submitted, two from Canada and two from the U.S. A planned zoo sale of 8 animals will bring in some funds for 1981, but more donations and grants are still needed. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to Dr. Claud A. Bramblett, Department of Anthropology, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Checks should be made out to **The Arashiyama West Institute.**

SPACE CHIMP MOVES TO NORTH CAROLINA ZOO

On 25 September 1980, 23-year old Ham Chimpanzee took up residence in the spacious chimp facilities at the North Carolina Zoological Park, Asheboro, North Carolina, U.S.A. The group hopes to integrate Ham into its social group of chimpanzees.

So far, Ham's life has been sad - five years' service in the U.S. space program followed by 17 years of isolation.

On 31 January 1961, Ham made history when he was launched into space from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Project Mercury Flight no. MR-2. On retirement from the Air Force in 1963 when he reached the weight of 50 pounds, Ham was sent to the National Zoo, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. where he lived in solitary confinement for all but a few weeks of the last seventeen years. When the zoo recently moved its gorillas and orang-utans into a new ape-house, the decision was made to find a new home for Ham, and he was sent to North Carolina.

In his recent book, **The Right Stuff** (Bantam, 1980), Tom Wolfe draws public attention to the cruel manner in which the "chimponauts" were trained by Air Force veterinarians.

Wolfe states that NASA purchased 40 chimpanzees in 1957. The animals were housed at the Aeromedical Research Laboratory in Holloman, New Mexico. Chimpanzees were used in space research because doctors feared the effects of weightlessness and high G-forces on the human body and wondered how humans would be able to function in a space environment. They wanted to use chimpanzees as a model for humans, because of their intelligence and physiological resemblance to Man.

The training consisted of 3 parts:

1) the animals were taken to the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and whirled around in the centrifuge to habituate them to the effects of the high g-forces.

2) they would be taken for parabolic rides in fighter planes which gave them the feeling of weightlessness.

3) they were "trained" by operant conditioning to perform tasks that they would be required to perform in space so that their functioning could be evaluated. According to Wolfe, electric shockplates were attached to the chimpanzees' feet and they would be administered "zaps" and "blue bolts" if they did not perform as their trainers wished. Wolfe also alleged that non-cooperative chimpanzees would be beaten with rubber hoses.

Ham survived the training and became an expert at performing the required tasks. On his brief suborbital space trip, he experienced 17gs on the way up, and 14 on the way down. Ham was almost drowned on his return to earth. His capsule overshot its mark by 132 miles, and developed a leak. By the time the animal was rescued 2 hours after landing, 800 pounds of water had entered the capsule.

On 15 May 1961, Alan Shephard followed Ham into space.

Although Ham was trained for the first orbital flight, it was Enos who went into space in November 1961. Enos' trip was short-only two orbits. He was brought back to earth after the capsule developed a 45° roll. Enos was followed into space on 20 February 1962 by John Glenn.

Dr. Shirley McGreal, Co-Chairwoman of IPPL, visited Ham at the North Carolina Zoo on 14 December 1980. She had visited him regularly in the National Zoo, where, for most of the time, he sat dejectedly in his tiny dismal cage. The officials of the North Carolina Zoo are introducing Ham gradually to the other chimpanzees. He now lives with two females, and has developed a friendly relationship with Maggie. During Dr. McGreal's visit, the two animals played together for 15 minutes. It appears that Ham is on the way to settling down to a contented life in North Carolina.

IPPL commends the zoo staff for giving Ham a chance, in spite of the damage that 17 years of solitary confinement may have done to his personality. News of Ham's progress will be carried in a future **IPPL Newsletter.**

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