



# News

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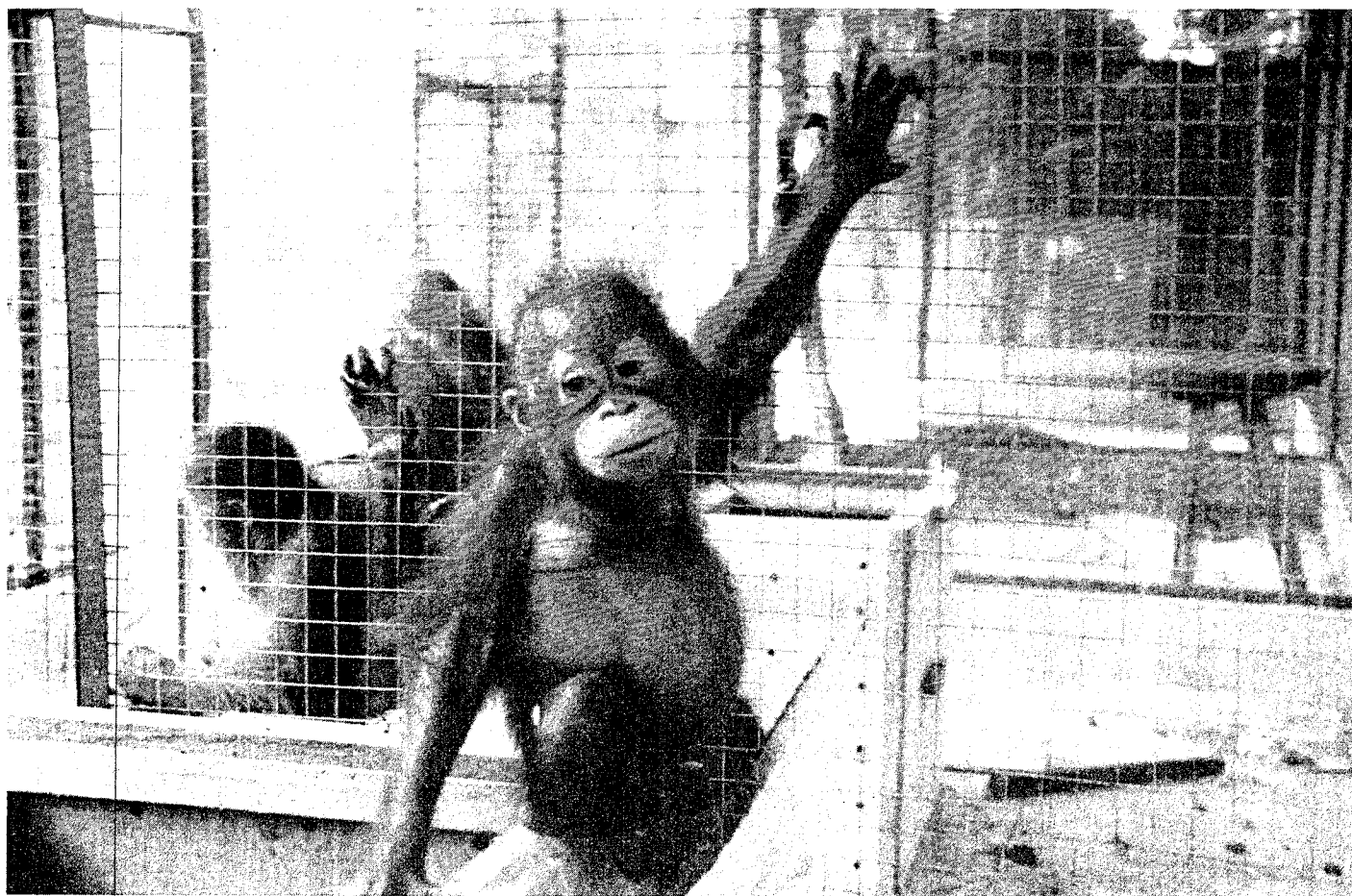


Photo: Wildlife Fund Thailand

## **INSIDE:**

**5TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BANGKOK SIX" SHIPMENT  
THE MONKEYS OF MARRAKECH, MOROCCO  
ARULLA, THE LONELY GORILLA**

# A Salute to Simon and Peggy Templer

Dear IPPL Member:

As IPPL enters the sixth year of its marathon fight for justice for the "Bangkok Six" orangutans I am writing to tell you about another "David and Goliath" battle for primates. This one lasted 15 years—and eventually ended with what we hope will be a permanent victory for wild and captive chimpanzees.

The battle was fought over the use of chimpanzees by Spanish beach photographers. These individuals, supplied with jungle-caught baby chimpanzees by totally despicable and ruthless criminal gangs, used to prowl the beaches of Spain soliciting tourists to have their pictures taken holding baby chimps, and sometimes baby lions and tigers.

Simon and Peggy Templer were unlikely warriors: this British couple, retired and living out their "golden years" on a lovely rural property in Spain, probably expected a peaceful retirement, but that is not what they got. The contrary.

In 1978 the Templers made what they later admit was a terrible mistake: out of pity, they purchased a moribund chimpanzee from a pet shop. A mistaken pity, because the pet shop owner certainly obtained a replacement chimp. Simon and Peggy named their chimp "Jenny." Soon they realized that, despite their best intentions, they couldn't really fulfil a chimp's needs, and started to look for a new home where Jenny could be with other chimpanzees. Unhappy with the zoos they visited, they learned about Stella Brewer's rehabilitation project in The Gambia, and took Jenny back to Africa.

Back home, the Templers stayed in touch with Stella and her wonderful father Eddie Brewer, who then headed The Gambia's Wildlife Department. Soon they received a letter from Eddie enclosing an article by two horrified journalists who had recently visited the tourist resorts on the coast of Spain and the Balearic and Canary Islands, and found chimpanzees being dragged around by itinerant photographers. Eddie begged Simon and Peggy to do something, and gave them IPPL's address. At that point, the Templers became IPPL's representatives in Spain, which gave them access to our network—and letterhead.

During the first six years of working to stop this infamous trade, the Templers won a few victories but mainly suffered endless frustration. At Lloret de Mar, just fifteen miles from their home, they found four photographers using chimpanzees as photo-props. These chimpanzees were confiscated, but in other areas authorities were less cooperative and often in league with the photographers.

Spain, not a member of CITES, allowed animal dealers to smuggle in chimps freely from Africa. Most would be shipped at night by boat to the Spanish Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. Once there, they could easily be flown to Spain.

Beach chimpanzees suffered horribly: they were usually drugged and most had their teeth pulled out with pliers or hammers. Constant exposure to flash bulbs would affect vision. The Templers took in many confiscated chimpanzees. The racket was a big money-earner: at around \$10 per photo, a photographer could easily earn a thousand untaxed dollars per day during the tourist season.

The Templers documented the location of beach chimpanzees all over Spain. IPPL, joined by other groups, ran letter-writing campaigns to Spanish authorities. IPPL-UK published literature distributed through tourist offices and circulated "Don't say Cheese with Chimpanzees" posters.

Meanwhile, the Templers had their lives threatened. One chimp owner kicked Peggy and beat her severely. The leader of a smuggling gang infiltrated their premises for a while.

Plans to return confiscated chimps to Africa didn't work out and in retrospect Simon feels it probably wasn't a good idea. The rescued chimpanzees, numbering close to 50, are now housed in huge enclosures at the Chimpanzee Rescue Center in Dorset, England, run by Jim Cronin.

In June 1991, death finally removed Peggy Templer, a human dynamo, from the battle-lines, but Simon carried on. The last report of chimps plying Spanish beaches to reach IPPL was in June 1993. But we have to be eternally vigilant.

Simon and Peggy's great victory should encourage all of us who sometimes feel like giving up the struggle, because it seems to be getting nowhere. Thank you, readers, for being members of our team.

All best wishes,



Shirley McGreal

P.S. A free copy of Simon Templer's exciting and inspiring report is available from IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA.

# FIVE LONG YEARS AGO

by Shirley McGreal

It was on 20 February 1990 that I received a phone-call from Leonie Vejajiva telling me that she had just been handed six baby orangutans confiscated two hours ago on Bangkok Airport. Two siamang gibbons had also been confiscated. They had reached Thailand from Singapore, travelling unseen in coffin-like bird crates, and were only found when some of the babies woke up and started to cry like human babies. The six babies were on the brink of death. Some were blue in color. "Please, please help," begged Leonie.

IPPL swung into action. Among those I contacted was Gary Shapiro of the Orangutan Foundation. Together we amassed heaps of medicine and free advice on care of baby orangutans. We also located former zoo orangutan caregiver Dianne Taylor-Snow who flew to Bangkok immediately to help the Thai volunteers. The problem of the babies was at least partly under control.

But who did the foul deed?

By March 1990, IPPL was hot on the trail. We learned through our network that a person with the German-sounding name "Schafer" was involved and contacted our friend Dr. Rainer Blanke of the German Wildlife Department. Soon we got a reply. Dr. Blanke told us:

*I cite what I heard orally: the whole affair has been organized by Matthew Block from Miami. He has organized the business with the help of Kenny Dekker from the Netherlands. K. Dekker has signed a contract with the Russian firm Prodintorg (Miaso) in Moscow. The number of the contract (C 589/185 97 30/34-122) must be written in one corner of the boxes, which were confiscated in Bangkok. [IPPL NOTE; THIS NUMBER WAS ON THE CRATES].*

*The exporter in Indonesia is "X" [name omitted as he was never indicted anywhere], who always has oranges in stock. "X" sells them for \$2,500 per orang. "X" organizes the transport of the oranges by boat from Indonesia to Singapore.*

*In Singapore James Lee of Honey Pets Center receives the oranges and packs them in bird boxes. Lee checks in at the airport with the birds. When he has all the papers, stamps, and O.K.s, he exchanges the birds and brings in identical bird boxes but in which are now oranges.*

*The oranges are usually sent via Thailand or directly to Moscow. But this time something went wrong with Aeroflot, so they asked Kurt Schafer, a dealer with Siam Farm in Bangkok, to organize the transport. Schafer had organized the deal with the zoo of Belgrade. Schafer was at the plane from Bangkok to Belgrade. The orangutans were checked as excess luggage. The siamangs were supposed to be the payment of the zoo of Belgrade. From Belgrade the oranges should go to the above-quoted firm in Moscow. There the track was lost....*

Dr. Blanke later provided IPPL with documents he had received from Kurt Schafer which confirmed his initial report, and further incriminated the alleged network. This information was

provided by IPPL to the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which was clearly not pleased to receive it—and did nothing meaningful for almost a year. One would think that the Miami wildlife agents would have rushed to work to investigate a brand-new case that came to light, only by a fluke of baby orangutans waking up during a transit delay. Thrilled, they were definitely not. The contrary. Why, we do not know.

IPPL often wondered why Dr. Blanke gave this vital information to IPPL, a private conservation organization, rather than to the US Government: later Blanke candidly told us that he trusted IPPL to act on the information, but did not trust the US government to do anything.

An investigation only followed public protests at the government's inertia. The US government tried crudely to sabotage the planned BBC program "The Ape Trade," a one-hour investigative report which was shown worldwide. An indictment in the case was not made till 20 February 1992, after congressional questions about what was going on.

At some stage, during the handling of the orangutan case, US suspect Matthew Block became "Confidential Informant AT-208." In October 1992 Block won a misdemeanor sure-probation plea-bargain which got rejected and eventually he pled guilty to one felony charge. In April 1993 Judge James Kehoe sentenced Block to a trifling 13 months jail. As of March 1995, the court proceedings were dragging on and Block has never spent a day in jail.

Kurt Schafer spent 3 months in jail for wildlife smuggling in early 1992. Kenny Dekker is still free, appealing a jail sentence in the Netherlands, and has left Dutch jurisdiction. However, Dekker did spend some weeks in jail awaiting trial.

While investigating Dekker's activities, the Dutch police had a wire-tap on him and overheard him planning an unsavory bird deal. They hoped to arrest him red-handed but failed because a Dutch police officer trustingly told a US wildlife agent about the timing of Dekker's arrest. Somehow word got back to Block's lawyer, who was overheard by the Dutch police monitoring the phone-tap telling Dekker to get rid of any smuggled birds and incriminating documents, as he was about to be arrested.

James Lee was never indicted in Singapore: the Singapore police claim they did not get timely cooperation from the US Attorney's office in Miami. The Indonesian suspect was never identified.

The Yugoslav conspirator Vukosav Bojovic was eventually indicted in the US, but his name was accidentally or deliberately misspelled as "Victor Buljovic" on the indictment. Despite his obvious guilt, Bojovic not only got off completely but, using his "connections," got a Yugoslav woman fighting his wildlife smuggling activities sentenced to jail for criticising him (she was recently cleared).

In the meantime, three of the baby orangutans (Bimbo, Ollie, and Thomas) died, and Fossey disappeared and may be dead.

As many US citizens say, the US criminal justice system should be renamed "Justice for Criminals."

## "BANGKOK SIX" ON THE INTERNET

On February 20, 1990, animal-lovers round the world mourned the five-year anniversary of the tragic fate of the "Bangkok Six" orangutan babies and remembered Bimbo, Ollie, Thomas, Fossey, Tania, and Bambi.

Among several postings on "Primate Talk" on the Internet were comments by Professors Vernon Reynolds of Oxford University, England and Colin Groves of the Australian National University.

### From Professor Vernon Reynolds

*The "Bangkok Six" case is still not concluded. As an IPPL advisor since its inception I have followed this case since the outset. I am appalled not just at the fact that these infants suffered and died as a result of animal trafficking (which is quite bad enough) but that the entire legal machinery of the United States, which found Matthew Block guilty and sentenced him to 13 months jail, has not yet been able to put that sentence into effect. How so?*

*The intricacies of appeals and counter appeals are one thing, but questions remain about the will to bring about justice. Is the will there? If a case involving orangutans cannot be brought to a successful conclusion, what hope is there for other endangered species?*

*In Uganda chimp smuggling still goes on. Last year while I was there three infant chimps were discovered in western Uganda, at Masindi near the Budongo forest, on their way to Entebbe airport. A video made secretly at the confiscation site clarified that they had come from Zaire. Boats cross Lake Albert all the time, and smuggling is easy. At Entebbe Airport, according to *New Vision* (the Ugandan government newspaper) many of the baggage handlers are ready and willing to take money to put a chimp on a plane.*

*It thus seems that we conservationists are getting nowhere. Poor people in poor countries can be relied on to catch infant apes. Middle-men are available to smuggle them to airports and collect them at the other end (they may not succeed all the time, but they do some of the time). And the top man in the racket needn't worry too much because despite public protestations, when it comes down to it, the laws are pretty ineffectual. That is the message I am getting.*

*If that scenario isn't too pessimistic, the future will be much like the present. For this reason we on the side of conservation and protection must continue to exert pressure where and when we can, because the pressure will continue from the exploiters on the other side. Despite our laws, and the laws of the countries where the poaching takes place, the trade will go on.*

### From Professor Colin Groves

*The subject of the "Bangkok Six" brings us back to something that was a lively topic on "Primate-Talk" a while ago; the rights of apes. As I remember it, a whole spectrum of views were expressed from "they have human rights" to "they have no rights as such", but no-one seemed to be claiming that we have open slather on them, that they could be treated with unconcern.*

*The reason why orangutans rate higher on the scale of rights—or, to try to get a wider range of primatologists concerned, of welfare than red-kneed tarantulas or even cougars or servals—is their cognitive development [Dr. Groves is referring to the recent jailing of a US tarantula smuggler for eight and a half years].*

*Rapid learning skills, innovative behavior, mirror self-recognition and symbol-using ability—these add up to an intellectual level that is well below that of most adult and juvenile humans, above that of very young human infants and a few unfortunate adults, and vastly above that of most other nonhuman species. There is more that one can do to an ape that will distress it than one can do to other nonhuman species: they have higher standards of care and treatment due to them.*

*That chimpanzees share 98.6% of human DNA, gorillas 98%, orangs 97% (I hope I've got those figures approximately right) is used by Richard Dawkins as itself a reason for awarding great apes extra rights, but is really an explanation for their intellectual status, rather than a reason for giving them rights as such.*

*Matthew Block's crime is, on ethical grounds, far worse than the tarantula smuggler's, isn't it? Giving the misarachnist a stiff sentence sent a message about animal smuggling in general; surely one who commits the crime of smuggling orangutans is guilty of violating not only wildlife laws but ethical standards too?*

*Can we somehow get the message to lawmakers in the USA and other countries that:*

- 1) Mr. Block the ape-smuggler should just get on with serving his term with no more fuffing about, and**
- 2) Never again should such a negligible sentence as 13 months be given in such a case.**

*In this New World Order the United States is supposed to be giving a lead in international law and ethics, instead of which it is making a very unseemly spectacle of itself.*

## THANK YOU MEMBERS

Another holiday season has come and gone and all of us at IPPL want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to our holiday appeal, setting us off to a good start in 1995. Thanks to everyone from all over the world who sent us holiday greeting cards. We had hundreds of lovely cards, many with animal themes, and we only took them down in early February as we enjoyed them so much.

## JUDGE SANCTIONS BLOCK AND LAWYER

At a 27 January 1995 hearing at the Federal Courthouse in West Palm Beach, Florida, convicted felon Matthew Block and his lawyer Paul Bass had a horrible shock.

They were ordered by Judge Kenneth Ryskamp to pay IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal's legal bills now totalling over \$110,000.

In 1990, shortly after IPPL requested the federal government to investigate Block's apparent orangutan smuggling activities, Block (acting under the name of his company Worldwide Primates of which he and his elderly mother were then sole officers) had sued IPPL for circulating an official Centers for Disease Control report listing 46 instances of non-compliance with federal quarantine procedures at his monkey warehouse in Miami. These included keeping some monkeys in two-tier cages with the monkeys on top urinating and defecating on those below.

Block dropped his lawsuit after he was indicted in February 1992. Shirley McGreal had earlier requested that he be sanctioned under Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for filing a meritless lawsuit, but Judge Ryskamp refused sanctions after receiving a report opposing them from Miami magistrate William Turnoff, who said he had to take special, apparently preferential, notice of Block's indictment on criminal charges. At that point, assisted by Miami First Amendment attorney Thomas Julin, McGreal appealed.

In July 1994, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, reversed Judge Ryskamp's denial of Rule 11 sanctions, saying that sanctions were fully deserved because the lawsuit had no factual or legal basis. The case was remanded to Judge Ryskamp, who was ordered to determine the appropriate sanction. The normal sanction is full payment of the victim's legal fees.

Both Block and Bass announced in court documents what they thought to be appropriate sanctions on themselves for their harassment of McGreal! Block, unready to part with any of his money, announced that he was willing to make a "public apology" to McGreal. Bass announced that he was willing to make a "token donation" to IPPL!

However, Judge Ryskamp didn't swallow this bait and announced instead that the sanction was to be payment by Block and Bass of McGreal's "reasonable attorneys' fees." These had exceeded \$110,000 because defending the lawsuit had been costly and time-consuming since Block, suing McGreal as "Worldwide Primates" had taken the 5th Amendment against "self-incrimination" 49 times, and had refused to provide one single document to prove his "case!"

An expert witness, attorney Karen Kammer, testified that she had reviewed McGreal's legal bills and found them reasonable.

Block and Bass, who each had separate attorneys, then had the nerve to request an "evidentiary hearing," at which they said they would produce an "expert witness" to challenge the bills. Why they did not have their "expert witness" present in the courtroom on 27 January is not clear: they had McGreal's legal bills in their hands SINCE 17 OCTOBER 1994, i.e., for over THREE months.

Presumably they were hoping for yet another delay. If so, they were lucky as they got one—a long one—over six weeks. McGreal's attorney had alleged in court documents that "asset dispersal" might be under way, making it possible that, if/when the seemingly endless delays come to an end and sanctions get ordered, they will never get paid. Court costs of \$2,008 that Judge Ryskamp ordered Block/Worldwide Primates to pay on 13 March 1992 have still not been paid, three years later.

Unfortunately Judge Ryskamp granted Block and Bass' wishes, and set a lengthy 3-hour "evidentiary hearing" for 13 March 1995, following which he said he would determine the exact sanction. We expect this hearing to be a forum for harassing our lawyer Thomas Julin and "nit-picking" over bills.

Shirley McGreal was represented at the hearing by attorneys Thomas Julin, Ed Mullins and Paul Layne of the Miami law firm Steel Hector and Davis.

**STOP PRESS:** The sanctions hearing planned for 13 March has been delayed. Judge Ryskamp issued a unilateral order around 6 March, postponing the 13 March hearing till 26 April, giving Block and Bass another six weeks. By then NINE long delay-plagued months will have passed since the 11th circuit ordered Judge Ryskamp to sanction Block and Bass. If a woman can produce a baby in nine months, it is hard to understand why a judge can't produce a sanction in the same time period!

However, this date was subsequently changed again, to 31 March.

McGreal and a colleague had purchased non-refundable airline tickets to attend the 13 March hearing. Several South Florida members had made plans to attend. In effect, although it is Block and Bass who are supposed to be getting sanctioned, to date it has been Shirley McGreal who has been "sanctioned" by the loss of money and stress caused by the various delays. We hope this will be the last one.

**STOP STOP PRESS:** On 15 March, we learned that Block's lawyer Bass has requested a further delay so he can take a vacation! Our attorney is opposing this request.

## MORE DELAYS IN "BANGKOK SIX" CASE

Four successive Miami Assistant US Attorneys have been assigned to the "Bangkok Six" case since its inception in 1990. Now it looks like a 5th AUSA may have taken over the case from the lackluster Guy Lewis who engineered the feeble probable-probation, small-fine misdemeanor plea-bargain to replace two felony and two misdemeanor counts that could have netted Block 12 years in jail, which many think he deserves.

On 16 April 1993, Block was sentenced to 13 months in jail, following which he and his lawyer Michael Metzger flew to Kenya and Tanzania "on business." Two years have passed since sentencing, and Block is still free to globe-trot with no requirement that he even file reports to the court on where he is going.

There were repeated delays in filing Block's appeal from his jail sentence, but it was finally submitted on 2 December 1994.



The appeal brief was 55 pages long.

The government was supposed to file its reply by 6 January 1995. Instead it filed a motion under the signature of Marc Fagelson, an AUSA not previously involved in the case, asking for a 75-day delay in filing its response. The government's response is now due on 13 March 1995. Fagelson cited the need to study the extensive four-volume case record and his heavy schedule working on other cases. If he is new to the case, this delay is

understandable and maybe, just maybe, he will be an improvement on his four predecessors.

It remains to be seen whether further delays will be requested and/or granted. An official at the Court of Appeals has told IPPL that the number of delays in the "Bangkok Six" case has far exceeded the normal delays in the notoriously slow-moving US justice system.

## **YOU CAN STILL HELP THE "BANGKOK SIX"**

**The case of the "Bangkok Six" shows that the United States Government is not doing enough to identify and punish US wildlife smugglers. After five long years, the baby orangutans have not received justice. They are as much victims as human crime victims.**

**We must let the Department of Justice know that we are not going to give up.**

**Please send a letter to:**

*Ms Janet Reno, Attorney-General*

*Dept. of Justice*

*Constitution Ave. and 10th Street NW*

*Washington DC 20530, USA*

**Describe briefly the tragic fate of the "Bangkok Six." Remind Ms Reno that US law bans US nationals from participating in international wildlife smuggling. Tell her you think that it is outrageous that the United States preaches to the world about its commitment to wildlife conservation, while allowing an orangutan smuggler to remain unpunished over 5 years after his crime. Point out that this case has brought US wildlife law enforcement into world disrepute and ridicule and that it is time that the orangutans get justice.**

**Overseas members should contact both Ms Reno and the US Ambassador in their country of residence. If you are also writing about the failure of the US Fish and Wildlife Service inspection program, please send separate letters in separate envelopes as they will be referred to different US government departments.**

## **THE AEROFLOT CONNECTION**

IPPL has learned that Aeroflot flights leaving Africa are travelling back to Russia loaded with smuggled wildlife, including chimpanzees. This is a major scandal and a serious threat to Africa's precious wildlife.

One flight has become known as "The Wildlife Express." Aeroflot 420 leaves Brazzaville Airport in the Congo Republic every Thursday and stops at Douala and Malta airports on the way to the Soviet Union. Maltese law does not allow for confiscation of smuggled wildlife in transit.

On 8 December 1994, primatologist Conrad Aveling actually saw three distressed baby chimpanzees loaded on Flight 420. The shipment had no CITES export permit from the Congo Republic and no import permit from Russia. Airport police actually blockaded efforts to confiscate the chimps.

Somewhere between Brazzaville and Moscow the chimps were off-loaded. An African informant has alleged that the shipment was organized by Russian national Klobathev Nikholov, aged 34, of Moscow.

On 22 December 1994, Congolese authorities seized three chimpanzees, three guenon monkeys, an African grey parrot, and a crate of ivory being loaded on to Flight 420. Another Aeroflot

flight popular with smugglers is the flight from Cotonou, Benin, to Moscow. Benin is close to Togo, a base for export of African animals.

Protests may be addressed to Aeroflot's US and Russian headquarters:

*The General Manager, Aeroflot*

*630, 5th Avenue #1710*

*New York NY 10111, USA*

*The President, Aeroflot*

*7 Dobryninskaya Street*

*Moscow, Russia*

Please write the Director of Wildlife of the Congo Republic asking that all Aeroflot flights be carefully inspected to make sure that no more smuggled wildlife leaves the Congo. Recommend that any foreigner caught smuggling wildlife out of the Congo receive a long prison sentence and no special privileges.

*Le Directeur de la Faune*

*B.P. 98*

*Brazzaville, Congo Republic*

## MEET "ARULLA"—THE LONELY GORILLA

In January 1995, IPPL Chairwoman Dr. Shirley McGreal visited the Zacango Zoo in Toluca, Mexico, where she met a lovely and very lonely female gorilla named Arulla. Arulla was charging frantically around her enclosure on a bitterly cold day.

Arulla is the forgotten victim of an almost-forgotten US Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement "sting" operation that earned headlines in its day. During this "sting" Region 4 wildlife agents conducted an entrapment operation under the leadership of orangutan smuggler Matthew Block. Block had become an "informant" for the US Government in the hope of avoiding a possible lengthy jail term.

For many years Arulla had lived with an elderly male gorilla at the zoo. Following the male gorilla's death, Zacango Zoo started to look for a replacement. There

are several zoos around the world that have lone male gorillas. However, instead of going through normal channels, zoo officials and agents took a "short-cut," contacting, of all people, Matthew Block.

They agreed to buy a gorilla from a Miami wildlife agent who acted the role of a foul-mouthed "mafioso" and trapped them into "buying" what turned out to be a Miami wildlife agent dressed in a gorilla Halloween costume. The Mexicans disgraced themselves in the process, and became figures of carefully orchestrated worldwide press ridicule.

The wildlife agents didn't fare much better in public opinion

after the initial bursts of publicity, as people started to ask why they seemed so eager to help the criminal Block keep out of jail for his cruel and species-destructive crime which seemed to some people far worse than buying a Miami wildlife agent!

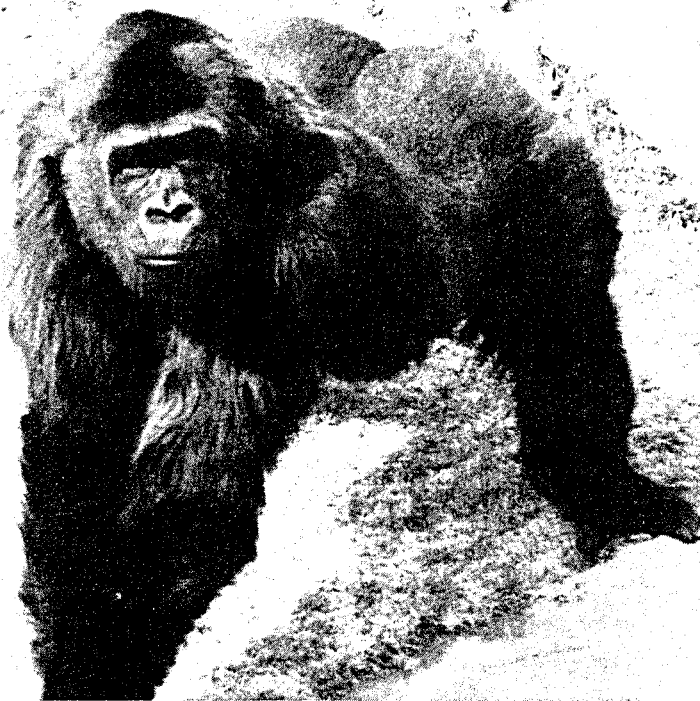
All five Mexicans involved are now free after serving some time in jail. Block also has escaped jail so far. But poor Arulla still lives in her prison of loneliness—a totally innocent victim of human intrigue. There is no way now that any zoo would

send a male gorilla to Zacango Zoo, even though it now has a new director and acceptable gorilla housing.

It also seems that the zoo will not let Arulla, a prime money-maker, leave—even if she would be happier in a new home with companions of her own species.

So Arulla lives a lonely empty life.

While in Mexico City, Shirley McGreal, Chair-



Arulla

Photo: Shirley McGreal

woman of IPPL, discussed Arulla's predicament with Marielena Hoyo, Director of the beautiful Chapultepec Park Zoo in Mexico City. The zoo has a huge multi-acre gorilla enclosure with space for many more gorillas. Ms Hoyo says that she would love to provide Arulla with a home.

IPPL believes that Zacango Zoo should not be allowed to keep "Arulla" alone indefinitely. Solitary incarceration is cruel and unusual punishment which should be reserved for only the worst of human criminals. We believe that she should be immediately transferred to Chapultepec Park Zoo, which is just 50 miles from Toluca.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP ARULLA

Please send a letter on behalf of Arulla to:

*The Director, Zacango Zoological Garden  
Toluca, Mexico.*

If you can write Spanish, please do so, but write in English if you can't. Request that the zoo transfer "Arulla" to the Chapultepec Park Zoo immediately as keeping a gorilla alone is cruel and inhumane. Please send a copy of your letter to:

*Ms Marielena Hoyo, Director  
Chapultepec Park Zoo  
Seccion de Bosque de Chapultepec  
Mexico DF, C.P. 11850, Mexico*

Ms Hoyo is well-known in Mexico and has good contacts which can help get publicity in the Mexican press about Arulla's plight.

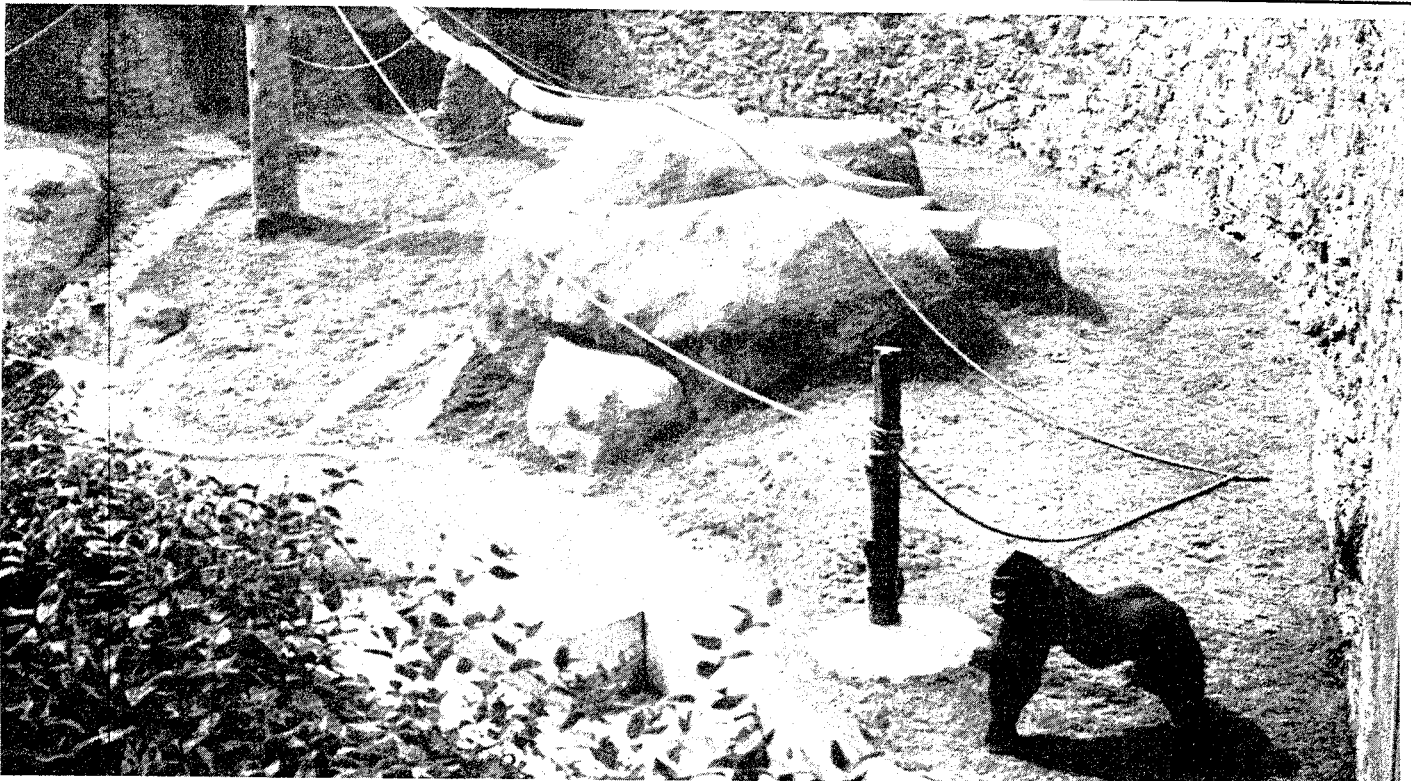
It costs 45 cents to send a one-ounce letter from the United States to Mexico.

Please contact also:

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Mexico to the United States  
1601 21st St. NW  
Washington DC 20009, USA*

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Mexico to the United Kingdom  
42 Hertford Square  
London W1Y 7TF, England*

Request that the Mexican Government work to persuade the Zacango Zoo to allow the transfer of the gorilla Arulla to Chapultepec Park Zoo.



Arulla's Enclosure

Photo: Shirley McGreal



# THE WILD SNOW MONKEYS OF TEXAS

by Lou Griffin

A group of snow monkeys is living in South Texas and has been adapting to mesquite and cactus for the past 23 years. This group of free-ranging primates has learned to deal with everything from rattlesnakes and rabid coyotes to prickly pear thorns and mountain lion predation. Presently the monkeys are facing more threatening adversaries, financial uncertainty and eviction notices.

Shirley McGreal of the International Primate Protection League has been a major force in helping to ensure the survival of this group until now. However, "now" presents a different sort of danger. Without financial stability, the monkeys' future is at best uncertain. Funding for the monkeys at the South Texas Primate Observatory (STPO) has come mostly from private individuals.

STPO has received no federal funding since 1980 because it does not permit invasive or terminal studies. Donations from many animal protection organizations are possible for two reasons.

First, the animals are studied by behaviorists from several nations in a non-invasive fashion.

Second, STPO does not sell animals to labs or zoos; in fact, a board resolution makes this an impossibility. Coupled with their financial problems is the threat of eviction from their home. The family that owns the ranch where the monkeys now live has taken legal action against the monkeys, and they must move.

The niche that STPO fills is a unique one. Since arriving 23 years ago, the troop has split into two; one group of 60 animals and one group of almost 500 animals. The larger troop has a "King" that was born in Japan and a "Queen" that was born in Texas.

Indeed, most of the snow monkeys alive now were born in Texas; they are virtually "native Americans". Records of families and their histories are collected at their old home near Kyoto, Japan (a snowy pine forest habitat), and at their home in Texas (a region of arid scrub brush). The possibilities for long term behavioral studies comparing these two troops of related families are enormous.

Unique is the only appropriate work to describe STPO. The monkeys constitute a large group of free ranging primates living in their own family units and in their own society without interfer-

ence from cages and restraints.

Humans can learn the answers to many questions about relocation and salvation of groups of threatened animals, not just primates, by studying the data gleaned over 30 years of observing these snow monkeys. It is a valuable resource for understanding many long term biological and social phenomena.

STPO has increased its sanctuary mission by receiving two species of primates, vervets (African green monkeys) and snow monkeys rescued from zoos, labs, shopping malls, and pet situations. These animals are re-introduced into a non-human primate society.

The successful return of reintroduction of an animal into primate society from a human oriented life is possible, but it is a slow process, and it requires many resources. Currently STPO is home to a number of former lab and zoo animals.

For example, Chester and Alfred are two snow monkeys who were wild caught in Japan and sent to a lab in Michigan. They are now learning what to eat, how to clean themselves, and how to communicate and get along with other snow monkeys. Also,

Benjamin and Isabel are two snow monkeys who came to STPO from a shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington. This is the same mall where the gorilla "Ivan" was held in for many years.

Unfortunately time is running out for all the animals at STPO. Unless a stable funding source can be found, the long history and any chance of survival for any of these animals is bleak at best.

Please help save the snow monkeys in Texas, by sending a generous donation to:

*South Texas Primate Observatory  
P.O. Box 702  
Dilley, TX 78017*

**IPPL NOTE:** The snow monkeys were imported to the United States by a Texas rancher who wanted to set up a research breeding colony. At his death, the animals fell into the hands of his widow, who finally evicted them from land near Laredo. Lou Griffin started caring for the troop, which was moved to Dilley, and has made the transplanted snow monkeys her life's work.



Photo: Karen Dickey

## Snow Monkeys

# COTTON-TOP TAMARINS IN TROUBLE

Acting on a petition from Dr. Ronald Hunt, Director of the New England Regional Primate Center, Southborough, Massachusetts, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed downgrading captive cotton-top tamarins on the US Endangered Species List. Cotton-top tamarins are tiny South American primates with an extremely expressive range of sounds. Their range is restricted to one region—the disappearing tropical forests of northwest Colombia. There are less than 2,000 left in the wild.

At present, the wild and captive populations of the species are listed in the category “Endangered” on the US Endangered Species List. Cotton-top tamarins cannot be sold interstate or harmed in any way without federal permits.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposal would classify captive-born tamarins as “Threatened.” This would mean that they could be shipped interstate and killed or harmed in experiments with no permit requirement—and could even be sold as pets to exotic animal fanciers.

Unfortunately for cotton-top tamarins, they have tended to develop digestive ailments, especially colon cancer, in captivity. These diseases have not been found in wild cotton-tops and the stresses of captive living and unnatural diets have probably caused them. According to the New England Primate Center’s petition, there were 665 cotton-tops at five US research institutions and 263 in US zoos or private hands in 1990.

Dr. Ann Savage of the Roger Williams Park Zoo in the state of Rhode Island, USA has studied cotton-tops in the wild over a period of several years. In a letter dated 4 March, 1994, to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Savage expressed her opposition to the proposal, noting that:

*It is important to consider the impact of reclassifying captive cotton-top tamarins on the future of wild animals....Despite the fact that Colombian, US and international law have curtailed the exportation of cotton-top tamarins, there have been several alleged abuses since Colombia’s banning of cotton-top exportation in 1969. In his book “The Deluge and the Ark, Dale Peterson reports that 2,500 cotton-tops were still sold in the US market after 1974, and that animal importers were able to circumvent the*

*ban by trading through intermediate nations such as Bolivia and Panama....*

IPPL files show that, in 1976, 685 cotton-top tamarins were imported to the United States from Paraguay, where they do not occur. One shipment of 80 cotton-tops reached a Miami firm called “Tropical Animal Distributors” from Paraguay on 1 January 1976. The US Fish and Wildlife Service did not confiscate the shipment, although it was in apparent violation of the Lacey Act.



Cotton-Top Tamarin

*Chimpanzees are regularly offered for sale as pets, and are also used in the greeting card industry in a manner that brings this noble species into ridicule, e.g. chimpanzees in human clothing.*

*At the present time, the endangered status of cotton-top tamarins protects these animals from the pet and related trades.*

IPPL provided the Fish and Wildlife Service with a copy of a price list being circulated in Australia. The list was provided to IPPL by an Australian zoo. The Miami dealership Miami Reptiles offered cotton-tops for sale. The animals, offered for \$1,500 each were advertised as “captive-born in Florida, sold only in Florida.”

In a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service opposing the split-listing, Dr. Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, called into question Dr. Hunt’s claim that split-listing has worked well with chimpanzees and so would work well with cotton-tops. IPPL commented:

*We note your comment that, “The provision being sought by the petitioner would be similar to that now covering the chimpanzee.” This implies that you think that the “split listing” of chimpanzees has been good for the species. IPPL does not concur. While research facilities have been relieved of the relatively minor effort to obtain a permit to cover their various “take” and acquisition/disposal activities, many undesirable elements in the private for-profit sector have benefitted from this split listing.*

*IPPL regularly receives complaints about chimpanzees being maintained, often alone, in sub-standard conditions in roadside zoos and menageries in the United States, as well as in the entertainment business.*

Downgrading of captive cotton-tops would allow them to be sold between states and thus increase demand, with potentially devastating consequences, if wild-caught animals were smuggled into the country and got absorbed into the captive population. The small size of cotton-tops would facilitate smuggling, and there is heavy private plane traffic between Colombia and the United States.

At a time when only a small fraction of imported wildlife shipments get inspected, relaxing rules on any endangered species appears to IPPL totally inappropriate.

IPPL has contacted Dr. Ronald Hunt, Director of the New England Primate Center, presenting information about the potential harm that could result from the proposed downgrading, and has requested him to withdraw his petition in the best interests of the species.

## THE MONKEYS OF MARRAKECH

In August 1994, a British IPPL member and her family went to Marrakech, Morocco, as tourists. Our member reports on the brutal exploitation of monkeys at the city's famous Jemaa El Fna Square. This is the square famous for its acrobats and story-tellers but sadly it has a cruel side.

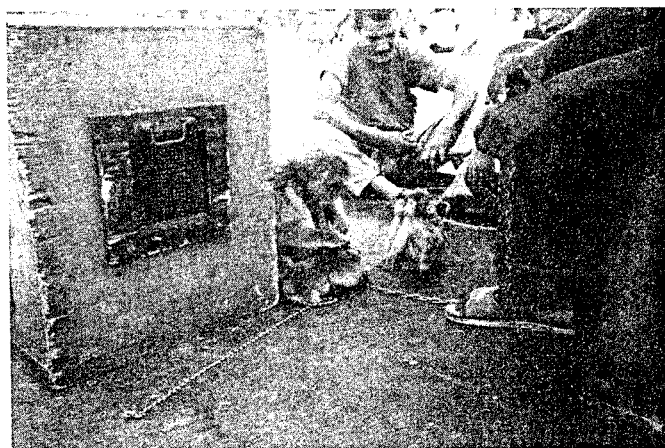
*What I saw horrified me to the core and has haunted me ever since. There were four baboons and 15 Barbary macaques (four adults and eleven babies). Six of the babies were being thrown on to tourists.*

*I was allowed to take pictures only if I paid 40 dirhams per picture [IPPL Note: there are 8.85 dirhams to the US dollar, 14 to the British pound]. I got twelve photos. They were very aggressive with the tourists if you didn't give the right amount. There were crying babies in the crates. The others were chained by the neck to wire grids, three to a 2 by 2 foot crate. The four baboons were also chained by the neck to the grids. Three could not even sit up as their necks were chained to the floor grids.*

*They were only taken out of the crates if you paid to see them being made to perform.*

*Babies were trying to feed from their mothers. But whenever a tourist came on the scene they were dragged off the mothers by their neck chains and left dangling momentarily until thrown on to the tourist.*

*I can still hear the screams.*



*The monkeys that are in the crates all day long in the searing heat of August (it is like a furnace there) were only taken out if someone chose one of them for a picture.*

*You could only see the baboons in the crates by requesting the door to be opened to take a picture: again 40 dirhams. All you could see otherwise was a hand held out begging for help, because their necks were chained tightly to the corner of the crate.*

*I did not cry openly. But I did cry inside. I wanted the humans to be tortured like they were doing to the monkeys. I had to pretend—otherwise no pictures. At least I was allowed to feed and water them.*

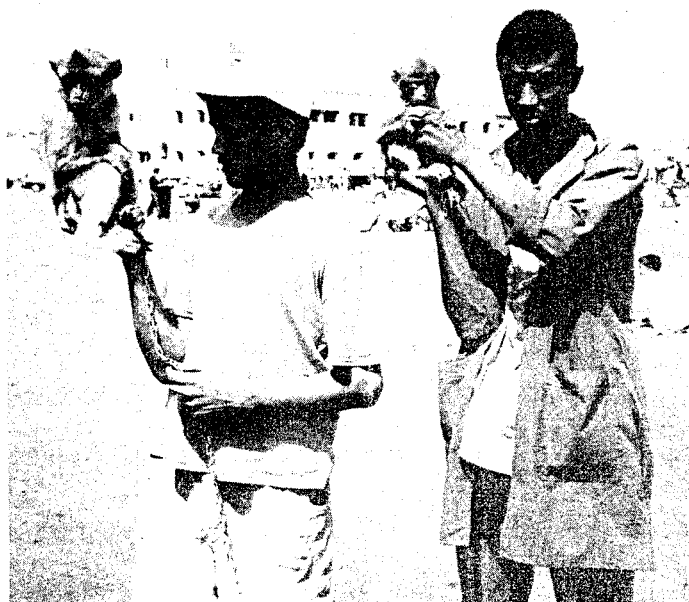
*I pretended to be very interested in purchasing baby monkeys. No problem. They were asking 6,000 dirhams.*

*In our hotel some of the staff also have monkeys at their houses for breeding and selling. They also work in the souks [bazaars] where tortoises are piled on top of one another in crates. Chameleons, lizards, and rabbits were all being sold as food.*

*One of the staff I befriended to get more information offered me two baby barbary macaques and all papers to get them through Customs for 5000 dirhams.*

*My daughter and her boyfriend went to Tangier, a city on the north coast of Morocco, and found no monkeys there.*

**A note on the Barbary macaque:** the Barbary macaque is found only in the mountainous areas of Morocco (the High Atlas, the Middle Atlas and the Rif) and a few parts of Algeria (the Grande Kabylie and the Petite Kabylie). A few are found on the island of Gibraltar. The species is extinct in Tunisia. The activities of those exploiting this species are certainly harmful to its survival because the total world population is estimated to be only around 12-23,000 animals and numbers are declining (Source: IUCN Red Data Book).



## HOW YOU CAN HELP THE MONKEYS OF MOROCCO

1) Please send a letter to the Moroccan Ambassador in your country of residence asking that he contact the responsible authority in the Government of Morocco requesting that action be taken to prevent the cruel exploitation of Barbary macaques and baboons at the Jemaa El Fna, Marrakech. Addresses:

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Morocco  
1601 21st Street, NW  
Washington DC 20009, USA*

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Morocco  
97 Praed Street  
London W2 1NT, England*

2) Please send a letter to:

*The Director, Moroccan Tourist Board  
20 East 46th Street #1201  
New York NY 10017, USA*

Tell him that the cruel treatment received by monkeys on the Jemaa El Fna, Marrakech, is distressing to foreign visitors and request that Moroccan authorities take immediate steps to protect Morocco's monkeys from such mistreatment.

3) If you are visiting Morocco, please go to Jemaa El Fna Square and try to find the monkeys. Updates would be appreciated. Try to get some good sharp photos and/or video.

## A STRANGE LETTER FROM DUNEDIN JAIL

On 26 December 1990, a strange letter reached IPPL. Post-marked Dunedin, New Zealand, with a PO Box as return address. The letter was written to Shirley McGreal and signed by a person identifying himself as "Fred the Bird-man!"

The "Bird-man" clearly didn't like Kurt Schafer, the German bird-smuggler who had carried the "Bangkok Six" orangutans for Matthew Block and his dubious associates and had "blown the whistle" on the network. The writer turned out to be Fred Angel, a trouble-prone "mule" for international bird-smuggling rings, who was actually incarcerated in Dunedin Jail when he wrote his letter!

Angel fulminated against Kurt Schafer, accusing him of every crime under the sun from murder on down. But IPPL is not active in New Zealand, which has no wild primates and very few in captivity, so we wondered how on earth Mr. Angel had ever heard of us! We suspected that there could be a Miami connection, because many strange things had happened since IPPL requested that Matthew Block be investigated for orangutan smuggling.

On 4 March 1993 Block, following his guilty plea, filed an "Acceptance of Responsibility" statement in which he made a claim that may, or may not, be relevant to how Angel came to hear about IPPL and contact us!

According to the statement:

*Even before Matthew Block was indicted, he brought to the government's attention the existence of a possible bird and animal smuggling scheme from New*

*Zealand. Matthew Block had received an unsolicited call from a wildlife dealer in New Zealand, Fred Angel, who was interested in smuggling birds, birds' eggs, and reptiles from New Zealand/Australia to the United States. The man, who was previously unknown to Matthew, spoke of ongoing large-scale smuggling and his interest in the continued illegal transshipment of substantial quantities of wildlife. Mr. Block was given permission by law enforcement agents to tape-record subsequent conversations. Matthew cooperated fully with Fish and Wildlife Service agents in this matter, until the government determined that it would not pursue the investigation any further.*

The same document notes that, "Matthew Block has cooperated with the government in matters prior to and independent of his plea agreement with the government."

In February 1993, IPPL received another letter from Fred Angel, this one asking how Kurt Schafer had obtained a copy of his letter to Shirley McGreal. In December 1990, IPPL had provided a copy of the letter to wildlife agents assigned to the orangutan case. We had NOT circulated the letter nor had we provided a copy of the letter to Mr. Schafer, so we asked Schafer how he had got hold of a copy.

Schafer made the claim that a US wildlife agent told him about the Angel letter which naturally aroused his curiosity, so he says he asked the agent for a copy. Schafer claims that the agent sent him a copy by fax.



## UPDATE ON SHIRLEY GIBBON

Shirley Gibbon had been confiscated shortly before IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal's visit to the Wanariset Orangutan Reintroduction Center in Indonesian Borneo. Shirley was at that time living alone in a very small enclosure. Lack of space prevented her from performing the acrobatic feats for which gibbons are famous. She seemed depressed.

McGreal left \$500 in travellers' checks to help start building a new enclosure for her. Facility staff gave the unnamed gibbon the name "Shirley" as a way of saying thank-you! On returning to the United States, McGreal contacted IPPL members to tell them about Shirley. Thanks to members' generosity, over \$10,000 was raised for Wanariset.

IPPL member Hans Iluk, a travel guide who lives in Bali, was recently in Balikpapan, Borneo, for the Pacific Area Travel Association conference. Hans visited Wanariset and was very impressed with the center's overall work and its public education program. He tried to take photos of Shirley during his brief visit, but had a problem. Shirley is a perpetual motion machine! She wouldn't stay still!

Shirley now has a companion, another confiscated girl gibbon. Both are seen in the photo. Like Shirley, her new friend belongs to the Bornean Agile gibbon species.

IPPL recently learned from Nita Boestani of Wanariset that a third gibbon is now living in the IPPL enclosure. All are girls.

Because IPPL members were so generous to the project, more enclosures can be built for incoming gibbons, macaques and orangutans. More illegally held primates can now be confiscated. Animals smuggled overseas can be returned to Indonesia. Most, but not all, of these primates will eventually return to the wild but first they must undergo rigorous health screening procedures and introduction to forest foods.



Photo: Hans Iluk

Shirley (right) and friend

*Joe Cuthbertson, President of the Balikpapan Orangutan Society, contacted IPPL on 12 March 1995 to thank all IPPL members who made donations to the project and to tell us that Shirley Gibbon is in wonderful condition.*

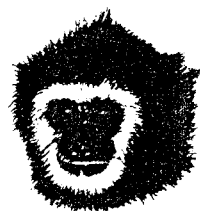
## UPDATE ON MASYA CHIMPANZEE

Masya Chimpanzee, formerly a pet in Haiti, travelled to Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia in June 1994. The sanctuary is operated by Dave and Sheila Siddle (Sheila is holding Masya in the photo below left) and is home to around 50 chimpanzees. Masya was in poor condition on arrival, and had health problems during her first months in Africa. Now, as you will see from the "before" (center) and "after" (right) photos on this page, Masya looks wonderful.





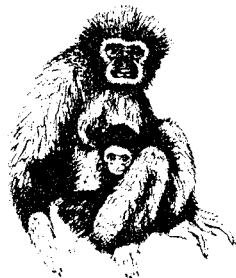
# GIFT ITEMS



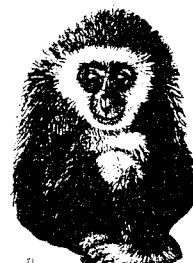
Beanie



Igor



Shanti with Michele



Arun Rangsi

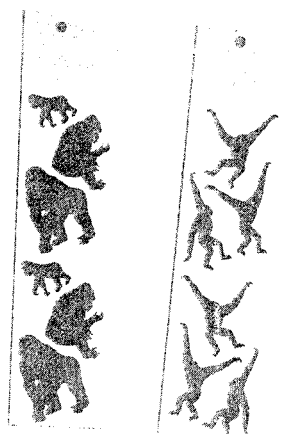
**NEW:** Lovely note cards featuring IPPL gibbons Beanie, Igor, Shanti with Michele and Arun Rangsi

*Artwork by Michele Winstanley*

12 for \$10



Gibbon gift wrap: \$4.50 for 3 packs postpaid

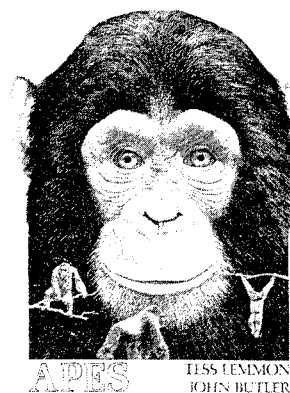


New: Gibbon and Gorilla Stickers  
5 assorted sheets, \$5 postpaid

## BOOKS FOR SALE

BABOON ORPHAN

"Baboon Orphan"  
Hard cover: \$8  
Overseas: \$12



"The Apes" by Tess Lemmon  
Hard cover: \$16  
Overseas: \$20



"Among the Orangutans"  
Hard: \$15 • Soft \$8  
Overseas: \$20 and \$12

# AVAILABLE FROM IPPL



**NEW:**  
**WILDSIGHT VIDEO**  
 Starring Beanie  
 and the IPPL gibbons  
 \$29.95 postpaid

Chimp T: \$14  
 Chimps both sides  
 XL, L, M  
 White/Aqua  
 XXL White only



Gorilla T: \$14  
 XL, L, M  
 White and Aqua  
 XXL White only

Gorilla sweats: \$25  
 XL, L in Sea-green  
 XXL White only

*Sweats/Ts have  
 front silverback,  
 back mother/baby.*

Gibbon T: \$14  
 XL, L, M, S  
 Silver, Beige,  
 Aqua, Pink



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Color	Size	Qty.	Description	Each	Total
All Prices Include Postage (except for overseas books)					

# PRIMATE VIRUSES IN THE NEWS

The publication in 1994 of Richard Preston's book "The Hot Zone" has focussed national attention on primate viruses, especially those found in jungle-caught monkeys. Some of these viruses can affect humans or are dangerously close to such viruses.

## Ebola

In 1990, an outbreak of fatal disease occurred at Hazelton Research Products in Reston, Virginia. The causative virus turned out to be similar to the Ebola virus which had caused the appalling deaths of many humans in Zaire. The humans died rapidly with blood pouring from all their body orifices. The US Army took over, and over 500 monkeys imported from the Philippines were exterminated. The Reston building was abandoned.

No humans became ill. The virus, although similar to Ebola, turned out not to be identical to the killer strain. It became known as "Ebola-Reston."

The building now belongs to the Atlantic Realty Company of Tyson's Corner, Virginia, which recently announced plans to tear it down. According to company spokesman David Ross:

*It's in a total state of disrepair, it's really not salvageable.*

John McEvilly of CB Commercial Real Estate Group, a local brokerage, stated that he did not know any broker who would even set foot in the building!

The Ebola-like disease outbreak was the subject of Richard Preston's best-selling book "The Hot Zone."

## Hantavirus

In August 1994, a researcher at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA, contracted a rare and deadly virus while cleaning up infected monkey tissue after a test tube shattered in his laboratory.

The scientist's fever shot up to 103 degrees, but he recovered. The virus turned out to be *Sabia* arenavirus, which is similar but not identical to the rodent-borne hantavirus that has killed more than 70 people, many of them native Americans, in the western United States, in recent years.

Symptoms of hantavirus resemble those of Ebola, in that the hantavirus can cause rapid and horrible death from internal and external bleeding.

## Simian Hemorrhagic fever

The Ebola incident at Hazelton has been widely publicized. An incident that took place in 1989 which also involved an outbreak of disease in monkeys imported from the Philippines, is less well known. The following information was contained in an official government report dated 18 July 1989. The report was prepared by Robert Cannon, M.D., who led a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) enquiry into the incident.

In April 1989, Dr. David Rehnquist, senior veterinarian at the Primate Research Institute (PRI), Alamogordo, New Mexico, contacted CDC to report an outbreak of fatal disease in monkeys imported from the Philippines. The outbreak was affecting rhesus and crab-eating macaques at PRI.

The problem had started with the arrival at PRI on 23 March 1989 of a shipment of 50 cynomolgus monkeys (crab-eating macaques) obtained from the Philippines by a company described in the CDC report as "Importer A in Miami." Within two weeks all the monkeys acquired by PRI had died or been killed.

Because of the rapid deaths and severe symptoms, the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (AMRIID) was called on to determine whether the Ebola or Marburg virus could be responsible. However, AMRIID determined the causative agent to be the simian hemorrhagic fever (SHF) virus. AMRIID is the same unit that, a year later, identified the Ebola-like virus.

According to the CDC report, SHF occurs naturally in several African primate species, but does not occur among wild macaque monkeys in Asia. Hence the appearance of the illness in monkeys originating in the Philippines seemed strange. Had it surfaced in Asia? Since 1976, SHF had not been reported in the United States.

As part of its investigation, CDC inspected the records of shipments reaching "Importer A" from 24 January to 28 April 1989 and found heavy mortality among imported monkeys.

- *On 24 January a shipment of crab-eating macaques had been imported: all animals were distributed to other locations by 8 February.*
- *On 24 January, 40 patas monkeys arrived from Africa, of which seven died.*
- *Between 6 February and 27 March, 380 crab-eating monkeys arrived, of whom 24 were dead on arrival and 120 were shipped to other facilities within 2 days of arrival, including the PRI-bound monkeys.*
- *According to CDC, 182 (77%) of the remaining monkeys at Importer's A's premises died within five weeks of arrival.*

The PRI outbreak had two phases: first, disease broke out among the newly-acquired monkeys and then the other monkeys in the indoor rooms. Then it spread to the macaques in the outdoor cages. Between 25 March and 1 May, 245 indoor monkeys were dead.

The outdoor monkeys were housed in corn-crib enclosures and 20 of 138 cribs were affected. 156 outdoor monkeys died. No humans were affected during the epidemic. The large chimpanzee colony housed at the Primate Research Institute was also not affected.

The CDC team made several recommendations: such as that importers and research facilities should improve their record-keeping to document quarantine procedures, veterinary care, and unusually high numbers of monkey deaths. CDC also proposed that importers be required to report disease outbreaks, which PRI had done voluntarily.

A copy of the 13-page CDC report is available free from IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA.

# GAO BLASTS US WILDLIFE INSPECTION PROGRAM

In December 1994, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) published its long-awaited report on the effectiveness of the US national wildlife inspection program. The finding: the program is not serving its purpose of keeping smuggled wildlife out of the United States.

The report had been requested by Congressmen Gerry Studds and former congressman Richard Lehman of California, both of whom were concerned at the influx of smuggled wildlife into the United States. IPPL had undertaken several studies of the inspection program based on review of import declarations obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. We had learned that during July 1992, there were 16 days when not one single wildlife shipment entering the United States through Miami got physically inspected by one of the 6 inspectors (see *IPPL News*, April 1993).

## USA—World's Biggest Wildlife Consumer

The report states that:

*The United States is the largest consumer of wildlife in the world, importing and exporting over \$1 billion of the estimated \$5 billion to \$8 billion in international wildlife trade occurring annually....Although the full extent of illegal trade is not known, the value of such*

*trade into and out of the United States is estimated to be between \$100 million and \$250 million annually.*

## Inspector Shortage

The US Government spends a trifling \$2.8 million dollars on manning the front lines in the war on wildlife crime. An additional source of revenue is the trifling \$25 inspection fee for each shipment, even for huge shipments consisting of hundreds of animals and taking hours to check.

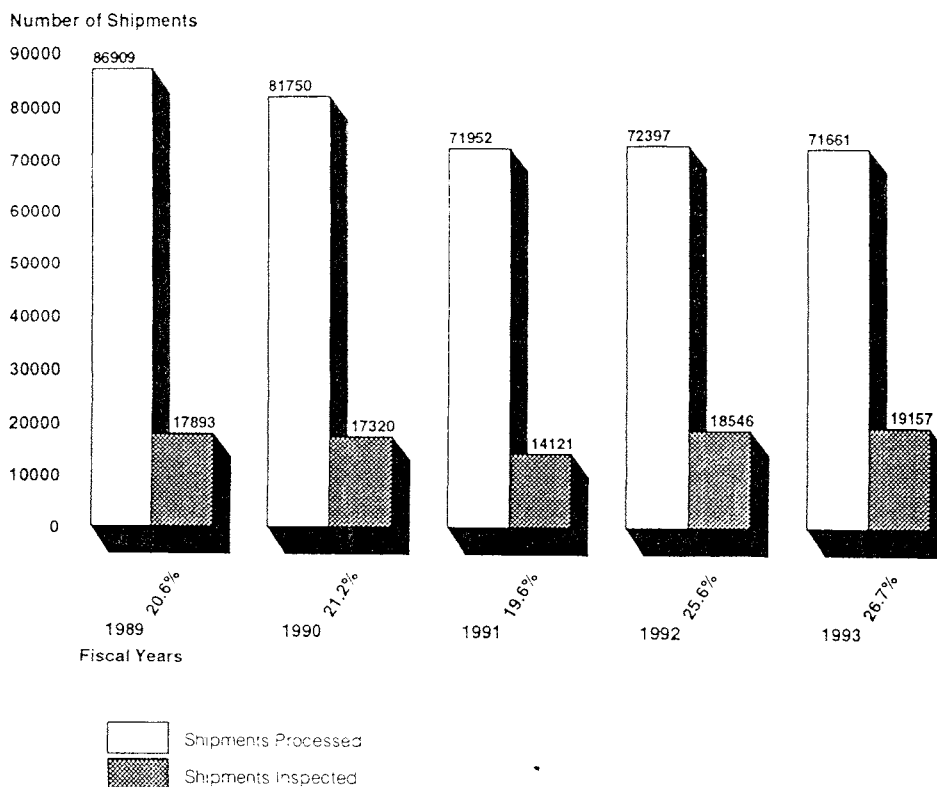
The total number of wildlife inspectors nationwide is only 74. Sixty of them are stationed at 11 designated ports of entry and 14 at other locations where wildlife import and export occurs.

## Smuggled wildlife shipments seldom caught.

Wildlife agents told the GAO team that it is impossible to tell how much smuggled wildlife is entering the United States, but that they estimate that less than 10% of illegal shipments get detected. Smuggling wildlife is safe and profitable!

*Law enforcement officials from the seven FWS regional offices responsible for managing the wildlife inspection program agreed that FWS is detecting very little illegal wildlife trade. For example, one FWS su-*

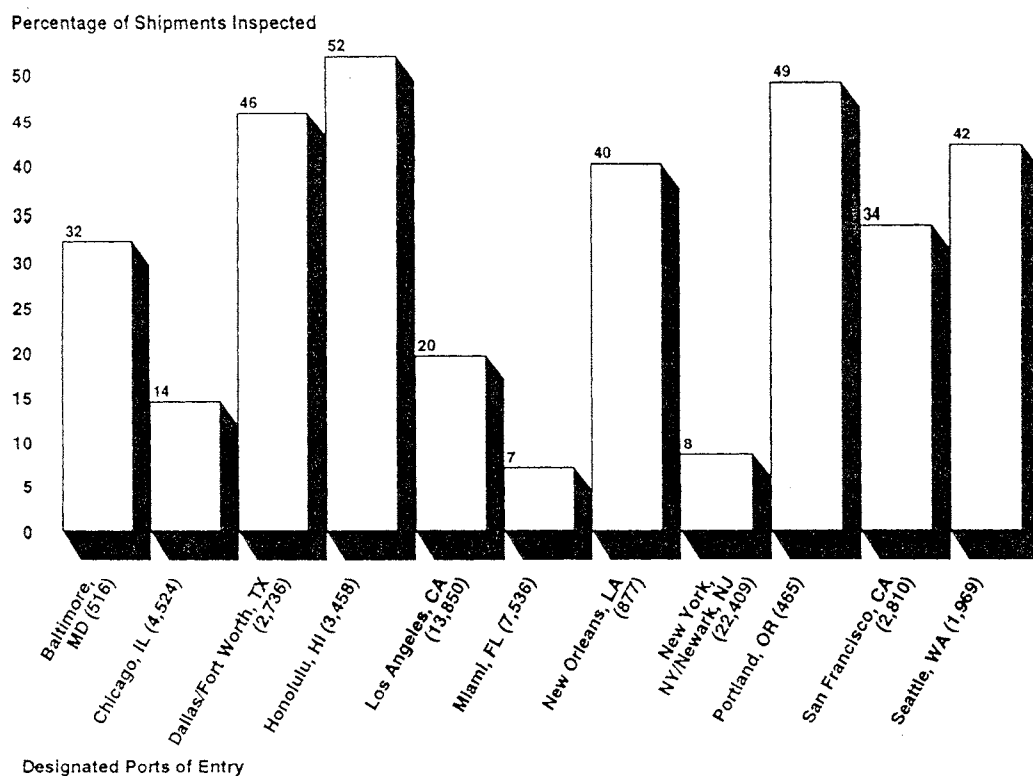
Figure 2.1: Number of Shipments Processed and Physical Inspections Performed by FWS, Fiscal Years 1989-93



Note: The percentages under the shaded bars show the portion of shipments that were physically inspected.

Source: The FWS Division of Law Enforcement.

Figure 2.2: Percentage of Shipments That Were Physically Inspected at Designated Ports of Entry, 5-Year Average, Fiscal Years 1989-93



Note: The average number of shipments processed by each port during this 5-year period is shown in parentheses following the port name.

Source: The FWS Division of Law Enforcement.

*pervisory special agent estimated that wildlife inspectors are detecting only about 1–3% of the illegal wildlife shipments carried by passengers, and only 1–10% of illegally imported or exported wildlife in declared cargo shipments. Undeclared wildlife shipments have an even higher probability of going undetected, according to FWS officials.*

### Most shipments not inspected

A table in the GAO report (see page 17) shows that nationwide three-quarters of wildlife shipments are not physically inspected. This means that a person importing smuggled wildlife to the United States will probably get away with it, especially if he/she routes the shipment via Miami, where the inspection rate is only 7%. This may explain in part the large number of animal dealers active in South Florida.

If each of the six Miami inspectors looked at just 25 shipments a week, the inspection rate would rise to 100%.

Another table (above, this page) compares inspection rates at the various ports of entry. These vary from 52% at Hawaii down to the abysmal 7% at Miami. Wildlife smugglers are aware of the situation at various ports and can and do route their shipments accordingly.

### Inspectors' work output varies

The GAO found a wide range in the number of inspections

performed annually per inspector. Over a 5-year period, Miami inspectors each averaged 76 inspections PER YEAR (about 1.5 inspections PER WEEK), whereas Honolulu inspectors averaged 616 inspections each per year (about 2 inspections PER DAY).

When asked to explain this bizarre discrepancy, the Deputy Chief of the FWS Division of Law Enforcement "could not specify reasons for the variances."

### Lack of Equipment

Monty Halcomb, Assistant Regional Director for Region 4 of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, told the GAO Team that:

*Wildlife inspectors at the port of Miami, Florida, did not perform physical inspections of nonhuman primates—animals known to carry pathogens such as ebola and tuberculosis, which are dangerous to humans—because the safety equipment necessary to inspect the animals was not available.*

The leading beneficiary of this non-inspection policy was convicted orangutan smuggler Matthew Block. Halcomb's excuse strikes IPPL as nonsensical, since nervous inspectors could stand some distance away from the shipping crates and look at the monkeys through binoculars to verify the species inside the crates.

The situation in Miami appears to reflect an abject and of-



ficially-condoned (if not officially-instigated) failure of the inspectors to do what the public is paying them to do—inspect wildlife shipments to make sure that smuggling is not going on.

### Lack of Information

Wildlife inspectors told the GAO that they needed an improved management system, because:

*The existing system, LEMIS, does not provide timely and reliable information on the level of wildlife trade, violations detected, and the fines or penalties assessed for these violations. ...Inspectors sometimes do not enter information into LEMIS for as long as 6 months after they process a shipment, and FWS does little or no quality check of the information to ensure its accuracy.*

One flagrantly false entry was filed in the LEMIS computer in 1992. A shipment of 110 crab-eating macaques from the Inquatex firm in Indonesia reached Worldwide Primates, Miami, on 20 August 1992, with every single one of the 110 monkeys dead. A Miami inspector actually entered the shipment into the computer as "110 LIVE monkeys." The entry was only changed to "DEAD" after IPPL pointed out the error. It is not clear whether the agency was trying to "cover up" this appalling shipment, or whether whoever made the computer entry was simply lazy and/or incompetent.

### Few Penalties and Fines

Even those violators who do get caught get off lightly, to the annoyance of the inspectors, who blame the Solicitor's Office of the Department of the Interior and US Attorneys' offices around the nation. According to the report:

*Many violations detected by the program have resulted only in the abandonment or forfeiture of the wildlife and wildlife parts and products that were being illegally shipped. Some violators continue in business after being found guilty. Even though federal statutes and implementing regulations provide that the importer-exporter licenses of those who violate wildlife laws and treaties can be suspended or, in the case of wilful violations, revoked, such actions are rare....*



Crated monkey

*We were able to obtain information relative to Endangered Species Act violations, which we were told make up a large percentage of the total violations detected by the inspection program. Our analysis of this information shows that of 1,760 individuals and companies charged with 2,896 endangered species violations during fiscal years 1989–93, only about 25% of the violators received penalties and/or fines for their infractions and a much lesser percentage received probation or jail.*

*Over half the violators simply had to forfeit the illegal wildlife they were attempting to ship into or out of the United States, while still another 20% had their cases dismissed by regional solicitors or the courts.*

*Even repeat violators of the Endangered Species Act seldom received substantial fines or penalties.... For example, from fiscal years 1989–93, FWS caught one importer 14 times attempting to illegally ship wildlife. However, the importer received no penalties or fine.... Some FWS officials told us that even when penalties and fines are assessed, they are often reduced through legal maneuvers to the point where many importers-exporters view them simply as a "cost of doing business."*

Failure to follow up on violations means that smugglers can operate with relative impunity. If their smuggled wildlife gets through, they sell it and make their profits. If it gets intercepted, they will probably get off lightly. Penalties for wildlife crimes are in part based on whether a crime is a "first" or subsequent offense by the law-breaker. So a person like the non-prosecuted smuggler with 14 offenses, if he ever gets tried, will be legally a "first offender." A virgin smuggler!

### License revocation

The Fish and Wildlife Service regional offices have the right to revoke convicted smugglers' licenses but seldom do. Sometimes, anticipating license revocation, smugglers transfer their businesses into the names of family members or friends.

The GAO notes:

*Only one region could identify for us instances in which it had revoked or suspended import-export licenses as a result of violations. FWS officials pointed out that even if they revoke or suspend a license, oftentimes the violator will arrange to use the license of another company or individual, or will operate without one. One situation we became aware of in Florida involved a commercial importer who was convicted of illegally transporting a protected, endangered nonhuman primate. During our review we were told that this individual was still involved in importation activities, operating a license in his wife's name. When we asked law enforcement officials why this was allowed, they said they were gathering additional information....*

### NAFTA

The GAO team looked at the effects of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement involving the United States, Canada, and Mexico). Declared wildlife trade between the

United States and Canada exceeded \$133 million in 1990, consisting primarily of furs and fur products.

In 1990, the value of declared wildlife shipments between the United States and Mexico was close to \$19 million, consisting largely of animal skins, leather products, and plants. This may well be the "tip of the iceberg" as the US-Mexican border is porous and there is considerable road traffic. Smugglers often hide parrots in automobiles.

The report discusses the problems in one border zone.

*The San Diego, California, port of entry's area of jurisdiction includes land border stations at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa, Tecate, Calexico, and Abdrade, along the entire California-Mexico border. This is an area covered by a Customs Service work-force that consisted of 473 inspectors and 60 canine enforcement officers. Until recently, one FWS wildlife inspector covered the same area. In fiscal year 1992, almost 570,000 trucks along with 27.3 million private vehicles and 21.3 million pedestrians were cleared through the San Diego area....*

Similar problems were described in the region around El

Paso, Texas. Clearly there is a need to increase significantly the number of wildlife inspectors along the US-Mexican and US-Canadian borders.

### **Moving the Program to Customs**

As part of its investigation, the GAO circulated a questionnaire to wildlife inspectors. Of the 63 respondents, very few thought that a transfer to Customs would be desirable, especially if the wildlife inspectors were not retained as a specialized, segregated unit.

### **How to Obtain the GAO Report**

Readers wishing to read the full GAO Report can get one copy free from the government. The full title of the report is "Wildlife Protection: Fish and Wildlife Service's Inspection Program Needs Strengthening." The address for requests is:

*US General Accounting Office*

*POB 6015*

*Gaithersburg MD 20884-6015, USA*

Orders may be faxed to 301-258-4066.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

**US members and overseas members should contact Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, Washington DC 20240, USA.**

**Summarize the GAO's findings and express your concern that the USA, the world's leading importer of wildlife, is facilitating smuggling by having a totally inadequate inspection program. Point out that endangered wildlife is pouring into the country. Request that Secretary Babbitt take action to improve the inspection rate to 100%.**

**Please request especially that he investigate why Miami wildlife inspectors inspect less than 2 shipments per inspector PER WEEK and that he examine the inadequate supervisory system at Region 4 Headquarters of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, located in Atlanta, Georgia, which tolerates such appalling situations as wildlife inspectors looking at an average of less than 2 shipments per week.**

**Overseas members, please send a letter to the US Ambassador in your country of residence asking him/her to ask the Secretary of the Interior on your behalf for an explanation and request that he/she get back to you with the answer.**

**If you have good media access, please try to get coverage of this problem in the local press, especially if you live in a country predated on by international animal dealers.**

## **IT'S TIME FOR A DIAN FOSSEY STAMP**

On the night of 26-27 December 1985, Dian Fossey, passionate protectress of the world's mountain gorillas, was brutally murdered in her primitive cabin in the remote Virunga Volcanos of Rwanda. Dian was buried by her cabin alongside many of her beloved gorillas, including Digit, Baby Kweli and Uncle Bert.

One has to be dead for ten years before the US Postal Service can issue a commemorative stamp. IPPL has already submitted a documented letter to the Postal Service requesting that consideration be given to issuing a "Dian Fossey commemorative" in 1996.

Please send letters to the Postmaster General to request that a stamp showing Dian with one of her beloved mountain gorillas be issued. This would be a wonderful way to honor this wonderful dedicated woman. Runyon's address is:

*Marvin Runyon, Postmaster General  
485 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington DC 20260-0010, USA*

## MISSING-GUNS AND CAMERAS

In 1993 IPPL requested information under the US Freedom of Information Act regarding equipment reportedly lost, stolen, or missing from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement over the previous three years. The Service deleted the names of some of the agents losing taxpayer-owned property to protect their privacy. A staggering amount of equipment worth tens of thousands of dollars got lost during between January 1990 and July 1993.

- 30 guns
- 14 cameras
- 12 pairs of binoculars
- 10 radios
- 4 confidential files (3 USFWS files and one FBI file)
- 3 cars
- 2 containers of ammunition
- 2 computers
- 2 night-vision scopes
- 2 tape-recorders
- 2 phone systems
- 1 VCR
- 1 Body armor vest
- 1 agent's badge and credential
- 1 boat trailer
- 1 travel trailer

- 1 computer monitor
- 1 power booster
- 1 pair of handcuffs
- 1 walkie-talkie
- 1 siren
- 1 outboard motor

On 27 May 1992, the Houston office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service was burglarized. Fifty-four items were seized, including:

- 1 life-sized jaguar eating a life sized stuffed javelina
- 1 lion skull jaw wired shut
- 1 elephant tusk
- 1 life size stuffed barn owl
- 1 ceremonial staff with primate
- 1 gorilla skull
- 1 rhino horn

Some of the missing equipment was reportedly lost while agents were checking up on hunters shooting animals on federally-owned land. Some was reportedly stolen. Only a very few items were recovered later. In most cases US taxpayers absorbed the loss. However, in occasional incidents, agents were determined to have been negligent in their handling of expensive government property and were required to reimburse the government for part of the value of the missing equipment.

## ANIMAL ABUSE LEADS TO HUMAN ABUSE

Many people, probably including most readers, are appalled at animal abuse simply because it is morally wrong. Unfortunately some people don't feel that concern for animals is warranted. It is very hard to argue with these people, many of whom have rigid mind-sets.

An article in "Dog Fancy," a US magazine popular with dog-owners, was recently reproduced in the widely-read Ann Landers advice column read by millions of US readers daily. The article provides some arguments to help you convince even the most cold-hearted person that he/she should care about mistreatment of animals.

*Each day, we hear of increasingly violent crimes committed by increasingly troubled individuals. Their childhoods reveal violent parents, inappropriate discipline, neglect, emotional repression. And you find animal abuse.*

*An abusive individual who chooses a child as a victim almost invariably begins that violent behavior with animals.*

*As difficult and unpleasant as it may be to explore this relationship, acknowledging it could spell salvation for countless victims in this tragic cycle.*

*We speak of pets as members of the family, a notion generally referred to in the warm, fuzzy sense. But there can be a dark side to a pet's role as family member: when a*

*family is infected by violence, the animals in that household are just as likely to be victims as the human members.*

*An individual who abuses and expresses rage and humiliation through violence does not choose a large virile subject as a victim.*

*The first victims are often animals. While animals may remain a favored target, the violence expands to include humans, usually the abuser's own child. This child, while suffering the perpetrator's brutality, may watch the abuser hurt or even kill a family pet, or the child may turn on the pet himself.*

*Taken to the extreme, this can lead to the creation of a societal monster. Ted Bundy [mass murderer of young women], Albert De Salvo [the Boston Strangler], and Jeffrey Dahmer [who killed and cannibalized young men] are only a few of the notorious serial killers who began their careers with animals. Most victims of such abuse do not become serial killers, but those who work to protect animals, children, battered spouses and the elderly see the deadly effects of what these individuals DO become every day.*

*The late anthropologist Margaret Mead once wrote, "One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it."*

## MOVING—LET US KNOW

If you have plans to move, please let IPPL know in advance. Otherwise, the Post Office will discard your IPPL mail or sometimes send us a corrected address for which we have to pay postage and a service charge. Make it easy for us and for you by contacting us before your move!

## UPDATE ON IVAN

Ivan, the gorilla who used to live alone in a shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington, was moved to Zoo Atlanta in the state of Georgia, USA, on 12 October 1994. Ivan's move followed years of protests by animal-lovers around the world at the conditions in which he was kept in isolation.

Atlanta Zoo officials chose Molly, a 25 year old female gorilla with a relaxed temperament, as a potential companion for Ivan.

Ivan is around 30 years old. His age cannot be determined precisely, because he was born in the jungles of Africa where his mother was shot to bring him into captivity. Thus Ivan may have vague memories of being with other gorillas as a baby.

Ivan's lonely life was, incredibly, endorsed by veterinarian Dale Schwindaman, head of US Animal Welfare Act enforcement, who had the nerve to write to protestors that:

*Ivan has always lived alone. To introduce him to a social grouping with other gorillas may be extremely stressful for Ivan, even if it were successful.*

On receiving a copy of Dr. Schwindaman's letter, Dr. Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, informed him that:

*I was very surprised, actually shocked, to learn that you see nothing wrong with a gorilla living for decades alone. Have you ever read any books about primates?*

*Very few are asocial or anti-social.*

*Gorillas are born into groups, as you know or should know. Ivan was certainly brought into captivity by the shooting of his mother, as fiercely protective gorilla mothers do not hand over their youngsters to humans willingly. Many mothers and gorillas die for each infant successfully brought into captivity.*

*Ivan was not born by Caesarean section in the jungle. He has not "always lived alone." He lived with his loving mother and family group till the poachers got her. He urgently needs the company of other gorillas.*

*Dr. Schwindaman, are you aware that solitary confinement is considered a punishment so cruel and inhumane that it is reserved for only the most heinous of human criminals?*

Dr. Schwindaman's comments show that enforcement of the US Animal Welfare Act is led by a man who sees nothing wrong with keeping sociable primates alone for decades and who has a misguided notion that primates kept with only human companions may do better staying alone till they die. This of course ignores the success stories of lone gorillas, of whom the most famous example is "Willie B," who lived alone for many years at Zoo Atlanta and now lives with a group in a magnificent enclosure. "Willie B" became a father in 1994.

## THE SUKHUMI DISASTER

Writing in the 10 October 1994 issue of the **New Republic**, Anna Husarska told about the fate of the huge Sukhumi Primate Center caught in the civil strife resulting from the break-up of the former Soviet Union.

The Sukhumi Primate Center, which was part of the USSR Academy of Sciences, was founded in 1927. It was located in the beautiful beach resort of Sukhumi, close to Sochi on the Black Sea. Sukhumi owned over 5,000 primates, some caged and others living in woodland enclosures.

The year-long war between Abkhazian separatists and the

new nation of Georgia, which ended in 1993, left the Sukhumi Primate Center in ruins. Only 10% of the thousands of primates survived the war. Many primates escaped and were shot to death. Others starved.

Massive losses in primate colonies are, unfortunately, an animal dealer's dream as fortunes can be made providing replacement animals. Dr. Boris Lapin, former head of the Sukhumi Primate Center, used to control all imports of research primates to the entire Soviet Union, but now each country and each facility are looking for animals on their own.

## ARE YOU ON THE INTERNET?

If so, please let IPPL know if you are interested in receiving by E-mail news items or action alerts about events that occur between issues of IPPL News. Please fill in this form and mail it to IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

TR number on the mailing label, if available \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

IPPL can be contacted at [ippl@sc.net](mailto:ippl@sc.net)

## RHESUS MONKEYS STOPPED-A "CAN OF WORMS!"

In the United States traffic check-points are sometimes set up by law enforcement officials. According to the Associated Press, during one traffic check at 3 a.m. on Wednesday 14 December 1994, a truck containing 75 rhesus monkeys was stopped and the drivers were briefly held in jail till they posted bond.

The monkeys were being trucked to the Coulston Foundation, Alamogordo, New Mexico, a large research facility owning hundreds of chimpanzees and monkeys. Steven Hoover and Steven Verzwylk, both from Texas, were arrested and charged with shipping wild animals through the state of Florida without the required permits and health certificates.

At this point the United States Government stepped in to get the monkeys on their way to whatever fate awaited them. Ten of the monkeys came from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Why these monkeys were being shipped to Miami on the way to New Mexico is unclear, the itinerary was circuitous. Sixty-five monkeys had been flown to Miami from the Caribbean Primate Research Center (CPRC) in Puerto Rico. Calls to the Sumter County sheriff's office also started coming in from NIH and Alamogordo.

Sumter County sheriff Jamie Adams commented:

*This is the biggest can of worms I've ever gotten into...we threw a little monkey wrench into a big wheel.*

According to the Associated Press:

*The monkeys themselves weren't happy. They expressed their displeasure by flinging urine on their drivers.*

The Associated Press quoted Travis Griffin, president of the Coulston Foundation, as saying that most of the monkeys will be used for breeding, not research.

IPPL has obtained a copy of a "Report of Investigation" dated 20 December 1994 from the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission Division of Law Enforcement (GFC). The report shows that the arrested drivers were employed by Kritter Krates, an animal transportation operation based in Texas and operated by Spencer Ellis. Extracts from the report follow;

*The Sumter County Sheriff's office had been conducting a drivers' license check at the Florida Turnpike Toll Plaza in Wildwood, with emphasis on possible drunk drivers and drug intervention. Therefore, drug sniffing dogs were being used. The drug dogs had alerted deputies to something inside the unmarked, white Ford box truck with Texas tags DA3387. They found that the truck contained about 80 crated rhesus macaques, travelling to Alamogordo, New Mexico....*

*At the scene, Lt. Moran and Sgt. Sommer were able to determine that none of the documents required to trans-*

*port such wildlife were in the possession of the driver, i.e. bill of lading, GFC permit, source of acquisition, USDA certificates of health, or other USDA documents. Sgt. Sommer and Lt. Moran further interviewed the two subjects and determined that the monkeys were being transported for Three Springs Scientific, to the Coulston Foundation, Holloman Air Force Base, Holloman, New Mexico....*

*Contact was made with Spencer Ellis, owner of Kritter Krates. He advised that Verzwylk and Hoover were employees and that they were involved in a contracted move of rhesus monkeys from Miami Airport to the Coulston Foundation.... He said that Jim Sears...had contracted Kritter Krates for the job....*

*Ellis said that Sears (or his associates) were supposed to provide these documents to the driver of the truck. Ellis said that he was told by Sears and Matthew Block (a Miami wildlife dealer) that he was not required to have a Florida wildlife permit.*

*Contact was made with Jim Sears who was with Matthew Block at the time. Sears stated that the monkeys were the first of several shipments from the Caribbean Primate Research Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico.... The center is being closed and all the primates are being transported to other facilities around the country.*

*Sears stated that all documents were in order and that they had simply forgotten to give them to the truck driver prior to departure.... Sears said that he had been advised by Matthew Block that government research facilities were exempt from state permitting, and that since these were NIH primates, no state permits were required....*

*Contact was made with Dr. Randy Elkins, NIH, who stated that he was in charge of all NIH animal centers, Elkins advised that he had hired Jim Sears and Three Springs Scientific, Inc. to arrange for transfer of the primates from the CPRC to various facilities around the country.*

*Citations were issued to Verzwylk and Hoover for possession of wildlife without a valid permit,...a criminal misdemeanor. Due to the fact that the two individuals reside outside Florida, a cash bond was required to be posted after booking in the Sumter County Jail Intake Facility...it was also determined that Jim Sears had unlawfully transported primates into Florida from Maryland. Lt. Reynolds issued a written warning to Sears for failing to have a proper permit.*

## THANKS

Thanks to Twycross Zoo in England for raising £500 for IPPL. The funds were allocated to the Wildlife Rescue Foundation of Thailand for care of confiscated gibbons. In 1993 Carol Fleming, senior gibbon caregiver at Twycross, had spent six months in Thailand helping the foundation establish gibbon care routines.

Thanks also to Lynette Shanley, IPPL's Australian Representative, for raising \$980 (Australian) for the protection of mountain gorillas. The funds were donated to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Thanks to Connie Scheller, IPPL's Mexican Representative, who raised \$100 for gorilla protection, also donated to the Fossey Fund.



## NEW CITES MEMBERS

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) now has 128 member nations. Among the nations which joined recently are the Sierra Leone, the Comoro Islands, Mali, the Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Vietnam, and Romania.

The absence of these and other countries from CITES has hurt the treaty in recent years. Sometimes non-CITES member nations would export CITES-protected wildlife and often they would re-export wildlife smuggled in from CITES member neighbors, facilitating its entry into international markets. Until it joined CITES, Equatorial Guinea allowed the German smuggler Walter Sensen to export gorillas and chimpanzees, some of them probably caught in neighbor countries.

Assuming that the new member nations enforce CITES, primates will benefit from the recent ratifications.

### Sierra Leone

For decades Sierra Leone has been the leading supplier of young chimpanzees to world markets. This dubious distinction was brought about mainly by the Sierra Leone Government's tolerance of the species-destructive activities of the Austrian expatriate animal dealer Franz Sitter, who enriched himself and impoverished the wildlife of his adoptive country by exporting hundreds of chimpanzees, mostly to dealers supplying research facilities.

### The Comoro Islands

The Comoros are adjacent to the island of Madagascar and are home to mongoose and brown lemurs, both endangered species.

### Mali and the Ivory Coast

The desert nation of Mali and the heavily-deforested Ivory Coast have small populations of chimpanzees which require protection from trade.

### Vietnam

Vietnam has a wide variety of endangered primate species including snub-nosed monkeys, douc langurs and pygmy lorises. Douc langurs are found in Laos and Vietnam and have been heavily traded in the past, with one notorious wildlife smuggler, Kampang Ploentham of Bangkok, Thailand, having amassed approximately 100 doucs on his premises in 1988. Most of these fragile animals died before leaving Thailand.

Five were shipped to Singapore in December 1988, despite Singapore's membership in CITES. Singapore should never have issued an import permit without first verifying that the animals were legally exported from their country of origin

and should have confiscated any doucs arriving without a permit.

Two of these doucs died but the zoo informed IPPL in a letter dated 28 August 1991 that it intended to breed the survivors and was thus contributing to the conservation of the species!

### Eritrea

Eritrea is home to several monkey species, including vervets and hamadryas baboons, as well as the colobus monkey, which is killed for its spectacular fur.

### Saint Kitts and Nevis

These Caribbean islands are home to African green monkeys. The monkeys were introduced to several Caribbean islands by ship from Africa during the years of the slave trade. The fact that the monkeys were introduced means that they are of little concern to people concerned solely with conservation of species, but humanitarians are concerned over problems such as inhumane capture, local experimentation, and commercial export.

CITES does however address the question of inhumane international transportation of wildlife.

### Romania

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and changes in other Eastern European countries, predatory animal smugglers have looked for countries which they can use to launder smuggled wildlife for re-export to Western Europe and other regions on phony captive-born papers. Ratifying CITES may mean that Romania, suspected to have been involved in some of this illegal trading, will close its doors.

The one disadvantage of countries joining CITES is that animal dealers have targeted the biennial CITES conferences, at which most member nations are represented. Sometimes dealers in live wildlife and wildlife products attend in person or send their lawyers and/or lobbyists. Observers at CITES are supposed to be technically qualified in conservation which can mean anything. Smugglers Kurt Schafer and Matthew Block both planned to attend CITES '92 in Kyoto, Japan. Schafer missed the conference because he was in prison in Germany and Block because he was indicted in Miami.

Dealers not attending the CITES conference sessions prowl in nearby hotels looking for contacts. Jean-Pierre Fouchard, a well-known French animal dealer based in the African nation of Togo where he runs a company called Toganim, managed to attend CITES '94 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, walking around with an official badge and socializing openly with wildlife officials.

## X-RATED WILDLIFE SMUGGLING THRILLER

"Gone Wild" by James Hall appeared in book-stores nationwide during the week of 6 March. Hall's latest thriller is published by Delacorte Books and has already won critical praise. Hall has really done his homework looking into the seedy world of wildlife smuggling and its ghastly practitioners. **Note:** we don't recommend that you read "Gone Wild" if you're sensitive to violent incidents and steamy sex scenes.

# WILDLIFE SMUGGLERS GET UNEQUAL TREATMENT

A comparison of two plea-bargains entered into by the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida in Miami shows that wildlife offenders sometimes get treated very differently.

## Two Crimes

On 1 October 1992 Miami animal dealer Matthew Block, who was charged with two felonies and two misdemeanors in connection with the international smuggling of six jungle-caught baby orangutans ("The Bangkok Six"), signed a plea-bargain with the Miami US Attorney's office, represented by Assistant US Attorney Guy Lewis.

On 7 June 1994, Fort Lauderdale pet store owner Daniel Braun, who was charged with one felony count of shipping captive-born cougars and servals to buyers in states which do not allow importation or possession of such animals without permits, signed a plea-bargain with Miami Assistant US Attorney Lynn D. Rosenthal.

## The Deals

Assistant US Attorney Guy Lewis agreed to drop both felony counts against Matthew Block, leaving only two misdemeanor charges standing: the maximum jail term would be one year.

Assistant US Attorney Lynn Rosenthal won a guilty plea on the original felony indictment against Daniel Braun: the maximum jail sentence would be five years.

## The Value of the Wildlife

Assistant US Attorney Guy Lewis agreed that the total value of the six baby orangutans was "less than \$10,000" on the blackmarket. Because the mandatory federal sentences in wildlife cases are based primarily on the RETAIL value of the smuggled goods, Lewis was ensuring almost-certain probation despite the heinous and species-destructive nature of Block's crime. Blackmarket prices are totally irrelevant, as Lewis should have known.

The Braun plea agreement did not include any value for the cougars and servals.

## "Cooperation" option

Assistant US Attorney Lewis agreed to report to the judge if Block provided "cooperation" or "substantial assistance" to the government by becoming an informant, so that he could get a reduced sentence instead of the mandatory jail

term under the **Federal Sentencing Guidelines**.

There was no similar option in the Daniel Braun plea-bargain. It may be that the government thought that Braun didn't have information it wanted. Some people refuse to become informants, considering that turning in or setting up one's associates to save one's own skin is despicable.

## License revocation

There was no mention in the "Bangkok Six" plea-bargain of Matthew Block giving up any of his federal or state licenses to import/export/possess wildlife.

However, Daniel Braun agreed to relinquish and "forever forego" his Florida and federal government licenses to deal in "Class II animals as listed in the Wildlife Code of the State of Florida."

## Status of cases

Daniel Braun is now serving his eight-month jail term in a federal prison. If the original plea-bargain in the "Bangkok Six" case had not been rejected by Judge James Kehoe, the result for Block would have been near-certain probation.

Thanks to Judge Kehoe, Block was eventually convicted on one felony conspiracy count and was sentenced to 13 months jail, which he is now trying to wriggle out of. Meanwhile, under what Magistrate Ted Bandstra himself described as extraordinarily privileged bond conditions, Matthew Block is free to travel around the world, under only a personal surety bond.

There is no doubt that Daniel Braun deserved his jail term. There is equally no doubt that Matthew Block deserves his jail term.

It is hard to explain the very different plea-bargains in these two cases. Many people might consider smuggling jungle-caught baby orangutans, members of one of the world's most endangered species, internationally to be an even worse crime than shipping captive-born exotic cats interstate, especially since four of the six baby orangutans died.

Various factors could account for the differences between the plea-bargains: the relative competence of the prosecutors in each case or the "preferential treatment" obviously accorded to some of South Florida's established animal dealers by the US government. In addition, international animal dealers connected with international networks have more people to inform on or "set up" than relatively small pet dealers.

# SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Sadly, about 50% of all Americans leave this world without making wills. This often leads to family disputes and lawsuits that can last for many years and guzzle up entire estates.

Charitable organizations, like IPPL, which you have helped during your lifetime will miss your help when you are gone. Through your estate plans, you can still be an active participant in IPPL's work after you leave this world. Primates in the United States and all over the world can be rescued and cared for. This could be your living legacy.

Please consider including IPPL in your estate plans. For further information, please consult an attorney or contact either IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA or IPPL-UK, 116 Judd Street, London WC1H9NS, England.

## WHISTLE-BLOWER GETS AWARD

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), an organization based in Washington DC, USA, works to protect the rights of "whistle-blowers" from retribution by entrenched bureaucrats or dishonest government employees.

"Whistle-blowers" are employees in government or the private sector who expose abuses inside their own agencies or businesses. Frequently, instead of being applauded for their courage, they are the subject of vicious retribution by their own agencies.

On 15 December 1994 a special agent with the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service received PEER's annual Joe A. Callaway award for civic courage.

The award was established:

*To reward individuals in any sphere of endeavor who, with integrity and at some personal risk, take a public position to advance truth and justice, individuals who challenged prevailing conditions for the common good.*

Cox received the award:

*In recognition of his exemplary law enforcement work to protect our natural resources: his serious commitment to the preservation of biodiversity in this world: and his unusual initiative and talent in building a wider constituency for his agency's mission.*

One would think that, if this description of Cox is correct, his "superiors" in the Division of Law Enforcement would appreciate him. Apparently this was not true. The contrary.

According to PEER, Carroll Cox, who was raised on a small farm in Mississippi, "learned the hard way" that his respect for wildlife "is not shared by the Fish and Wildlife Service—the very agency entrusted with the guardianship of our precious natural resources."

Cox was assigned to Hawaii and was the sole law enforcement agent in the Pacific Basin. Hawaii is home to nearly 40% of US endangered species. Soon after arriving in Hawaii, according to PEER, Cox found dead monk seals washing up on beaches. His investigation uncovered that the long-line fishing industry was responsible for the slaughter of endangered species

such as pilot whales, humpback whales, monk seals, sea turtles, and birds.

The PEER article continues:

*The monk seals, attracted by the bait, would become tangled in the lines and would drown or become impaled by the hook. Cox even witnessed seals being clubbed to death and whales being shot by long-line fishermen. Cox developed evidence of these violations, and submitted it to the National Marine Fisheries Service, his supervisors at the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Western Pacific Fisheries Council. Nothing was ever done.*

Frustrated, Cox took his evidence, video and photos to the local media—resulting in a 9-day shutdown of the long-line fishing industry.

During another investigation, Cox learned that the President of Palau (a Pacific island that was a US Trust Territory at the time) was importing endangered species products from the Philippines and that a Palau government owned operation was shipping large quantities of sea turtles to Japan.

According to PEER:

*In all respects the Fish and Wildlife Service has been hostile to Cox's vigorous enforcement efforts. His investigations have been undermined, he has been stripped of job responsibilities, passed over for promotion, received poor performance evaluations, been denied permission to travel to areas normally under his jurisdiction and excluded from meetings.*

While Cox was in Washington to receive his award, PEER tried to arrange for him to meet Richard Smith, Deputy Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Smith, formerly a predator control agent (i.e. a killer by poisoning, trapping, etc. of wildlife on public lands to make them safe for privately-owned sheep and cattle) refused to meet Cox. According to PEER:

*This refusal contradicts Fish and Wildlife Service Mollie Beattie's earlier pledge to PEER that she was willing to meet with FWS employees to discuss their concerns.*

## MILKA CLEARED!

Milka Knezevic-Ivaskovic contacted IPPL Headquarters in May 1990 with a strange tale. A volunteer at the Belgrade Zoo, which was to have "laundered" the six Moscow-bound baby orangutans, Milka had valuable information which she wanted to share with IPPL.

On learning from a Thai wildlife official that Vukosav Bojovic, Director of Belgrade Zoo, had written him a letter on 28 February 1990 demanding that the "monkeys confiscated from Mr. Schafer" be immediately forwarded to him, Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, contacted Bojovic for an explanation.

Bojovic, who did not speak English (it turned out that Kurt Schafer had written the letter for him), asked Milka to translate his reply into English.

Milka then courageously contacted IPPL to tell us that

Bojovic was lying to us by claiming not to be involved in orangutan smuggling and not to have heard of Kurt Schafer. Not only was Bojovic deeply involved in the "Bangkok Six" shipment, said Milka, but he had previously acquired two undocumented baby orangutans, Sanja and Vanja, who were then living at Belgrade Zoo.

In November 1990 an outraged Bojovic sued Milka for "libel," i.e., for telling the truth about his dirty dealings. Bojovic had political "connections" and things went very badly for Milka, who at once time faced a jail sentence for telling the truth.

It was not till November 1994 that this lawsuit ended. The courageous Milka, vindicated, is finally free to start to put her life together. Milka is now IPPL's representative for Yugoslavia and we are really proud of her courage.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Animals Saved from Jungle Restaurant

On 7 November 1994, Thai police raided a house where they found piles of animal carcasses and many live animals waiting to be slaughtered for distribution to Bangkok "jungle restaurants." Police had been alerted by a phone-call.

The owner of the house was not there when the police raided the premises. Among the seized wildlife:

*Bear carcasses, feet and bile*

*Python meat*

*Bottles of snake-extract medicine*

*1 crab-eating macaque*

*Several Malayan sun bear cubs*

*An adult Asian black bear*

*Pythons, cobras and other snakes*

### Plane crash

According to the 28 December issue of the Las Vegas Sun:

*A lost student pilot crashed a light airplane into the back yard of a home in northwest Las Vegas, but the only casualties were some power lines, a tree, and the home's back wall.... Pilot George Kaiser walked away from the crash...similarly lucky were about 15 baboons that Fruits kept in his backyard, along with a pony and about 20 cats...the crash brought attention to a zoning dilemma in the neighborhood. A complaint was filed against Fruits recently for a tiger and tiger cub he kept in his back yard...although the tigers have since been removed, the baboons are still considered "exotic animals" that require a special-use permit.*

### Dr. Malik uses her pen to protect primates

Dr. Iqbal Malik, one of IPPL's Indian Representatives, has had two major articles published in leading Indian newspapers.

The 30 October 1994 issue of the *Hindustan Times* carried a long article about the IPPL gibbons. Dr. Malik met them while visiting IPPL Headquarters at Summerville in early 1994.

On 25 December 1994 the *Financial Times* carried an in-depth report by Dr. Malik on the appalling situation which allows over 90% of wildlife shipments entering the United States through the port of Miami to enter the country without physical inspection. Dr. Malik emphasizes the importance of third world countries like India trying to intercept smuggled wildlife as it is leaving the country to protect it from the greedy predation of importing nations who fail to check incoming wildlife shipments.

On 16 October 1994, the *Indian Express* carried another article entitled "Monkey Business" in which Dr. Malik denounced the pet trade, telling readers that:

*They look cute and cuddly but next time you consider a monkey for a pet, think again. These lovable creatures are much better off in the wild.*

Thanks to Dr. Malik's persistent efforts and communication skills, primates remain in the public eye in India.

### "Monkey Watch"

Jean Senogles, IPPL's South African Representative, has been running a "Monkey Watch" program for fifteen years. "Monkey Watch" is a help-line for people bothered by problem monkeys in their residential areas.

### Baboons Used in AIDS Research

According to the 29 October 1994 issue of *Science News*, scientists associated with the Chiron Corporation, Emeryville, California and the University of California have successfully infected baboons with HIV-2, the virus that causes the type of AIDS found in parts of Africa. HIV-1 is the form normally found in AIDS patients in the United States.

### Recommended Reading—"Research Ethics"

"*Research Ethics—Cases and Materials*" by Robin Levin Penslar discusses problems such as falsification of data, plagiarizing of ideas, cruelty to laboratory animals, and emotional harm to human subjects of psychological experiments. Penslar is research associate at the Poynter Center for the Study of Ethics and American Institutions at Indiana University, Indiana, USA.

According to the publisher:

*Too often, researchers are being taught only how to succeed—and inadvertently that ethics don't matter much. In Penslar's view, ethical standards for inquiry should be introduced in undergraduate college classes and taught to students in graduate school.*

"*Research Ethics*" is available for \$29.95 (hardcover) or \$12.95 (paperback). You can order it from your bookstore or by phoning 1-800-842-6796. Overseas readers should contact the Indiana University Press, 601 North Morton St., Bloomington, IN 47404-3797, USA for information.

### Recommended Reading—"Kanzi" and "Jennie"

"*Kanzi—The Ape at the Brink of the Human Mind*" is co-authored by Sue Savage-Rumbaugh and Roger Lewin. "Kanzi" was published in 1994 by John Wiley and Sons. Many readers will be familiar with Kanzi, a bonobo (the species formerly known as Pygmy chimpanzee) and his sign language accomplishments and this book is recommended for those wanting to learn more.

"*Jennie*" was written by Douglas Preston (brother of the author of "*The Hot Zone*,"). It was published in 1994 by Wyatt Book/St. Martin's Press. Jennie is a chimpanzee orphaned in Africa: her mother dies as she is being born, so she has zero contact with other chimpanzees. She is brought by an American scientist to his US home and the book presents her captive life and tragic fate from the perspectives of different humans in her life.

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