

# News

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## NEW T-SHIRT STYLE

IPPL now has a new T-shirt style with six primate species:

*Gorilla*  
*Orangutan*  
*Chimpanzee*  
*Gibbon*  
*Ring-tailed lemur*  
*Squirrel monkey*

This lovely T-shirt, modelled by member Yvonne Martin, comes in just one color, dark beige. We carry the following sizes: *Medium, Large, Extra-large, Extra-extra large.*

The cost of each T-shirt is \$14 including postage and packing, \$16 overseas surface mail, \$20 overseas air mail. Please mail your order to *IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA .*



## A MESSAGE FROM IPPL CHAIRWOMAN SHIRLEY MCGREAL

*Dear Members:*

*I thought you might like an update on some of IPPL's activities.*

*Last week, I heard from Willie Smits, Director of the Wanariset Orangutan Project. In 1994 I visited the center and met a lovely gibbon in inadequate housing caused by a lack of funds. I left \$500 to build improved housing. As a result the appreciative staff called the gibbon "Shirley!"*

*After I got home I contacted IPPL members seeking help for the project and IPPL collected over \$10,000 for housing and care of all the gibbons living at the center.*

*Willie gave me the good news that Shirley Gibbon is now living free in the forest. Newly-confiscated gibbons rescued from lives of misery and abuse are now living in the spacious IPPL enclosure.*

*Last year a baby gorilla and nine other primates were smuggled into the Philippines by an international gang of crooks. The animals were confiscated and are still living at the Wildlife Rescue Center in Manila. We hope that 1996 will see these animals placed in permanent homes.*

*Our 1996 Members' Meeting is just over and we enjoyed wonderful fellowship and sharing of information. What a thrill to be in the company of over 100 primate lovers! You'll see some photos of our conference-goers and wonderful speakers on Pages 28 and 29. It was really a delight to hear from so many fine young people who have dedicated years of their lives to working on rescuing abused primates all over the world.*

*With best wishes to all our readers,*

*Shirley McGreal*

# THE CHIMPANZEES OF CONKOUATI

by Laura Penn

*Laura Penn of IPPL-UK tells you about her experiences as a volunteer working in the Congo Republic*

“Habitat Ecologique et Liberté des Primates” was founded in 1991 by Aliette Jamart. It is a chimpanzee sanctuary situated on the Conkouati Reserve 173 kilometers north of Pointe-Noire in the Congo Republic, Central Africa. The sanctuary is currently home to 46 chimpanzees, 3 mandrills, one vervet monkey, and one moustached monkey.

The sky opened up and rain droplets the size of Raisinets came pouring down. “Les enfants, allez, allez, venez les enfants!”, I called. Three young chimpanzees named Derek, Belinga, and Mekouto came running up the forest path behind me. I was headed towards the nearest bush to find cover from the rain.

Moments later, I found a good spot and crawled into the center of the bush, while protectively cradling Carin, an 8-month old baby chimp in my arms. I pushed aside several twigs and branches to make room for the others. Soaked by the rain with their black hair glittering like diamonds, the three others hurried into the undergrowth and snuggled up next to Carin and me.



Baby Carin



Laura with HELP mascot “Jacko”

I sat in the middle with the baby in my lap, Mekouto leaning against my back and Derek and Belinga on either side. All five of us sat huddled together underneath the foliage for almost an hour. The chimps fell asleep while I sat and looked at the gigantic raindrops falling around us. It was magical...

Derek, Belinga, Mekouto, Carin and all of the other chimpanzees currently in residence at HELP have different, equally terrible, backgrounds. Most are by-products of the lucrative bush meat trade. This business of poaching forest animals for their meat claims the lives of thousands of apes each year.

In the Congo alone, an estimated 600 gorillas and 3,000 chimpanzees are killed and eaten annually. Helpless infants are often found clinging to the dead bodies of their slain mothers. These orphans are collected by the hunters and routinely sold as pets to expatriates or local people. The lucky ones are confiscated and released into primate sanctuaries like HELP where they can recover from their traumatic pasts, forget how to be pets, and learn how to be chimpanzees again.

I had the privilege of spending three months with the chimpanzees of Conkouati. It was an opportunity I had been waiting a long time for. I decided that I wanted to have a career involving primates in my second year of college and spent all my free time for the next two years working as a volunteer at a primate facility in the state of New York, USA.

It was during my time there that I decided that I wanted



**The Wading Chimps of Konkouati**

to go to Africa to help primates in their natural habitat. After graduation, I moved to England and worked for IPPL-UK. I gained more hands-on experience with primates by working as a volunteer zoo-keeper at London Zoo on the weekends. After almost a year with IPPL-UK and three years of practical experience behind me, I was offered the opportunity to volunteer at HELP in the Congo. It was an experience that I will never forget.

#### **A Typical Day**

Each morning, I would wake up at 5:45 a.m. After a breakfast of baguette rolls with papaya marmalade dipped into a cup of hot chocolate, I would make a bottle of Cerelac for baby Carin. Once she was fed, I changed into my "work" clothes (army pants, a long-sleeved T-shirt, and jungle boots), popped her on my back, and went to help "Mama" Germaine and "Mama" T  r  se feed the 13 nursery chimps ("les enfants")

their morning bottles.

Every day after their breakfast, "les enfants" spend the whole morning and afternoon playing in the nearby rain-forest. It is there that they learn how to be chimpanzees again. They spend hours exploring, frolicking, and climbing in the forest canopy. They learn which roots, fruits, and leaves to eat and not to eat. They adapt to living together in a group and spend a lot of time grooming and bonding with each other.

Occasionally, some of the chimps leave their fervent play and exploration to come and interact with their human baby-sitters. Theo for instance would frequently interrupt whatever he was doing to come and play with my shoelaces. He'd hunch over, stick out his tongue in concentration and spend up to 20 minutes doing and undoing my laces.

Derek had the endearing habit of giving me a "love bite" on my neck each time he happened to pass by. Emily and Tessi sometimes came over and took turns grooming my hair and eyelashes. It was lovely.

After a full day out with "les enfants," I returned to camp exhausted, covered all over in chimp hairs and caked-in mud. One of the greatest luxuries after a long day out in the bush was to indulge in a rain water bucket bath! After my bath, I whipped up a quick dinner, jotted down the events of the day in my journal, then went to sleep to prepare myself for another exciting day.

#### **Future Plans**

The long term aim of project HELP is to release all of the primates into a designated area on the Konkouati reserve. It will be another one or two years before that will become possible. In the meantime, the sanctuary will continue with its life-saving work for primates.



**Feeding the youngsters**

### **THE DOWN SIDE**

**In case you think Laura's work was glamorous, here are a few things Laura didn't tell you about! Slinky green mambas (their bites can kill) in her sleeping quarters! Hand-sized spiders in the shower cubicle! Chimp diarrhea over freshly cleaned clothes! These were a few of her un-favorite things!**



# MONKEYS ON THE BLOCK – PLEASE JOIN THE PROTEST!

by David McPherson

Among the many appalling abuses of animals in the United States are "Exotic Animal Auctions." Animal dealers and pet shops congregate at huge auction halls to peddle their livestock and exotic animals. In one pet shop, where they were being kept in tiny cages in a storage room. The pet shop owner, a man with a long history of animal abuse, had bought all the animals at the auction.

## The Atlanta Auction – a nightmare

In June 1983 I attended one such auction. An IPPL member sent me an ad for the "First Annual Southeast Exotic Animal Auction" to be held at "Dewey Henderson's Auction Barn" near Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The parking lots were crowded with vans and pickup trucks. Livestock barns were full of hooved stock for sale to the highest bidder. Inside the hall, birds and animals were crowded in cages awaiting their turn in the auction ring.

Terrified monkeys were kept in shipping kennels, including squirrel monkeys and macaques. I shall never forget two tiny owl monkeys clinging together in their kennel, with a look of total bewilderment on their faces.

Rows of would-be buyers of exotic animals filled the room, many of the people dressed in pseudo cowboy attire. The smell was appalling.

Animals were brought into the ring. I will never forget the terror of a group of elands as they charged frantically around the auction ring while the auctioneer shouted and bidders made their offers. Many of the buyers of hooved stock were representatives of hunting ranches which offer "canned hunts" in various locations around the nation, with a high concentration in Texas. At these canned hunts people can even shoot declawed tame ex-pet leopards from their cars.

Some of the animals "on the block" are bred at breeding facilities. Some come from zoos that sell them initially to brokers, to avoid public knowledge of their disposal practices. The brokers proceed to resell them at auctions serving canned hunts and other outlets. Some years ago the US TV program "60 Minutes" caught San Diego Zoo and Oklahoma City Zoo selling animals to dealers who auctioned them off to canned hunts.

At the auction I attended, Georgia State Fish and Game Department officials had a booth. Transportation of exotic animals through the state is illegal without a permit, so Georgia state agents were there to facilitate movement of animals by issuing on-the-spot permits. One man was instructed to buy insurance on the two bear cubs he had bought.

The reason I and other IPPL members went to Atlanta was to demonstrate outside the barn to protest the activities. The Atlanta press was very sympathetic and several TV stations covered our protest. The publicity was so effective that there never was a second "Dewey Henderson's Annual Animal Auction" in Atlanta.

One week after the Atlanta auction a mountain lion, a Bengal tiger, a cougar and two bears were seized from an Atlanta

pet shop, where they were being kept in tiny cages in a storage room. The pet shop owner, a man with a long history of animal abuse, had bought all the animals at the auction.

## Auctions Continue

Dewey Henderson's first exotic animal auction may have been the last. But sadly these ghastly auctions continue in other places. The Austin-based "Texas Animals" recently posted a list of upcoming auctions on the Internet. Here are some of them.

### Lolli Brothers Alternative Livestock Auction

This auction was scheduled for 9-13 April 1996 at Lolli Brothers Livestock Market, Highway 63 South, Macon, Missouri 63552. The description states:

*This is a 5-day auction, and will include all types of "caged" animals and alternative livestock. Exotic animals to include deer, mini-horses and donkeys, zebras, llamas, camels, elk, etc.*

### Loy's Sale Barn

The event, described as an "Exotic Animal and Bird Auction," was to be held on 6 April 1996 at a location 8 miles east of Portland, Indiana. Exotic animals to be put on the block include:

*Buffalo, zebra, camel, ostrich, emu, elk, rhea, llama, alpaca, deer, miniature horses and donkeys, waterfowl, poultry and "caged" animals such as: Bears, big cats, monkeys, reptiles, etc.*

### L-Cross Ranch Sale of Exotic Animals

This event was held at Okeechobee, Florida, on 6 April 1996. Admission cost \$20 per person. The announcement says, "No cameras or video-recording equipment."

### Mid-Ohio Exotic Animal and Bird Auction

This event was scheduled for 29-30 March, 1996 at Port Hope, Ohio. Animals to be offered for sale included:

*Caged birds, water fowl, peacocks, swans, reptiles, monkeys, cats, lions, bears, exotic sheep, goats, mini-donkeys, alpaca, pot-belly pigs, deer, elk, camel, ducks, geese, llamas, wallaby, emus, rheas, ostriches, buffalo, etc.*

### G & T Exotics – Alternative livestock

This auction set for 22-23 March in Lockwood, Missouri, was offering:

*Sheep and goats, caged animals and birds, rhea, ostrich, emu, llama, oryx, blesbok, zebra, fallow deer, axis deer, whitetail deer, yak, gemsbok, African hooved stock, elk, deer, buffalo crosses, miniature horses and donkeys, buffalo, wallabies, kangaroos, etc.*

### ***Barker-Gilchrest Fairfield Exotic Animal Auction***

This auction was held in Iowa from 28-31 March. It offered similar animals to the other auctions. One day was entirely devoted to "large carnivores."

### ***Noah's Ark Exotic Animal Auctions***

This auction is held in Hanceville, Alabama, on the first and third Saturday of each month. It offers:

*All types of exotic animals/cattle to include buffalo, camels, goats, caracals, cougars, emu, lions, tigers, servals, primates, reptiles, pot-belly pigs, caged fowl, waterfowl, sheep, miniature horses and donkeys, llamas, zebra, wallabies, ostrich.*

### ***J and C Exotic Animal and Bird Sale***

This sale was to be held on 9 and 10 March 1996 at Brundidge, Alabama. On 9 March the following animals were to be auctioned:

*Caged animals, caged fowl, waterfowl, goats, sheep, primates, reptiles, etc.*

### ***Mid-America Animal Auction, Cape Girardeau, Missouri***

This event, featured as a "Big Spring Sale," is to be held on 26-28 April 1996 at Flickerwood Arena, Jackson, Mississippi. It offers "lots and lots of primates."

These events are appalling. Many animals die before being sold. The auction halls are extremely noisy places with throngs of people milling around. The level of stress and

terror for the animals "on the block" is immense.

A Department of Agriculture inspection report tells the sad fate of a monkey offered for sale by John Anderson of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the "L-Cross Ranch" in Okeechobee, Florida. She noted:

*#46, Records (2.40)(b)(1 and 2): a tamarin died, while under the licensee's control, at the June 1993 L-Cross auction. Pertinent information and circumstances are not reflected in the facility's husbandry-medical records.*

*#46 Records (2.75)(b)(1): the tamarin that died at the auction was not reflected in the "Disposition records" required by 2.75, Not only sales but all animals that leave the licensee's control, premises, etc. must be entered in these records.*

Sale of primates at exotic animal auctions not only causes animals stress and suffering, but most will end up in the hands of unqualified people. I asked the Georgia wildlife agent why he was not asking people what qualifications they had to acquire monkeys, bears, etc. or how they intended to house them. He was unable to provide an answer. He thought the question strange.

In addition, many primates carry diseases and should not be sold to amateurs. IPPL has contacted various government agencies in the past about these events; we just don't understand how they can be allowed to continue.

## **WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT EXOTIC ANIMAL AUCTIONS**

**US and foreign readers are requested to send letters to:**

***Mr. Dan Glickman  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Washington DC 20520, USA***

***The Director  
Centers for Disease Control  
Atlanta GA 30303, USA***

**Request that the sale of ALL wild animals at exotic animal auctions be banned because of the cruelty to the animals. Note the possibility that wild animals will fall into the hands of unqualified buyers unable to care for them properly, and emphasize the dangers of wild animals, including primates, causing injury to humans and infecting them with exotic animal diseases. Please request Secretary Glickman and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control to have inspectors present at all animal auctions and to prosecute any buyer or seller found to be in violation of any law or regulation.**

***Note to overseas readers: please address your protests to the US addresses and also to the US Ambassador in the capital city of your country of residence.***

# THE GIBBON REHABILITATION PROJECT, PHUKET

by Julie Anderson

*Julie Anderson from Scotland is working as an IPPL-sponsored volunteer in Thailand and tells you about her new life*

Sitting in chilly Scotland, with my nose buried in a French book, brushing up on my "Parlez-vous Anglais?", in eager preparation for work involving chimpanzees in the Congo, I received a letter from Cyril Rosen (Director of IPPL-UK) inquiring if I wished to change my plans.

Terrance D. Morin, the Director of the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (GRP), had unexpectedly passed away, and a zoologist was suddenly needed on the island of Phuket, in Southern Thailand.

I "tossed" the French book, bought a new "Lonely Planet" guide, and grabbed a ticket to Asia. Two weeks later, I was crawling with a rabid assortment of beasties, sweating profusely, and introducing my taste buds to the most vicious array of curries on earth.

Despite these minor inconveniences, the project promised to be both challenging and exciting.

Tragically, however, two weeks after I arrived, the GRP was hit by a second major blow, when the project manager was involved in a fatal car accident. From this point on, Namfon Bootua (Project Coordinator), Tim Redford (from the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand) and I embarked upon the difficult task of restructuring the GRP.

## The Captive Gibbon Dilemma

In the past, rehabilitation efforts for gibbons have proved to be a daunting endeavor, which have met with only limited success. In Thailand, the problem of captive gibbons is especially pronounced, due to the flourishing tourist industry. Since a

local hunter can make up to 5,000 baht (US \$200) for a single baby gibbon, it is no surprise that this trade has continued.

The project was initiated by "T.D." in 1992 and, since this time, has grown from two gibbons who were found chained and abandoned in a Phuket car park, to thirty-eight and rising.

The increase in animals has also been accompanied by an increase in land sites, generously allocated by the Thai Royal Forest Department, which now make up three main phases of the GRP.

## Phase 1

The initial stage in the rehabilitation process takes place at Bang Pae Waterfall in Khao Phra Thaow Royal Wildlife and Forest Reserve. We currently hold thirty white-handed (lar) gibbons of varying ages at this site.

All have been wrenched from their mothers, who were shot in the wild, for use as either pets or "tourist attractions" in restaurants, bars, and even as photographic novelties on beaches. Instead of using their limbs for the wonderful brachiation for which gibbons are famous, they are chained up, often dressed in ridiculous clothes, and are kept awake all night for the amusement of tourists.

Wild gibbons have completely disappeared from Phuket (the last gibbon calls were reported four years ago), and the remaining forest is silent, except for the buzzing of cicadas or the occasional call from a far-off exotic bird.

Compare this to Khao Yai National Park, in North Eastern Thailand (encompassing over 2,000 square kilometers of pro-



Staff from left:  
Gop (Animal Care-giver, Phase 1);  
Bao (Boatman on release islands);  
Julie Anderson;  
Namfon Boontua (Coordinator)

tected forest), where, from early sunrise, gibbons can be heard from all around, greeting the day with a raucous chorus.

However, even these remaining pockets of salvation for the white-handed gibbon, as well as Thailand's other endangered species, including the agile and pileated gibbon, are in jeopardy due to poaching and habitat destruction through illegal logging.

Although a law protecting all of Thailand's wildlife was enacted in 1992, the trade is still flourishing, and we are still receiving countless reports from concerned visitors about gibbons in captivity.

Even with the lack of available cage space, and the general disrepair of most of the cages at Bang Pae, we are still receiving gibbons. Four such individuals turned up unexpectedly during my first two months here, including a golden-colored juvenile male we called "Kao" (Thai for white), who was confiscated by the authorities after attempts were made to smuggle him out of Phuket airport.

Patric was another recent, yet typical, case. Originally destined for a life at the local "monkey school" (where macaques are usually trained to collect coconuts from palm trees), this one-and-a-half year old infant was brought to the project by his owner, who had lost interest in him and wanted to find somewhere to "dump" him, after the novelty of having him as a pet wore off.

When he first came to us, Patric showed all the typical signs of a gibbon taken from his mother before becoming independent. He wouldn't make a sound and continually hugged himself, rocking back and forth, whilst banging his head against the cage. To make matters worse, a pair of bolt cutters were needed to remove the thick wire collar which bound his neck.

After passing the usual solitary quarantine period, he has entered the first important step in the rehabilitation process: resocializing with other gibbons. His coordination is improving dramatically, and he is slowly discovering the joys of clowning around with his cage-mates. He has also brought out the mothering tenderness in "Oy," an older female, who spends endless hours every day picking through his fur for tasty morsels!

Diet also plays an important part in the rehabilitation process. Initially, the gibbons are provided with a wide variety of market fruits and vegetables (compared with their previous diet of peanuts and beer), and we have now started a new program within the project: to gradually wean them to a more natural diet of forest fruits and vegetation.

Our enthusiastic team of eco-volunteers is now dedicated to six a.m. gathering (and occasional eating) of forest vegetation!

While our juveniles are happy living in a social group, adults (who are monogamous and highly territorial in the wild) cannot be kept together. Mature animals are initially placed in their own cage, and are then encouraged to form natural pairs in our "Honeymoon suite" (appropriately named by T.D.), which seems to be working extremely well. So far, two couples have enjoyed themselves so much there that we have now added two healthy infants named "Boom" and "Thara" to our group!



**Patric**

The project is on a hillside, with most of the cages being hidden from tourist view in our "Minimum Human Contact Zone." This area also encourages a decrease of dependency on humans in preparation for the independence of forest living.

#### **Phase 2**

We also have three islands in Phang Nga Bay at our disposal. They are also under Royal Forest Department domain and, apart from the odd forest ranger and our mosquito-bitten, sunburned researchers, are largely uninhabited.

One small island (Ko Thong) is designated for our juveniles and adolescents. There are now eight gibbons on this island. They are provisioned daily, and their newly-found freedom is proving to be a useful tool in gaining important skills for living in the wild, such as brachiation, calling and foraging. Furthermore, it is also allowing them to choose their mates in a more natural way.

I couldn't believe how healthy these gibbons were when I first visited the island. Lying outstretched in the trees, happily munching leaves, their fur shining in the sunlight, they looked down on me with frowning faces of disgust, as though I had intruded on them at a very critical moment in their siesta break!



The individuals within the group also have wonderfully large muscles, compared to the gibbons at Bang Pae, due to all the exercise they are getting while swinging through the trees all day.

The second small island (Ko Daeng), has just been acquired, and will be a transition site for our next pair of released gibbons. Also, on our "wish list" is to find funding for radio telemetry equipment to enable our researchers to track their movements, and we hope to test the equipment's effectiveness on this island.

Any further "fine tuning" will also be carried out here, before a full release takes place. Further dietary modifications can be made. The development of independence from humans will be monitored, as this will be crucial to their survival.

### Phase 3

Ko Boi is the centerpiece and final destination for the rehabilitation process. A beautiful island 7 kilometers long, it encompasses several different forest types and is currently under preparation for easy monitoring of our released gibbons.

An extensive trail cutting program is underway, vegetation surveys are being collated, and we hope to build tree platforms soon, thus making all areas of the island accessible for observations.

### Future Plans

The goals of the GRP are certainly challenging. With the funding we have available at this moment, and the land area we have to work with (the territory of a single pair of gibbons may be as large as 30 hectares), the main goal of the project is to monitor and precisely document future releases.

This will help us prepare an accurate and correct gibbon rehabilitation protocol which could be used for further rein-

roduction, both here at the GRP and at larger scale projects in South East Asia.

Another development at the GRP is a proposed educational program, partly involving lecture tours in hotels, which would get the message across to tourists to avoid frequenting these awful bars which exploit gibbons.

More importantly, the project offers the ideal opportunity to increase local awareness of the gibbon's plight in Thailand, as well as address other conservation issues.

Workshops, both in the classroom and at the GRP, will focus not only on the white-handed gibbon, but on the wide variety of flora and fauna with which gibbons live in harmony, highlighting the urgent need for conservation of Thailand's remaining forests and wildlife.

But, as with everything in life, it all comes down to money. Our work is supported by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand. Tourist donations and payments from volunteers help, as do donations from organizations like IPPL.

It still amazes me just how much T.D. achieved in only three years, with the limited funds and manpower he had at his disposal.

Having the chance to rescue these magnificent creatures from the solitary and cruel lives they lead in captivity and to teach them to socialize with others of their own kind, is rewarding enough. However, sharing T.D.'s dream, to take things one step further and actually return these animals to the wild where they belong, is an amazing and truly worthwhile ambition.

Already, the primeval song of the gibbon echoes amongst the islands of Pang Nga Bay, and for T.D.'s sake, and the gibbons in Phuket, we hope to carry on and develop his work.



**SUCCESS!**

# THE SHORT LIFE AND MISERABLE DEATH OF JEROM CHIMPANZEE

Jerom Chimpanzee was born and died at the Yerkes Regional Primate Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Early on in the AIDS epidemic, scientists around the nation injected chimpanzees with material from human AIDS patients to see if they could produce human AIDS symptoms. Jerom, then around 4 years old, was injected in 1985 by Dr. Patricia Fultz, at the time a Yerkes employee. Twelve more Yerkes chimpanzees were also infected. For ten years Jerom remained healthy. Then, in August 1995, he developed severe chronic diarrhea. In November 1995 he became sick with pneumonia.

In a March 1991 article in the **Journal of Infectious Diseases**, Fultz noted that Jerom's immune system was "unravelling" and predicted that he would develop "full-blown AIDS." Fultz told Science magazine that the long lag between Jerom being injected with the AIDS virus and getting sick was a problem, but she expressed the hope that a strain of HIV could be found that causes disease in chimpanzees more quickly—a project on which Fultz was reportedly embarked.

In September 1995, experimenters transfused blood taken from Jerom into another chimpanzee, Nathan, who rapidly began to show AIDS symptoms. On 13 February 1996, Jerom was killed.

The **Atlanta Constitution** ran a story announcing Jerom's illness. The **Constitution** has always acted like a sycophantic lackey to the Yerkes Primate Center. The paper ran its story about Jerom's illness accompanied by a photo of scientist Dr. Harold McClure; there was no picture of the extremely ill chimpanzee. No animal protector or conservationist was interviewed.

In a 31 January 1996 story, the Associated Press never included Jerom's name, using only the code number C-499. The newspaper called Jerom "IT" not "HIM."

The seven US primate centers get their main funding from US taxpayers. Grants pay for the centers' activities look good to the public—generating continued federal support and favorable publicity.

On 13 February 1996, Yerkes spokeswoman Cathy Yarborough issued a press release announcing Jerom's death.

Dr. Thomas Insel, current Yerkes Director, was quoted in the press release:

*There was no evidence that Jerom was in pain before his death. But it was clear to the veterinarians,*

*the researchers, and myself that Jerom had reached terminal stages of the disease and was beyond the condition of recovery. We wanted to prevent further deterioration of his clinical condition. There was little likelihood that additional information would be gained by prolonging his life. For both research and Jerom, this was the time to conclude the study.*

Dr. Insel claimed that, "HIV studies with chimpanzees have made a major contribution to research." He commented that Jerom had become less active and very pale in the last few weeks and that:

*In human patients we know that there comes a time when the individual with AIDS turns a corner, when the clinical course becomes very severe and there are no more "ups" and it's all "down." Jerom had turned that corner.*

Insel explained that Jerom was not treated with AIDS drugs because, "These are not cures for AIDS."

According to the Yerkes press release, the dying chimpanzee **"was the focus of a great deal of attention from the center's primate caretakers and the center's behavioral scientist who is in charge of enrichment of the laboratory animals' environment."** What the suffering chimpanzee thought of this solicitude from well-meaning associates of the institution which had made his life and death so short and miserable was not reported.

Yerkes had denied an **Atlanta Constitution** report that it immediately intended to inject Jerom's blood and tissues into other chimpanzees, but announced that materials from Jerom would be injected into pigtailed macaque monkeys in the hopes they would develop AIDS.

The California animal protection organization In Defense of Animals (IDA) received an advance tip-off that Jerom was to be killed. In a 12 February press release, the group protested strongly. IDA Program Director Suzanne Roy commented:

*Yerkes treated Nathan simply as a "culture medium" for Jerom's virus. Because Yerkes now has Nathan exhibiting AIDS-like symptoms, Jerom is "expendable." How many more chimpanzees will Yerkes transfuse with Jerom's virulent, carefully-preserved blood? How many more will suffer his fate?*

The world's human population now numbers close to 6 billion; the world's chimpanzee population is under 200,000 and dwindling fast.

## IPPL ON THE INTERNET

IPPL is now on the Internet. Our home page can be found at:

<http://www.sims.net/organa/100a/100a1.htm>

Please e-mail us at [ippl@awod.com](mailto:ippl@awod.com) if you would like to receive the alerts between Newsletters or to contact us for any reason such as a change of address.

## BABOON BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT

AIDS patient Jeff Getty, a resident of California, USA, is sick—so close to death that he decided to become a human “guinea-pig” and take the risk of subjecting himself to experimental transfusion of bone marrow cells from a baboon.

On 14 December 1995 Getty, aged 38, underwent surgery. Doctors hoped that, because baboons are resistant to HIV-1, the virus associated with most cases of AIDS in the United States, Getty’s body would start to produce HIV-resistant blood cells that could help him fight off the infections associated with AIDS.

The donor baboon was killed.

On 12 January, **Sacramento Bee** Science writer Tom Philp wrote an article about the baboon transplant: Steven Simmons of New York, who has AIDS, told Philp:

*This is a pipe dream to think it is going to work. It is not only cruel to animals, it is cruel to those of us hoping for a cure.*

Getty commented:

*I am really sad that a baboon had to be put down. But I have lost a hundred friends or more and watched them die miserable deaths.*

Dr. Jonathan Allan, a virologist and AIDS researcher at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, has raised questions about using baboons in inter-species transplants because of the risks of transferring viruses harbored by nonhuman primates into humans.

In a 9 January 1996 article entitled “Cross-Species Trans-

plants Raise Concerns about Human Safety,” **New York Times** science writer Lawrence K. Altman described problems of transmission of diseases from primates to humans.

*Humans have developed fatal inflammation of the brain from bites from rhesus monkeys that have transmitted the herpes B virus which produces only minor problems in the animals. The herpes virus saimiri, which is harmless in squirrel monkeys, quickly produces cancers of the lymph and blood system after being injected into owl monkeys and other species...xeno-transplants guarantee introduction of an animal virus into a human because all species, including humans, have what are called endogenous viruses or viruses that originate internally, or are part of their genetic make-up. Could endogenous animal and human viruses mix in a transplant recipient and...create a new agent? No one knows...the risk could extend to the community if an infected recipient was able to transmit an infectious agent to others...*

Altman concluded:

*The prevailing opinion is that the potential benefit of alleviating the organ shortage, and the remote chance of finding a therapy for AIDS, outweigh the theoretic risks.*

Unfortunately for Mr. Getty, who improved for a while after his surgery, the baboon cells did not “take” and the experiment was a disappointment.

## THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A CURRENT WILL

Over the years, IPPL has greatly benefitted from thoughtful caring supporters who remembered IPPL in their wills. Thanks to those people, who were loyal members although we’d never met them, IPPL can continue and expand its program of investigations, help many horribly abused primates in overseas rescue centers, start young people on careers of service to primates, and take care of the 30 wonderful gibbons, many research veterans, living at our sanctuary.

One lovely member left a special gift for Igor, our lab gibbon who had spent 21 years behind black plexiglass because he self-mutilated at the sight of another gibbon.

The gentle Igor has already spent 8 happy “retirement” years with us and is loved by all.

These departed members’ compassion, thoughtfulness, and planning survives their leaving this world. We hope that you will consider including IPPL in your estate plans, to ensure that primates in need will have our hard-working and experienced organization to stand by them. Please contact Betty Brescia at IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA, if you would like a booklet about providing enduring help for IPPL.



Igor and Shirley

## REMEMBERING OKKO REUSSIEN

*Okko Reussien represented IPPL from 1977 till his death in December 1995.  
Family friend and IPPL supporter Minouk van der Plas-Haarsma remembers Okko.*

On 21 December 1995 Okko Reussien, former director of the Apen Adoptie and Protectie (A.A.P., Shelter for Primates and other Exotic Animals) died. As he was such a remarkable person, I would like to write a little about him. He must have been your first supporter in the Netherlands.

Although he was awarded the Gold Medal from the Order of Oranje Nassau, I think he got little or no recognition from nature conservation and animal welfare institutions. Maybe because he was such an institution on his own and did not fit into other categories.

I met him more than thirty years ago when I was still a student at the Free University in Amsterdam and he worked there as care-giver of the animals, especially the owls that were kept for auditory and vocal research.

For many people he was just a weird man that kept monkeys at home! I remember seeing his wife Riga riding her bicycle in Amstelveen and on the carrier at the back, where most mothers have a child, was a young chimp. But at that time already, way before there was any Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Okko and Riga adopted discarded monkey pets, and tried to make it clear that monkeys should not be kept as pets in private homes.

They toured the country and gave lectures, trying to explain that wild animals, and especially monkeys and apes, are animals and have their own needs, such as their own social life.

Years later when I worked as a volunteer for the Endangered Species Act office, the Stichting AAP was the only place near Amsterdam-Schiphol Airport where we could always take seized animals, even in the evenings, quite contrary to the practice of the zoo, which was the official holding station.

They never turned animals away. As a result their sanctuary held a large variety of monkey species, but in addition it had parrots; crocodiles that had grown too large to remain family pets; turtles; and rabbits that had been turned into nervous wrecks after too much handling by schoolchildren during classroom visits.



Okko was not a "barricade-conservationist" and Riga was such a modest person, so they were not prominently represented in the media as conservationists, although many television segments were produced at their sanctuary. With Okko and Riga, it was always the animals first.

They managed to re-socialize many totally neurotic monkeys. A large female stump-tailed macaque monkey often adopted young monkeys.

Well, these are just a few memories. I think Okko and Riga were pioneers and did not always get the recognition and funding for their work that they deserved. I hope Okko will be remembered as a first class fighter for monkey and ape welfare. I could write so much more, but I hope I made a contribution to honor the work and life of Okko Reussien.

## HANDBOOK ON PRIMATE CARE AVAILABLE

The Simian Society of America has published a manual called "Primate Care." The book is dedicated to several human beings and also **"To all the Primates that have died due to improper care and lack of concern."**

The book advises people against acquiring pet primates, but gives advice on care to those who do obtain them. There is tremendous waste and suffering caused by private ownership of monkeys in the United States and overseas. Many die and their owners buy replacements. Many get rid of primates when they have outgrown their infancy and start biting.

The book has ten chapters, the first being "So you think

you want a monkey?" Then information is provided on care of monkeys on a species-by-species basis. Advice is given on housing, psychological well-being, environmental enrichment, socialization and reproduction, nutrition, and health. There is an extensive bibliography.

The book can be obtained from:

**Erin Crowley Dittmar, Information Coordinator, SSA  
6616 North Desert View Drive  
Tucson AZ 85743, USA**

The price is \$19.95 (USA), \$21.95 (Canada) and \$24.95 (outside the USA-Canada). Shipping and handling are included.



# SADDAM AND BUSH GIBBON MOVE TO THAILAND

In January 1991, IPPL learned about the confiscation of two gibbons from Vangiemy's Pet Shop at the Cartimar Bird Market in Pasay City outside Manila. IPPL informed Philippine wildlife authorities, who confiscated the gibbons and took them to the rescue center on the grounds of the Ninoy Aquino Zoo in Quezon City.

The baby gibbons did well under the care of center employees and volunteers and grew up healthy. But the center did not have enough funds or space for their permanent care.

Now the gibbons are in Thailand in the care of the Wildlife Rescue Foundation.

## How IPPL Learned about the gibbons

On 8 January 1991, IPPL received a phone-call from the wildlife smuggler Kurt Schafer who had "blown the whistle" on Matthew Block and the network who had smuggled the "Bangkok Six" orangutans, which included Schafer. After seeing the gibbons, Schafer returned to his hotel room and phoned IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal to report that he had seen two very small baby gibbons in bird cages at Vangiemy's and thought they might die if not rescued.

Because gibbons are not native to the Philippines and are legally protected in all the countries they inhabit, they had obviously been smuggled into the Philippines from one of the countries where gibbons live—most likely Thailand where smugglers are highly active.

## Working with the Haribon Society

Wanting to be sure the animals were gibbons and anxious to avoid Vangiemy's getting tipped off, IPPL contacted a friend at the Haribon Society, a conservation organization. Cristina Juan and a foreign friend posing as a buyer went to the market to verify the species and take pictures. The babies were indeed gibbons, extremely small and being offered for sale at \$2400 (US). They were being fed fruit. There was no sign of milk which gibbons need at this age.

Both the Haribon Society and IPPL requested Philippine wildlife authorities to confiscate the animals.

On 11 January 1991, Philippine authorities, accompanied by Haribon Society officials and members, "raided" the mar-



Gibbons in bird-cages on Cartimar Market

ket and seized the babies. Due to political events at the time, the gibbons were given the names "Bush" and "Saddam!" The two gibbons lived at the Rescue Center in the Philippines for four years.

## Australian TV Program Arranges Gibbons' Trip

An Australian TV program called "Talk to the Animals" sponsored the gibbons' trip to Thailand in March 1995. While filming another program in the Philippines, two of the film



Saddam



Bush

crew, Mary Rose Trainor and Jane Holmes, went to visit the rescue center. The two women felt a special relationship with Saddam and Bush, and decided to arrange for them to go Thailand, one of the countries from which they might have originated.

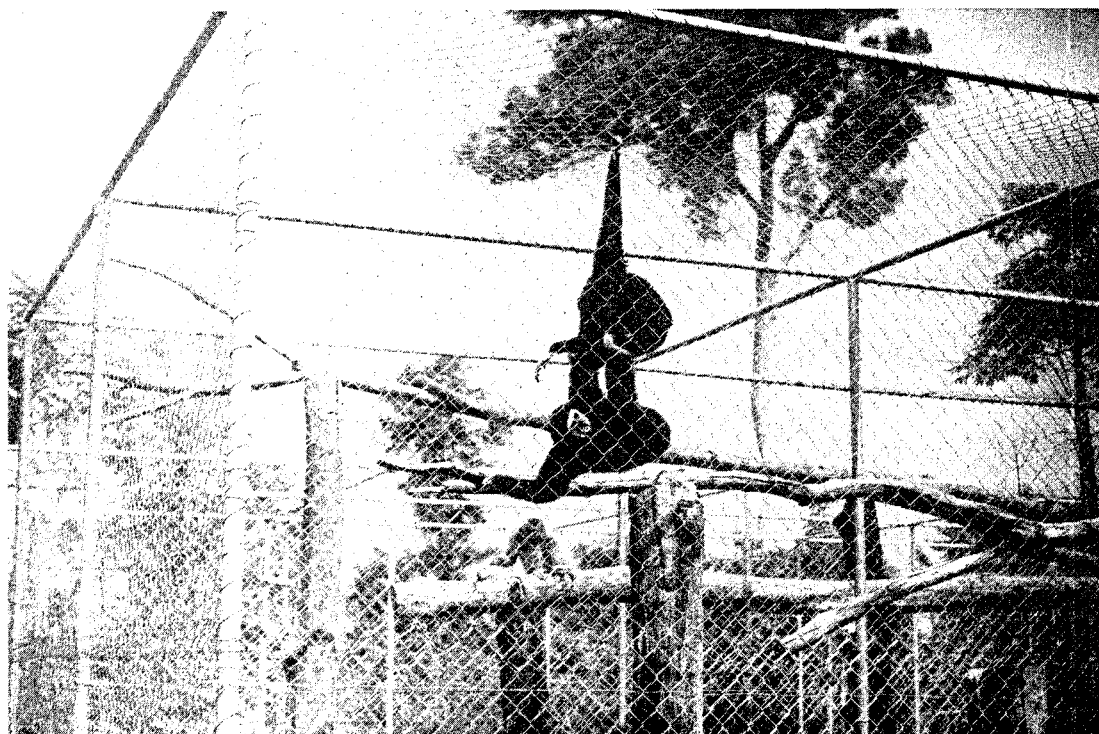
"Talk to the Animals" paid for construction of housing for Saddam and Bush at the Grabok Koo facility of the Wildlife Rescue Center. This facility is located in Chachoengsao Province, Thailand. This facility now houses over 100 gibbons.

The gibbons' trip to Thailand received massive media attention in Thailand. Hundreds of reporters converged on the airport to film their arrival. Veterinarian Dr. Mundita Sison-

Lim, who had been involved with the gibbons since they were babies, accompanied the animals to help them get used to their new life.

Although none of the publicity in Australia or Thailand mentioned the role of IPPL or the Haribon Society in getting the gibbons confiscated, Saddam and Bush would probably have died on the Cartimar Market or met some other dreadful fate but for IPPL and the Haribon Society's persistent efforts to get them rescued.

Saddam is now living with a female gibbon called Cindy. So far Bush has no companion as he is too psychologically dependent on humans to relate to other gibbons appropriately.



**Saddam and Cindy  
(front)**

**Bush (rear)**

## TRAGEDY AT PHILADELPHIA ZOO

On the night of 24 December 1995, a terrible disaster took the lives of many of the primates living at the Philadelphia Zoo. A fire broke out that killed 23 primates. The victims were:

*6 lowland gorillas, including 11 month old and 2 year old babies*

*3 Bornean orangutans, including a 3 year old baby*

*4 white-handed gibbons (parents and offspring 6 and 3 years old)*

*6 ring-tailed lemurs, including a 3 year old baby*

*2 ruffed lemurs*

*2 mongoose lemurs*

According to the 26 December issue of the **Philadelphia Daily News**, the primates all died "in their sleep" of smoke inhalation. The fire, which had been smoldering for some hours, broke into flames at 12:45 a.m. and was extinguished at 1:09 a.m. According to the **Daily News**, the primate house

had smoke alarms but no water sprinkler system.

The Philadelphia Zoo still owns six gorillas who, luckily for them, were out on loan to other zoos. One of the dead orangutans was Josephine, renamed Rita when moved from San Francisco Zoo to Philadelphia Zoo amid massive public protest.

Newspapers are traditionally big "boosters" of local zoos rather than "watchdogs." Prominent community members often serve on zoo boards and the media are enticed by press releases and photos of baby animals. Seldom does a major zoo get criticized in the press.

And that is what happened initially with the Philadelphia Zoo. The **News** asked members to send donations to help the zoo "rebuild and restock." Over \$1 million was raised. A **News** editorialist expressed "confidence in Pete Hoskins [zoo director] and his staff to do what has to be done and in the community to rally behind the campaign."

Slowly questions began to be raised about possible human error. On 28 December 1995 the **Philadelphia Daily News** ran a story headed "Human error in zoo tragedy" which stated in part:

*The smoky fire that claimed the life of John the gorilla, his pregnant mate, Samantha, and 21 other beloved primates at the Philadelphia Zoo on Christmas Day apparently didn't have to happen, zoo and fire officials said yesterday...*

*Two roving zoo security guards smelled smoke in the area of the World of Primates building at 10 p.m. Saturday, but decided it was coming from somewhere else—probably off the property—and did nothing, officials said. The fire wasn't reported until 2 hours 40 minutes later, when security guards saw flames in the \$6 million primate house. By then, the 21 primates—all endangered species—apparently had succumbed to smoke inhalation.*

*The guards' failure to report the smoky odor was the worst in a string of errors:*

- *the fire was apparently caused by the improper installation of electrical insulation material around water pipes...*
- *Initial drawings showed that the primate house was supposed to have 9 smoke detectors but fire officials could find only three...*
- *No one reported hearing the building's fire alarm, mounted on the roof of a connected structure called the Discovery House. Officials questioned whether the alarm was muffled by last week's heavy snowfall...*

According to the **News**:

*Hoskins conceded yesterday that there was a philosophical question about the best way to dispose of dead zoo animals—an on-site incinerator was used until the '80s—but that officials decided to use the current system, in which much of the tissue and organs are used for scientific research, and the rest goes to the rendering plant.*

*"Rendering plants" are places where animal bodies are converted into animal feed, candles and bone meal. Philadelphia animal-lovers led by Robin Lord expressed their disgust and zoo officials quickly back-tracked.*

On 4 March Philadelphia Fire Commissioner Harold Hairston held a press conference to announce the results of the department's investigation. Among the findings:

- *Up until a couple of years ago, the fire-alarm system at World of Primates was wired to deliver a printout of a fire's location to two security-guards stationed at the zoo. On Christmas Eve this print-out would have quickly informed guards that there was a fire at the primate exhibit.*
- *Within the last couple of years, the zoo disconnected the printout warning system.*
- *By disconnecting the print-out, the zoo left its rare and endangered primates—including its gorilla family—at the mercy of smoke detectors that were wired to warning lights inside a closed*

*wooden cabinet inside the Discovery House next door to World of Primates. So, when an electrical fire broke out on Christmas Eve, the smoke detectors were set up to trigger warning lights that no one would see.*

• *That left a snow-filled bullhorn mounted on the Discovery House roof as the last best hope for alerting guards and saving the primates' lives. It didn't.*

• *Deputy Fire Commissioner Matthew McCrory, who has inspected 21 zoo buildings since the fire, revealed that all of them have the same potentially tragic problem that plagued the World of Primates. "The alarm systems do not go to where somebody could see them," McCrory said.*

**Daily News** columnist Dan Geringer commented:

*After the press conference I called zoo president Pete Hoskins who is in his 10th week of stone-walling on the fire. Hoskins has engaged in the eerie practice of collecting more than \$1 million in donations from grieving animal lovers while he refuses to discuss why he didn't spend hundreds of thousands of available city dollars on an alarm system that might have saved the primates' lives. Whether he's in denial or over his head, Hoskins seems to be counting on the public's grief to divert attention from the fact that in the fourth year of his presidency, NONE of the animals in his care are adequately protected from fire...*

Geringer tells that he got into an argument with Hoskins:

*I started to ask Hoskins why the zoo had disconnected the printout warning system that might have saved the primates' lives. He cut me off angrily, "We're doing our own press conference next week," he said, "I won't say anything more until that time, OK?"*


*I said that wasn't OK because he had stone-walled for 10 weeks and it was time to stop stone-walling. I asked again why the printout warning system had been disconnected, "Dan, did you hear me?" Hoskins shouted, "I said we're doing our own press conference next week!!!"*

### What Caused the Zoo Fire

The World of Primates' fire was determined electrical in origin and attributed to improper installation of insulation around pipes above its wood ceiling. The pipes overheated and dried out the wood, causing combustion.

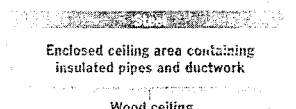
**Improperly insulated pipes**

Heat-wrap tape carrying an electrical current must be in constant contact with the pipe surface for proper insulation. Gaps caused overheating.

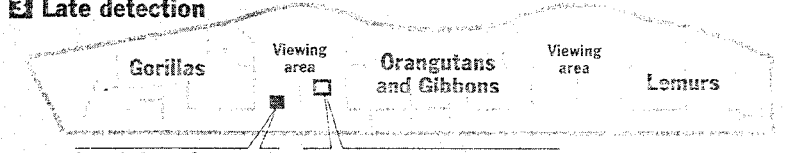


**Ceiling construction**

The space between the steel and wood layers retained the heat from the pipes, causing temperatures to reach 110-140°.



**Late detection**



**Around 10 p.m. Saturday**

Zoo security smelled smoke but dismissed it, thinking it came from the railroad yard.

**Approximately 12:40 a.m.**

Security discovered flames and called the Fire Department. The fire was extinguished by 1:09 a.m.

Front of building

SOURCES: Philadelphia Fire Department; Philadelphia Zoo

## Philadelphia newspaper explains disaster

## LETTERS TO PHILADELPHIA NEWSPAPERS

Following the fire, many people wrote letters to the editors of the two Philadelphia newspapers (the **Daily News** and the **Inquirer**). Most letters were critical of the zoo administration. Here are a few extracts.

*I am appalled that people are giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to help the Philadelphia Zoo rebuild after the Christmas fire that killed more than 20 primates.... The public's heart is in the right place but those who want to truly help animals should donate money to habitat preservation.*

**Chris Kohler, Delaware**

*Excuse me, but why should the public make a great outpouring of money to the zoo? If what had burned was a rest home or boarding school, rather than the primate house at the zoo, the management would be under criminal investigation, some pointed questions about insurance would be being raised, and the families of the deceased would be contemplating lawsuits. No one would be suggesting at this point that the people who were running the place should be entrusted with new donations.*

**Max Rossler, Morrisville**

*While I share the pain of those people in the zoo who directly cared for, loved, and now grieve the loss of these primates, I also have a lot of anger toward the negligent manner in which the animals were treated: that the head or board of the zoo never trained their people in properly safeguarding their precious wards of our rapidly decreasing biosphere.... Before turning a lot of money over to this [zoo] look at the total ineptness of those in charge at the top.*

**Marianne Windish, Doylestown**

*The real issue is negligence. There were not enough smoke detectors in the building for the protection of these rare, special, valuable animals.*

**Harvey Belin, M.D.**

*If we humans want to cage animals for our amusement, shouldn't we be held responsible for ensuring their safety? We do, after all, imprison them with no means of escape.*

**Carrie Clain Deitzel, Lansdowne**

*Once again the human race has screwed up. Because city regulations did not require a sprinkler system in the primates' quarters, zoo officials cut costs, resulting in the tragic death of 23 precious primates. Why?*

**Violet Aharonian**

*The decision to send the bodies of the 23 primates to a rendering plant to be turned into pet food hit a new low. After spending decades confined in Philadelphia, the "standard policy" took precedence over decency, fairness, compassion, justice, backbone.... No sprinklers. Why? Fire alarms that no one could hear but the dying prisoner-primates. Why? Questionable electric work. Why?*

**Lou Peluso, Philadelphia**

*As more reports are made public, it is becoming painfully clear that the Philadelphia Zoo was incompetent and even negligent in protecting its rare primates. The outpouring of sympathy from the public is genuine, I'm sure, but how about putting some sympathy where it belongs? It belongs with John, a 450 pound gorilla, proud and strong, yet totally helpless to protect his family; and Samantha, his mate, pregnant with new life; and the young ones—all helpless.*

**Susan Santucci, Riverside, NJ**

*As director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, I know only too well the responsibilities of running a zoological facility. It is every zoo director's nightmare to face what your zoo director, Pete Hoskins, has just experienced, the loss of precious lives through an accident that no one could have predicted.... Stop whining and blaming those who have done the very best to care.*

**Jack Hanna, Columbus, OH**

*Mr. Hoskins appears to take no responsibility for the disastrous fire—in fact, as director, the buck stops with him! He should resign or the board of directors should fire him.*

**James Whittaker, Camp Hill**

*The Christmas Eve zoo tragedy at the Philadelphia Zoo must be a catalyst for change. Otherwise the animals died for naught.... Why weren't smoke-activated door openers in place to allow for escape? At the very least an early warning system using smoke detectors should have been installed and in working order.*

**Bridget Irons, Philadelphia**



## **"BIG RED"**

*by Tracy Hockey*

*IPPL member Tracy Hockey was a former resident of Cameroon where she worked to improve the fate of captive chimpanzees. Tracy now lives in Nepal.*

"Big Red" was an old male chimp, large in stature and his coat a faded reddish brown. It was the color of his coat that gave him his local French name too—"Chocolat." His old teeth were ground down and he often had a faraway look in his eyes as he gazed out from his perch on the ledge. No one really knew how old "Big Red" was, or how long he'd been chained in his cage at Yaounde Zoo in Cameroon before he died.

His fellow inmates are still there. There are two mandrills, two gaboon vipers, a dwarf crocodile, a duiker, a palm civet, a red-cap mangabey, a baboon, and four chimpanzees. Food, when provided, is given out by a faithful keeper, but the animals rely on this hand-out being supplemented by gifts of food brought to the zoo by the visiting public.

The chimps fare best at getting these gifts as they perform and beg better.

- "Big Red" used to climb up onto his ledge and reach out through the wire to bash the roof as his trick.

- "Jolie," chained in the cage next to "Big Red's", claps her hands or bangs the concrete walls of her cage.

- "Antoine," affectionately known as "Jimmy", gets more and more agitated when the piece of banana is held just out of reach and finally lets out his high pitched scream.

- "Sugar," while free to move about his cage, still wears his chain and padlock like a collar. He's the favorite because he dances.

- "Bulbul," caged next to him, gently and patiently begs by holding her hand out through the bars of her cage.

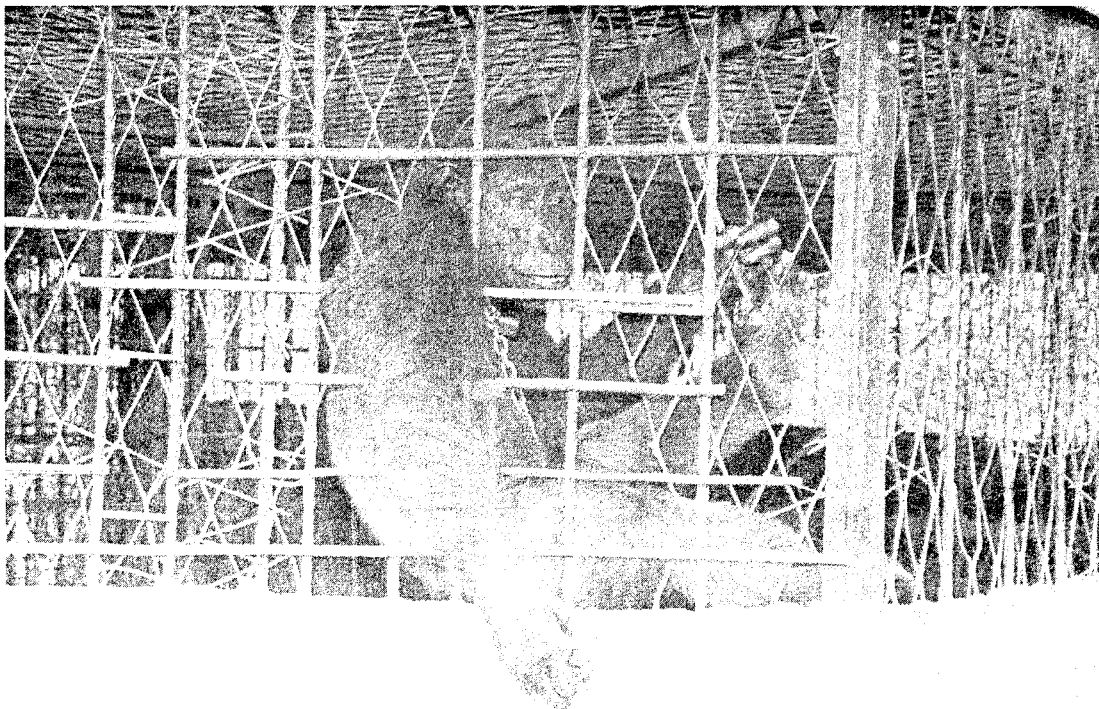
It's depressing to visit Yaounde Zoo—to see such intelligent animals caged alone in small barren cages, desperate for care and attention. The Cameroonian zoo staff and the government realize this, but the resources are simply not there, even for the country's National Zoo, during this time of economic difficulty for Cameroon.

Since January 1994 though, there is some hope for animals in captivity like the Yaounde Zoo chimps. With the support of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, an interim primate and wildlife rescue center has been established on the site of Limbe Zoo in southwest Cameroon.

Technical advice and support have been provided by several different sources concerned with primate conservation to help this project get underway. In February 1994, the International Primate Protection League (UK) placed volunteer Kay Farmer at Limbe, funding her travel costs to Cameroon. The Limbe project can now accept and care for donated and confiscated primates, and other animals in need, while serving as a wildlife conservation education center.

While I realize that the Yaounde Zoo chimps will be in some form of captivity for the rest of their lives, I hope that somehow their lives will be improved. I believe that, with the committed effort and dedicated work of the Limbe project, my hope could be realized in Cameroon.

My only regret is that it's too late for "Big Red."



**Big  
Red**

## FREDDY CHIMPANZEE *By Alison Ames*

Smuggling primates out of Africa and into Europe poses a serious threat to the survival of many endangered species. For chimpanzees the trade has been enormous with thousands of chimps entering Europe illegally since the late 1970s.

This trade poses a serious threat to the survival of many species with estimates of as many as 10 chimps dying for every one that makes it to Europe. Many of the chimps were used on the beaches of Spain as photographers' props, and others were sold as exotic pets. Freddy was one of these unfortunate animals.

It all started on 14 November 1995 when we received a call at Monkey World from the Austrian animal protection group, Vier Pfoten. A young male chimpanzee had been found wandering, alone, in Europa Park in Klagenfurt, a town in the middle of the Austrian Alps. A policeman found the chimp who was obviously frightened and cold, took him by the hand, and put him in the backseat of his car.

Freddy was taken to a local dog kennel and became an instant media star in Austria. On the 17th, the Director, Jim Cronin, and I flew over to see Freddy and decide if it was possible to bring him to Monkey World. When we first saw Freddy, it was obvious that he was about seven years old. His testicles had dropped and his adult canines were coming in.

After several days of negotiations with government officials and airlines, we managed to obtain all import/export and quarantine documents. We flew back to Austria to collect Freddy on November 23rd. Dr. John Lewis, Monkey World veterinarian, anesthetized Freddy and gave him a general health check which included blood samples and vaccinations. With support from Austrian Airlines, Freddy made the afternoon flight from Vienna to London.

It was late at night when we finally arrived at Monkey World. Freddy was moved straight into the nursery where he was along side four other chimps; a seven year old female, a male and female both two years old, and a yearling male. Freddy had been tranquilized during his long journey and, after watching the chimps interact with each other through the mesh, we decided to let Freddy in with the group. They all got on fabulously even though Freddy was a bit frightened. He did not understand the facial expressions or the behavior of the other animals.

Freddy has now been at Monkey World for three months and his rehabilitation is almost complete. When he first arrived, he was skinny and his muscles had wasted, but with a large outdoor enclosure and climbing frames both inside and

out, Freddy has put on weight and developed his climbing skills. Socially, Freddy is still a bit inept. His behavior suggests that he was reared and lived in someone's house for many years, and as a result he is unfamiliar with chimpanzee politics.

The next step in Freddy's rehabilitation is to introduce him into a group of seven adult chimps living in a two-acre enclosure. We hope to do this in the next couple of months. This will be the end of a long process; from wild animal to pet, to dominant male in a group of youngsters. The only question remaining is how high will Freddy rise in the hierarchy of the new group?

Monkey World has rescued over 40 chimps from beach photographers, laboratories, and circuses. We rescue and rehabilitate a variety of primates and will work with any governments or organizations. For further information regarding Freddy or any other work we do, please contact Alison Ames, Scientific Director, Monkey World-Ape Rescue, Longthorns, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6HH, England.

**Late News:** In November 1995 Freddy was moved from the nursery group into a group of five older chimpanzees. They are living in a 2-acre enclosure with two large climbing frames and a large indoor area. He has grown from 21 to 24 kilograms and has learned to climb and has formed a close friendship with a chimpanzee named Mojo.



**Caption: Freddy (right) with Jeremy Keeling, Sally and Bob at Monkey World**

### 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 so generously to our holiday appeal, setting us off to a great start in 1996! Thanks also to everyone who sent us holiday greeting cards. We loved them and they were posted on all the office walls. Many had animal themes and every year's cards seem better than the last!

# FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND WILDLIFE TRADE HIT RATANAKHIRI

*By Ian Baird*

Ratanakhiri is a remote province in Northeast Cambodia which borders with Laos to the north and Vietnam to the east. Rich in natural resources, it has been estimated that 70–80% of the 12,561 square kilometers that makes up the province is still covered with natural forests. Wildlife is abundant, including a number of species unique to the area.

The human population in the province is low compared to other parts of Cambodia. There are about 70,000 people living in Ratanakhiri, 85% of whom are from various highlander Mon-Khmer ethnic groups, including the Jorai, Kachah, Brao, Kraveth, Krung, Tampuan and others.

The highlanders of Ratanakhiri, whose languages, traditions and religions differ from those of most Cambodians, have long lived in relative isolation. As animist forest-dwellers who practice a form of subsistence upland “slash and burn” agriculture, they have largely been oblivious to the recent changes which have swept through Southeast Asia and led to the desecration of much of the region’s natural resources.

But now, with foreign investment and international trade on the rise in Cambodia, the highlanders and the natural resources that they depend on for subsistence are beginning to feel the wrath of so-called “development” and “progress”. One might even say that the highlanders of Ratanakhiri are cursed by the bounty of the natural resources with which they have long lived in relative harmony.

## Foreign Investment

Foreign investors and local business people have recently become aware of various business opportunities in the “new frontier land” of Ratanakhiri, and have been busily negotiating deals with politicians and high-level bureaucrats in Phnom Penh, the capitol of Cambodia.

Already a Malaysian company, Meng Srun, has obtained permission to transform 9,000 hectares (21,600 acres) of forests and traditional highlander lands into a large-scale palm oil plantation.

Even worse, the co-Prime Ministers of Cambodia have granted a controversial logging and industrial agriculture concession to Painin, an Indonesian company, covering a whopping 1.4 million hectares (3.16 million acres).

With other large-scale industrial agriculture concessions also being granted for coffee, kapok, rubber and cashew plantations, foreign investment and other land grabbing activities by outsiders have emerged as the greatest threat to the province’s wildlife, forests and highland population.

Despite the lessons from other parts of Southeast Asia, including Thailand and Malaysia, where most of the wildlife, forests and indigenous cultures have already been lost or degraded by “progress”, it appears that the same type of

unjust development model is being promoted in Ratanakhiri and Cambodia as a whole. That shouldn’t come as much of a surprise though, especially considering that the International Monetary Fund and multilateral banks like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are largely bank-rolling Cambodia as well as advising the government on how to develop its economy.

Their rhetoric may be improving, but they are still promoting the same old unsustainable export-oriented economic models which they’ve long promoted throughout the region.

As the highlanders stand by and watch in bewilderment as the forests are being lost and their lands are given over to outside investors, one can only hope that the government will eventually recognize the land rights of indigenous peoples, and put a stop to destructive foreign investment and trade. But time is running out for the people, forests and wildlife of Ratanakhiri.

## Wildlife Trade

In Southeast Asia, the introduction of foreign investment and international trade to an area often coincides with the beginnings of the commercial wildlife trade. Ratanakhiri is no exception. In the last 5 or 6 years, the wildlife trade has exploded in Ratanakhiri.

Driven by outside demand, villagers have become the unwitting pawns of the traders. Many endangered wildlife species have become expensive commodities overnight. The wholesale price for a baby bear is now 200,000 Cam-



Pileated gibbon

bodian riel (\$80 US). Bear gallbladders are literally worth their weight in gold.

King cobras go for 30,000 riel per kilogram (\$12 US), and good condition sambar deer heads and antlers, suitable for making into trophies for well-to-do buyers, sell for up to 70,000 riel (\$28 US). Tiger bones are in demand, and even various species of hard and soft-shelled turtles are being depleted through heavy trade.

Although most species of primates have so far remained "unmarketable" in Ratanakhiri, a notable exception to the various species of macaques and langurs found in the forests are the endangered black gibbons. Traders are now encouraging locals to shoot mother gibbons in order to acquire their babies.

As in other parts of Southeast Asia, baby gibbons can only be obtained from the wild if their mothers are killed. Apart from the cruelty involved in the killing a mother gibbon and then pulling its clawing offspring off its mother's limp dead body, there is also always the chance that the baby gibbon may be mistakenly shot along with its mother.

In other cases, hunters are disappointed to find that a baby

gibbon has had its neck broken as a result of a long fall from a tree after its mother was shot. Yet the trade continues, and baby gibbons normally sell for 60,000 riel (\$24 US) each in Ratanakhiri.

Once middlemen have acquired various live wild animals and/or wildlife parts, their booty is sold to other larger traders who whisk their wares away to bigger markets. Although observers have noticed some wildlife, including baby bears, being taken onto airplanes destined for Phnom Penh, the capitol of Cambodia, most of the wildlife is taken over land and smuggled across the province's eastern border into Vietnam, where it ends up in wildlife markets in urban centers like Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). For more information refer to the August 1992 issue of **IPPL News**.

Although the Cambodian government apparently prohibits the trade in many endangered species, including baby gibbons, it appears any bans have been largely ineffective to date. While there have been some cases of wildlife being released back into the wild, in most cases officials simply turn a blind eye to the trade or accept small bribes from traders for allowing them to go about their business.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Polite letters can be sent to the co-Prime Ministers of Cambodia, Prime Ministers' Office, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, asking the government of Cambodia to:**

- **cancel the 1.4 million hectare logging and agriculture concession granted to the Indonesian company, Painin.**
- **make more of an effort to stop the illegal trade in endangered wildlife species, especially with regards to illegal trade to Thailand and Vietnam.**
- **ban passengers and animal dealers from using the national airline, Air Cambodge, from transporting endangered wildlife domestically and internationally.**

**Address:**

***First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh***

***Second Prime Minister Hun Sen***

***Office of the Prime Ministers***

***Phnom Penh, Cambodia***

## GUYANA RESUMES PRIMATE EXPORTS

Guyana has lifted its short-lived ban on primate exports. The 1995-96 export quotas are 300 tufted capuchin monkeys and 1500 squirrel monkeys.

Among other wild animals to be exported are:

*9,000 orange-winged parrots*

*1000 blue and gold macaws*

*1500 red-bellied macaws*

*1,000 red-shouldered macaws*

*10,000 live caiman crocodiles*

*20,000 crocodile skins*

*20,000 tarantulas*

*10,000 dead morpho butterflies*

In addition, tens of thousands of animals belonging to other species have quotas. Guyana is one of the few South American countries that allow export of wild-caught primates. Guyana's animal dealers are wealthy and well-connected: a group of them attended the 1992 Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species held in Kyoto, Japan. They appeared to be on very friendly terms with the Government of Guyana's delegation.



# IPPL WINS VICTORY FOR PRIMATES IN AUSTRALIA

by Lynette Shanley

*Lynette Shanley represents IPPL in Australia*

In August 1994 I received information about Australians keeping primates as pets. Following these reports I wrote to every state and territory government of Australia and was advised it was illegal to keep primates as pets in all states and territories, except for New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria. At this stage I had received reports of monkey farms and pet shops selling monkeys. I had also started receiving reports of cruelty to pet monkeys.

We were advised by both the New South Wales (NSW) and Victorian Governments that it was their intention to make the keeping of primates illegal. In June 95 some lions broke free from the premises of a private owner (this person supplies animals to the circus industry). The press sensationalized the lions' escape. There were reports of lions attacking pet dogs, women frightened of being attacked by lions while hanging out washing in their own gardens, and fears of children being attacked by lions on their way to school.

The NSW government tried to calm the public by quickly classifying all non indigenous animals under the Non Indigenous Animals Act. Surprisingly, in the government gazette dated 11 August 1995, twelve species of macaques, spider monkeys and capuchins were categorized as "Class A," which meant that private individuals could keep them as pets.

I repeatedly asked the government why these animals were classified as "Class A," but to this day have never been given an answer. I was only told the animals were classified years ago and that professional "zoo people" helped with the classification. Since then I have found out that the primates listed as "Class A" are species that at the moment are being kept as pets.

## IPPL Campaign

We asked the government to reclassify these animals, but it was obvious this was not going to happen without a campaign. We took several steps:

- We drew up a list of ten reasons why primates should not be kept as pets. They ranged from animal welfare concerns, lack of veterinary expertise with primates in Australia, environmental risks, agricultural risks, spread of disease, etc.

- In one of our Australian newsletters we asked our members to contact us if they had any information that could help us. One of our members posed as a potential buyer and gained information from the pet shops which indicated they knew little about primates and how to care for them.

- We raised the issue at a primate conference and enlisted the help of primate experts in Australia. Many of these experts wrote to the government, urging them to make the keeping of primates by private individuals illegal.

- We contacted animal welfare organizations in overseas countries requesting information about problems with pet primates. Based on the replies we collected and articles from past IPPL newsletters, we presented a 42-page submission to the Department of Agriculture, which administers the Non Indigenous Animals Act.

- We contacted animal welfare organizations in Australia. Many wrote about the problem in their newsletters and many wrote to the government supporting us.

- We contacted the Australian Democrat politician Richard Jones, who placed parliament on notice that he would be presenting a private member's bill (The Non Indigenous Animals Act Amendment/Primate Protection Bill). Richard Jones also put us in touch with other parliamentarians who he felt would be sympathetic to our cause.

## New Direction for Campaign!

The NSW Government then advised us they would only consider a change to the classifications on the basis that we could prove that primates were an agricultural and environmental risk. It would not classify primates on animal welfare grounds. We then had to rethink our campaign and the following steps were taken.

- We gained assistance from staff of zoos with expertise in primates. Dr. Colin Groves, an adviser to IPPL, and one of the world's leading primatologists, wrote to the Department of Agriculture in support of our campaign.

- Knowing that international support would help, we used the Internet to gain opinions from primate experts worldwide. The Jersey Wildlife Park supplied us with references to the problems that wildlife on the island of Mauritius experienced due to introduced primates.

- We informed the NSW Farmers Federation of the problems caused by primates to crops in many countries. The NSW Farmers Federation, a powerful political body, approached the NSW government with their concerns regarding pet primates and the damage they could do.

- In some countries monkeys contribute to the decline of native bird populations by climbing trees and stealing eggs from nests. We approached environmental organizations and bird clubs giving them details of problems caused by primates. They were most concerned and offered help.

- We sought media coverage. We were particularly keen to get coverage on the "7:30 Report" which is more respected than other current affairs programs. The problem was featured on the "7:30 Report" on 10 November 1995.

- On 16 November, Dr. Colin Groves and I addressed the Non Indigenous Animals Advisory committee (NIAAC). Given Dr. Groves' expertise, it would be hard for them to

ignore his recommendations.

- We supplied the government with a lengthy bibliography of references to the environmental and agricultural damages caused by primates and the risk of the spread of disease.

### **Victory!**

On 12 January 1996 the NSW Government gazette listed the changes to the classification of primates in NSW. They were all reclassified on Categories 1 and 2. This means that no private individual can keep primates as pets. People who already have primates can keep them, but they cannot sell them or give them away.

At times I felt we were losing this campaign. We could not have won this without the help of many people, but I would especially like to thank Dr. Colin Groves for accompanying me when I had to address the NIAAC and for appearing on the "7:30 Report" with me.

Thanks also to Dr. Graeme Crook for putting messages out on the Internet for me, faxing the responses to me, and for using his contacts at the Jersey Wildlife Park to get references for us. Celia Westwood also did a marvelous job of compiling our list of references. She spent hours carrying out a library search.

There is only Victoria to go. The Victorian Government has assured us that primates are already classified into categories which will preclude any private individual from keeping them as pets. This is expected to be passed by the minister in the next 2-3 months. We are keeping an eye on the situation.

Once the Victorian Government passes their legislation it will be illegal in all states and territories to keep primates as pets, thereby ensuring a better future for primates in Australia.

***Congratulations to Lynette, one of the most hard-working members of the IPPL global family, for her hard work and persistence!***

## **YOUR LETTERS WORKED THANKS FROM MOORTHY!**

IPPL Advisor Dr. Govindasamy Agaramoorthy ("Moorthy" to his friends) wants to thank all those IPPL members who sent protest letters to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Petroleum Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago about the pollution and poaching in the Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Trinity Hills Sanctuary is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad covering an area of 4,577 hectares. The sanctuary is currently under a mining lease to the state run oil company PETROTRIN. Details of the oil pollution and poaching of howler monkeys were presented in the August 1995 issue of **IPPL News**.

Moorthy was delighted to receive a letter from Glenn Seebaringh of the Wildlife Section, Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture, saying:

*I have to say that many letters from IPPL members were received by the oil company (PETROTRIN) and by the Ministry of Agriculture. This has caused quite a stir within the past two weeks and has resulted in the following:*

*(a) I accompanied a high level team of officers from the Forestry Division to Trinity Hills Sanctuary to look at the oil pollution.*

*(b) I headed a team of officers from PETROTRIN to Trinity Hills Sanctuary, to give them a general appreciation of the area where oil polluted the rivers. I now have to plan within another two weeks another trip, with staffs from the Forestry Division and the oil company, to traverse the affected area by foot.*

*(c) The oil company has taken a decision to clean up the pollution.*

*(d) While I was writing this letter, I received a call from PETROTRIN asking me to prepare a letter outlining the Wildlife Section's immediate needs, e.g. gasoline, etc. for management of the sanctuary.*

*(e) I was asked by PETROTRIN to submit a management plan for Trinity Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. I am now in the process of complying with these requests...*

***WE'VE ALWAYS SAID IT!  
THIS ARTICLE PROVES IT!  
YOUR LETTERS MATTER!***

# THE CHIMPANZEES OF BURUNDI

by Dr. Laurent Ntahuga

*Dr. Ntahuga is a member of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Bujumbura, Burundi*

Deforestation in tropical zones has nowadays become a serious environmental issue: those regions, with their exceptional wealth of flora and fauna are permanently under threat from the local human population. The population is continuously growing and people are trying to improve their standard of living through economic development based on natural resource utilization in general, and particularly on exploitation of forest resources.

So, there is at the present time an overall fact to be stated: destruction of forests at a global level is a sad reality. Following this destruction, which in many parts of the world, is to be attributed to 20th century Man's activities, the number of chimpanzees has fallen and continues to fall throughout Africa from millions to around 175,000 individuals.

The number of countries with wild chimpanzees has fallen from 25 to 21. Burundi, being one of these 21 countries, has today such a small number of chimpanzees that their survival is in doubt.

This alarming situation affects many other primate species, such as the L'Hoest's monkey, the green monkey, the blue monkey, the Angolan black-and-white colobus monkey, the western red colobus monkey, the anubis baboon, and in addition other vertebrate species which have scientific and eco-tourism values.

## Distribution area of chimpanzees in Burundi

According to a 1987 study by P. Trenchard, roughly 300

to 500 chimpanzees survive today in Burundi in fragmented habitats. They survive in five places: the Kibira National Park (KNP), the Forest Natural Reserves of Bururi, Rumonge and Vyanda, and the Rwaba plain in Nyanza-lac.

Burundi's largest forest, the Kibira National Park, is a tropical afro-montane forest, situated in the north-western part of the country. According to Trenchard, there may be up to 250 chimpanzees there.

Kibira Forest consists of 37,370 hectares (923,039 acres) and has the highest concentration of chimpanzees in the country, and it adjoins the 90,000 hectares (222,300 acres) of the Nyungwe Forest in Rwanda, which also shelters a large chimpanzee population. This is why one may state that the Kibira forest offers the best long-term survival conditions in Burundi for this species.

The southern Burundian region numbers has three reserves that shelter approximately 150 chimpanzees:

• the Bururi Forest Reserve, which constitutes a tropical mountain forest, (2000 hectares or 4,940 acres).

• the Rumonge and Vyanda Forest Reserves, which are forests

clear of miombo trees. Rumonge consists of 650 hectares (1,605.5 acres) and Vyanda consists of 2,000 hectares (4,940 acres).

These three forests are presently separated from each other by cultivated lands and villages. This fact hinders normal chimpanzee migration through their territory. Exchange of

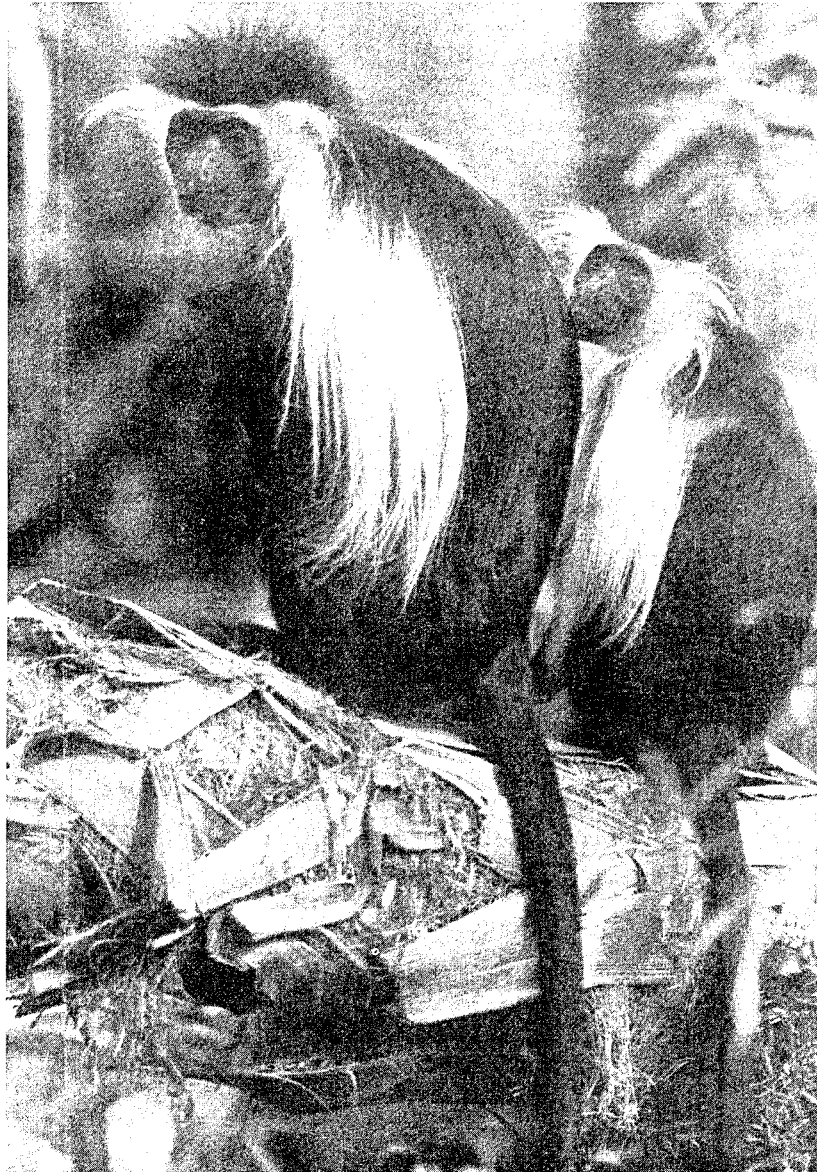


Photo: Ken Kelley, San Diego Zoo

## Angolan colobus monkey

genes between different chimpanzee communities, which is very important for the considered subspecies, becomes almost impossible.

### Problems facing Burundi's chimpanzees

As a species which needs a large vital habitat for its migration, the chimpanzee suffers extensively from the growth of Burundi's human population. The present population of Burundi is around 6 million inhabitants—all crowded into only 27,834 square kilometers.

So these animals are in fact facing multiple problems:

- **destruction of their habitat** caused by the high population density, and human needs such as farming, cattle grazing, hunting, extraction of timber for charcoal;

- **fragmentation of their habitat** that causes a dangerous situation: chimpanzee populations become isolated from each other and this situation brings risks of genetic impoverishment;

- **proximity to man**, which exposes these animals to contagious human diseases against which chimpanzees may not have resistance;

- **limited resources for law enforcement** by local government officials and the Institute National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN).

In addition, there are other factors at work such as soil erosion, bush fires, and deforestation.

### Current solutions to some of the problems

The problems affecting the natural habitat of chimpanzees are, in the special case of Burundi, particularly difficult to solve because of its overpopulation. However, some activities such as family planning, novel agricultural techniques, etc., have been initiated by local institutions to lessen the coexistence problems between this very close-to-man animal and man himself.

The INECN is trying to strengthen its natural resource, conservation and biodiversity programs through environmental education and local population sensitization to these protected areas.

Recently, (until October 1993) the Bio-diversity Project, initiated by the US Peace Corps, was working in the Kibira forest on an environmental education program, improvement of ranger patrols, and the creation of a recreation/tourism program for the general public.

In 1992 the Jane Goodall Institute started habituating a chimpanzee community in the Rwegura Sector of the Kibira National Park. This ongoing project will hopefully ensure the long-term future and protection of these animals through eco-tourism.

The Institute also used to care for orphaned chimpanzees, confiscated from poachers. It wanted to build a sanctuary in a natural environment in order to give them a chance of living a relatively wild, normal life. Sadly, because of political problems, all the chimpanzees had to be removed from Burundi to the Sweetwaters Sanctuary in Kenya.



**L'Hoests guenon**

Courtesy: Beth Kaplin



**Chimpanzee**

Courtesy: Stella Brewer

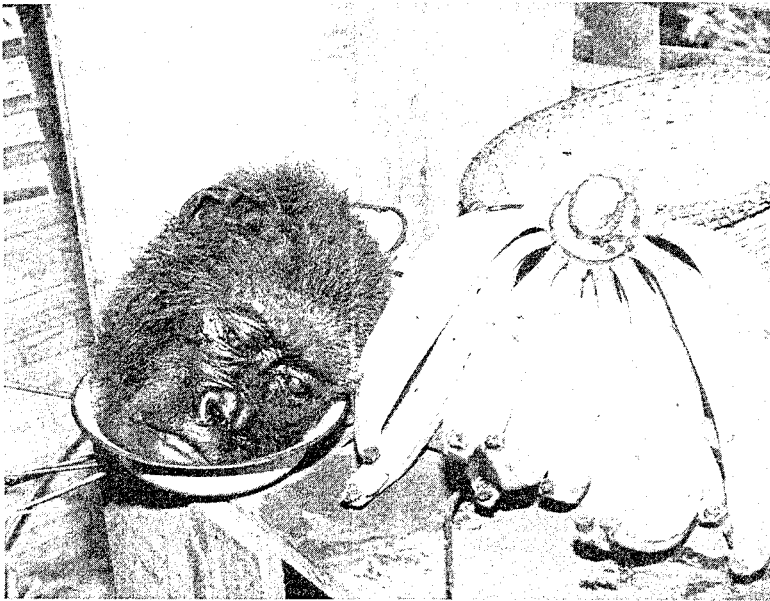
### ATTENTION – FREQUENT FLIERS

If you are a Frequent Flier and have amassed mileage you cannot use, and if your airline allows you to transfer miles to friends or charities, please let IPPL know. Our international work requires travel for investigations, representational work, and checking overseas projects. Call Shirley McGreal at 803-871-2280 if you have miles to spare!

# KARL AMMANN USES HIS PHOTO TALENTS TO PROTECT APES

Karl Ammann, who lives in Kenya, has a passion for apes, remarkable courage, and brilliant photographic skills. His pictures illustrating the trade in ape parts and infant apes have been the centerpiece of a worldwide campaign to end this brutal trade. On 22 March 1996 a resolution promoted by the World Society for the Protection of Animals highlighting the threat posed by the bushmeat trade to Africa's great apes was passed by Members of the European Parliament and governments of 70 countries. The resolution called for political action to end the hunting and killing of apes for food in Central and West Africa. Efforts will be concentrated on further work with the European Parliament and all European Union member states and getting logging companies to prevent use of their logging roads and company vehicles to abet poaching activities. IPPL plans to work on this campaign as it progresses.

Here are a few of Mr. Ammann's remarkable photos.



## PROTEST LETTERS

Please send a courteous letter to the Ambassador of Cameroun in the capital city of your country of residence requesting that laws protecting gorillas, chimpanzees and other primates be enforced, that sale of ape meat be banned, and that conditions for all animals at Yaounde Zoo, including the apes, be improved.



## AFRICANS DIE AFTER EATING CHIMPANZEE MEAT

In February 1996, the dreaded disease Ebola struck again in Africa. Ebola causes its human victims to bleed internally and externally and most people affected die horrible deaths. In 1995 an Ebola outbreak around Kikwit, Zaire, killed 245 people. There is no vaccine, no treatment, and no cure.

The new epidemic hit the nation of Gabon, a country of 1.2 million people on the west coast of Africa. At least 13 people died in the remote northern village of Mayibout. The village is located on the Ivindo River, about 200 miles east of Libreville, Gabon's capital.

All the Gabon cases are traceable to a man who became

infected after skinning and eating a chimpanzee found dead in the forest.

The World Health Organization has warned local people not to touch dead or sick animals in the forest, to cover their hands when attending to the sick, and to avoid any contact with a sick person's blood.

Ebola virus kills chimpanzees and monkeys. Therefore they are not a reservoir for the disease—animals which are reservoirs carry viruses, but do not get sick. Scientists are frantically trying to identify the reservoir of the Ebola virus, which has not yet been identified.

## LORIS CAUSES PANIC IN AUSTRALIA

According to the 15 January 1996 issue of the *Canberra Times*:

*Melbourne zoo officials are fearful a sickly South-East Asian monkey smuggled into the country could have spread disease among native animals.*

The "monkey" was actually not a monkey but a young slow loris found dumped in a box outside a veterinary clinic in Caulfield. He weighed only 448 grams. Lorises are slow-moving nocturnal primates native to South East Asia.

The unfortunate loris was **"dehydrated, depressed and underweight because its owner had fed it a limited diet of bananas,"** according to Melbourne Zoo curator Paul O'Donoghue.

On 17 March 1996 IPPL sent an enquiry to O'Donoghue, who informed us that:

*The slow loris is a female, and is progressing exceptionally well. She is eating and gaining weight. She is currently in the second month of a nine-month quarantine period. Officers from Australian Customs have been investigating this situation, and have raided a private house in Melbourne. It is believed that the occupants are considered prime suspects but no positive proof of their involvement was discovered. I understand that their investigations are continuing.*



**It is very difficult to keep sick slow lorises alive. Congratulations to the staff of Melbourne Zoo on their success!**

## SQUIRREL MONKEY DISAPPEARS

For several decades, squirrel monkeys have been wandering uncaged on and around the grounds of Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

In February 1996, a squirrel monkey disappeared. One day a man was spotted trying to lure monkeys over the Bonnet House wall with bananas, and then into his van. According to the **Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel**, the van was registered to Florida monkey trapper John Anderson. However "Trapper John" denied that he was involved in the removal of the monkey. In the past Anderson has sold primates at exotic animal auctions (see "Monkeys on the Block," page 5 of this issue).

During the last five years the Bonnet House monkey population has dwindled from 50–60 to 26–27, according to Director Bob Kauth. Two monkeys are known to have been trapped by unidentified parties in 1995.

# ANIMAL WELFARE ACT VIOLATIONS

## Worldwide Primates—Matthew Block

IPPL has learned that the Department of Agriculture is following up on alleged violations of a cease-and-desist order by animal dealer Matthew Block and the company Worldwide Primates. On 27 January 1994, Block and his company signed a cease-and-desist order and paid \$16,000 to settle an Animal Welfare Act case. This case involved holding monkeys in appalling conditions at un-licensed premises. Block's animal dealing license was not revoked.

APHIS inspectors now allege improper removal and disposal of animal wastes, an inadequate supply of water, failure to provide wholesome and uncontaminated food and failure to establish and maintain a proper veterinary program at a monkey warehouse near Miami Airport sold by Block to Paul Houghton of Primate Products.

On 8–9 November 1994 Dr. Sylvia Taylor of USDA made announced inspections of Block's monkey warehouse (he was selling the import part of his business to Primate Products). A pre-license-transfer was undertaken. On 8 November, Taylor noted:

*Size of cage floor openings too large for weak or debilitated infants that may not readily make use of elevated resting shelves or perches. Moribund infant cyno Room 3. [Monkey in] Cage 5 should not have been on this type of flooring.*

On 9 November, the baby's suffering was over. Taylor noted:

*Vet care was not adequate for infant cyno Room 3, Cage 5, found dead 11/9/94. There was a lack of suitable hospital/treatment area and caging for such a case and a lack of sufficient intensive and frequent care during night.*

At Matthew Block's sentencing hearing on orangutan smuggling charges, a relative testifying for leniency claimed that Block would take sick baby monkeys home for care at night. Apparently this monkey was not among those taken home for care.

At the present time, Matthew Block is himself in prison for smuggling six baby orangutans in appalling conditions, and he will no doubt protest vigorously if he is denied access to sufficient water, "wholesome and uncontaminated food," and the best of medical care.

## University of Hawaii settles

According to the 22 August 1995 issue of the **Ka Leo O Hawaii**, the University of Hawaii's animal laboratory has been fined \$5,000 for non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

One violation related to improper medical care allegedly provided to an owl monkey. The animal had a broken finger and the bone was protruding through the skin, according to a USDA document. Yet the wounded animal was treated for 20 days with only two bandages. Howard Blatt, Director of the University's Laboratory Animal Services, was on vacation for a week during that time.

The laboratory was also cited for providing insufficient environmental enrichment for the primates.

In addition, an owl monkey with known cardiac disease died under anesthesia. Said USDA veterinarian Dr. Elizabeth Lyons:

*In view of this animal's debilitated condition, it is unclear why it was deemed necessary to subject this animal to further stress with ultrasonography and accompanying anesthesia.*

## University of Washington settles case

In October 1995 the University of Washington Primate Center in the state of Washington, USA, paid a fine of \$20,000 to settle an Animal Welfare Act complaint filed by the US Department of Agriculture. The alleged violations took place at the field station 15 miles west of Spokane, Washington, which houses 1,200 monkeys and 200 baboons.

Agriculture inspectors alleged more than 15 violations of animal care regulations.

In one instance five baboons died in November 1994 as a result of exposure to the cold. They had been left in an outside play area after other animals were returned to the indoor housing.

Other alleged violations included negligent care of animals, improperly maintained cages, and failure to protect primate food from spoiling. Inspectors also cited staff for permitting a monkey to die of dehydration in June 1994.

Center Acting Director William Morton said that the problems occurred during a change of administration at the field station.

# DON'T MOVE!

## WITHOUT LETTING IPPL KNOW!

*you'll keep getting IPPL News regularly!  
and we and the Post Office will thank you!*

## IPPL MEMBERS MEET IN SUMMERVILLE!

From 29-31 April 1996, approximately 100 IPPL members assembled at IPPL Headquarters in Summerville for our 4th biennial Members' Meeting. We had an interesting program and some of our members travelled a long way. These included Hans Iluk from Indonesia and Stephan Louis from Germany.

Among the speakers were Leona McDermid who came from Scotland to discuss primate rescue work in Nigeria; Carol Fleming from Twycross Zoo, England, who talked about her volunteer primate rescue work in Thailand; and Carole Noon from Florida who discussed the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia. Penny Boyd told us about her work with many animal species at Burstow Wildlife Sanctuary in England.

Peter Van de Bunt discussed the case of the smuggled "Manila Gorilla." Cathy Liss discussed problems of housing and care of laboratory primates. Lou Griffin and Tracy Wyman, who work with the snow monkeys of Texas, told us about the problems faced by their 600 charges as Texas hunters and politicians move in on them. Member Bert Tobin gave an introductory talk about the Internet aimed at beginners.

Delicious food was prepared by IPPL staff and volunteers under the direction of Conference Coordinator Betty Brescia. Volunteer Nancy Newbigin ran a small shop for sale of IPPL gift items. Thanks to everyone who helped!

After the Saturday night dinner, we enjoyed a wonderful concert by the Johns Island Senior Lights, a traditional South Carolina Sea Island gospel group.



IPPL Members



Maxine Beige befriends  
Sebastian Great Pyrenees



The Entrikin twins (left), Hans Iluk (right), and  
Betty Brescia enjoy Patou the pup



Dorothy Moller and Shirley McGreal get to know  
each other



**Cathy Liss meets Peter Van de Bunt**



**Carol Fleming, Peter and Leona McDermid  
share notes**



**Lou Griffin and Tracy Wyman,  
Snow Monkey Defenders**



**Dianne Taylor-Snow, Carole Noon  
and Jessica Speart**

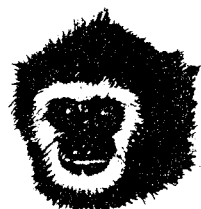


**IPPL animal caregivers Laura, Anita and Leslie  
with Lee McGlashan**



**Two members of the Johns Island Senior Lights**

# GIFT ITEMS



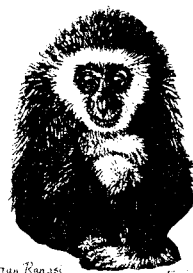
Beanie



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 sheets postpaid

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

## BOOKS FOR SALE



**"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



## State Second Color Choice for Ts and Sweats

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