



News

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Proboscis Monkeys

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INSIDE:

**PROBOSCIS MONKEY
TRAGEDY**

**PLIGHT OF SURPLUS ZOO
ANIMALS**

ARUN RANGSI IS 20 YEARS OLD!

Arun Rangsi was the first veteran research gibbon to reach IPPL. This year he will celebrate his 20th birthday. No doubt he will get birthday cards from those lovely IPPL members who never miss this special day and whose concern for his well-being we have appreciated so much over the years.

Arun Rangsi was born on 9 August 1979 at the Comparative Oncology Laboratory at the University of California at Davis, USA. He was rejected by his mother at birth and for many months was kept with a swinging wire surrogate (artificial) mother. His lab number HL-98 was tattooed in blue on his abdomen.

In 1981 the laboratory lost the funding for its experiments which involved injecting gibbons with a cancer-causing virus. Most gibbons went to zoos, animal dealers, or other research facilities. However HL-98 was not wanted by anyone in these circles because, according to the laboratory director, he was “**mentally retarded**” and “**metabolically abnormal**.”

IPPL had a tip-off that the little gibbon might be killed. So we offered funds for his upkeep. A Thai member placed him under the protection of the Lord Buddha and provided him with the lovely Thai name **Arun Rangsi**, which means “The Rising Sun of Dawn.”

The laboratory director suggested that, instead of us sending him the money, it should be spent on the little gibbon’s one-way airline ticket to IPPL! We eagerly took him up on the offer.

The Animal Protection Institute, based in the city of Sacramento which is close to Davis, kindly collected the little gibbon and took him to San Francisco Airport. Arun Rangsi reached IPPL on 9 August 1981, his second birthday.

At that time, US air controllers were on strike. Rather than risk Arun Rangsi being stranded in Atlanta, my friend Kit and I drove to Atlanta through thunderstorms to get him.

We reached the cargo area as the plane was landing. We asked the cargo agent to phone the pilot to make sure the gibbon

was on board. We were told that there was no gibbon on board, but that there was a chimpanzee! The “chimpanzee” turned out to be our gibbon!

Arun Rangsi was extremely small, weighing around four pounds—half what he should have weighed. He banged his head constantly. His medical records showed that he had survived repeated bouts of dysentery and pneumonia. Further, our little gibbon was terrified of people.

What was most striking about Arun Rangsi were his huge lustrous eyes, the exquisite white ring around his face and the white “mittens” and “booties” on his hands and feet.

Everyone at IPPL worked very hard to befriend Arun Rangsi. Gradually he stopped his head-banging and learned that we were his friends.

Later he was joined by two other lab gibbons, Helen and Peppy, who came to us from the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP), New York, and finally by a lovely female gibbon sent to IPPL in 1982 by LEMSIP. We called this long slender gibbon Shanti.

Today, eighteen years later, Arun Rangsi and Shanti live happily together—as do Helen and Peppy.

Each year IPPL seeks help from our US members for the support of our gibbons. You may be hearing from us soon. Please do help if possible.

IPPL cares for some of the oldest gibbons in captivity (several have passed 40) so we need your help to provide them with wonderful food, the best veterinary care, spacious indoor-outdoor enclosures and dedicated caregivers.



Arun Rangsi by Michele Winstanley

PROBOSCIS MONKEYS CAUGHT – MANY DIE

Proboscis monkeys (known in Indonesia as “**bekantan**”) are remarkable animals found only on the island of Borneo. The species is highly endangered—probably more so than the better-known orangutan.

The Indonesian part of Borneo is known as Kalimantan. In 1998 Borneo was severely impacted by forest fires resulting from uncontrolled logging, clearing of land for conversion to oil palm and rice plantations and burning by small farmers.

Many wild animals died in the disaster. The list of the world’s endangered species will certainly grow longer when the damage from the fires is fully assessed.

Now an effort is being made to export proboscis monkeys from Indonesia. Singapore Zoo already obtained five animals. Toronto Zoo in Canada is planning to import up to ten animals. US and European zoos are said to be interested in exhibiting the species.

Proboscis monkeys live along Borneo’s rivers. For many visitors, one of the most memorable experiences is the sight of them crashing through the trees by day and to see the profiles of them sleeping peacefully in the tree-tops along the river-banks.

Proboscis monkeys in captivity

Unfortunately, the proboscis monkey’s long nose has led to the species being sought after by zoos despite its fragility. Prior to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, some animals reached Western zoos, where they fared poorly. According to data from the 1976 and 1998 issues of the **International Zoo Yearbook**:

** In 1975 Basle Zoo, Switzerland, had 3 proboscis monkeys. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975, Berlin Zoo, Germany, reported 6 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Cologne Zoo, Germany, reported 2 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Colorado, USA, reported 1 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Dallas Zoo, USA, reported 5 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Frankfurt Zoo, Germany, reported 2 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Milwaukee, USA, re-*

ported 2 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.

** In 1975 San Diego Zoo, USA, reported 3 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Stuttgart Zoo, Germany, reported 4 proboscis. In 1997 it reported none.*

** In 1975 Twycross Zoo, England, reported 4 proboscis. In 1997, it reported none.*

** In 1975 the Bronx Zoo, USA, reported 8 proboscis, seven of them born at the zoo. Sadly, most are now dead.*

On a visit to the zoo on 14 March, IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal saw two proboscis monkeys, one of whom looked sick and was vomiting (one monkey was off exhibit).

The **International Zoo Yearbook** also listed 4 proboscis monkeys being held at Rome Zoo, Italy, in 1993, but they have not been reported since and may have died.

In 1976 the San Diego Zoo had just two of its once-large group of proboscis left after losing several animals to cryptococcosis, a fungal disease. To obtain more, the zoo worked with a dubious Indonesian animal dealership called Rudolf’s Fauna which was associated with the Gembira Lake Zoological Gardens in Yogyakarta on the island of Java. In a letter dated 5 July 1976, Rudolf’s told San Diego Zoo:

We have our agents-catchers at Borneo who will supply us the monkeys. But once the import-export permit has been issued, we must go ourselves to Borneo at your expense to select the best,



Photo: Anne Russon

Wild proboscis monkey

top and healthy ones, for we cannot rely on our suppliers over there.

Around this time the British Department of the Environment issued a permit to a British zoo for import of 5 proboscis monkeys to an unidentified zoo, with the animals to be supplied by Rudolf's company.

In 1977 the US National Zoo in Washington DC obtained an endangered species permit to import six proboscis monkeys from Indonesia. Two animals reached the zoo in November 1977. Their arrival made headlines in the **Washington Star**, which carried an article headed **"Zoo gets a pair of nosey primates."**

Both animals soon died. This was not reported in the press. By the time the permit expired, the zoo had not been able to import the four animals remaining on its permit. The zoo requested and received an extension from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. However, no new monkeys arrived.

The Proboscis monkeys of Kaget Island

Kaget Island is located in the Barito River delta. It has long been home to a thriving colony of proboscis monkeys. Visitors to the town of Banjarmasin would take a "klotok" riverboat to view the monkeys. Now there are very few of them left.

In 1976 the Government of Indonesia declared Pulau Klaget a fully protected Nature Reserve. The "bekantan" was declared the official animal of South Kalimantan province. In the past few years trees on the island have been destroyed to clear land for farming. As a result the monkeys allegedly became "over-crowded" and large numbers of them were caught with the approval of the reserve managers. About 130 were released on the nearby islands of Burung, Tempurung and Bakut, where unfortunately they did not have protected status—not that it had helped them much on Kaget.

Other monkeys were sent to zoos, especially Surabaya Zoo on the island of Java. IPPL has received a report that **AT LEAST 50** of the newly-caught monkeys died at the zoo. Proboscis monkeys are known to be difficult to keep alive in cap-

tivity because of their specialized diets and the stress of captive living. Many other leaf monkey species fare badly in captivity.

As often happens, a problem caused solely by humans may doom animals to short lives in captivity.

The Indonesian group KSBK informed IPPL that proboscis monkeys from Pulau Kaget reached Surabaya Zoo in two groups: the first in spring 1998 and the second in late 1998. The number of monkeys sent to Surabaya Zoo was between 60 (according to the Indonesian newspaper **Kompas**) and 85 (according to information provided to IPPL by local sources). Only around 25 of the animals survived.

A cynical observer complained to IPPL about the reserve management:

First they let all the trees get cut and then they complained that there were too many proboscis monkeys.

Singapore Zoo

Singapore Zoo has already received five proboscis monkeys. A zoo official told IPPL that the monkeys included some confiscated from villagers and some displaced by the forest fires. Other Asian zoos now want to exhibit this rare species. The Singapore proboscis monkeys are reported to **"form part of the captive breeding program for this species in the South East Asian Zoos Association species recovery plan."**

IPPL believes that the species would have a better chance of recovery if the zoos claiming to want to help the species would pool their resources and help protect the animals in the wild and rehabilitate animals held in captivity in Indonesia.

Toronto Zoo

Toronto Zoo in Canada is known to be planning to import up to 10 proboscis monkeys via the Surabaya Zoo. The animals were not born at the zoo but removed from the wild. It is not clear whether foreign interest in the species played any role in encouraging the capture of the monkeys.

William Rapley of Toronto Zoo explained that the zoo, which had contacts

in Indonesia through its Komodo dragon program, had received a letter from Mr. Soemarsono of the Indonesian Wildlife Department reporting that, due to fires and habitat destruction, there were captive proboscis that the Indonesian government did not know what to do with—and therefore it proposed sending them to captivity overseas. Rapley said that the only money requested by the Indonesians was the cost of holding the animals prior to export.

Supporters of moving the animals out of Indonesia point out the many problems the nation faces, the destruction of the Kaget Nature Reserve, and that this is not an opening of the door to trade, but a one-time "rescue" of animals caught in a desperate situation.

Unfortunately, the high-level tier of procurement of rare animals for zoos which are well-known, well-connected and well-funded may cause disreputable zoos to want the same animals the big zoos get, since they draw crowds and revenue.



Photo: Shirley McGreal

Proboscis monkey at Bronx Zoo

If such a demand is generated by what may sound like a valid justification for export, we may see these other zoos link up with disreputable poachers and smugglers to supply the animals they want. Borneo has such a long coastline and so much small-boat traffic that any Indonesian law enforcement effort would be futile.

If the Kaget formula ("Remove the trees and you have a justification to remove the animals") proves profitable to ANY parties, other Indonesian protected areas harboring species of interest to overseas

recipients might be next to get stripped of forest.

IPPL believes that it is essential to find an alternative to reopening international movement of proboscis monkeys. The zoos would do better to spend their funds on protecting habitat rather than on building expensive zoo housing outside Indonesia for Indonesian animals.

Further, any movement of proboscis monkeys would be in questionable compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Spe-

cies (CITES). Proboscis monkeys are listed on Appendix I of this treaty.

Import requires issuance of a finding by the importing nation that the receiving facility is capable of taking proper care of the species. The track record of captive proboscis is so appalling that IPPL does not see how any government could make such a finding.

Export requires a "no-detriment" finding—that export of animals will not be detrimental to the species. With only a few thousand proboscis monkeys left, such a finding would be questionable.

LETTERS NEEDED!

Please send a courteous letter to the Indonesian Minister of Forestry:

***His Excellency the Minister of Forestry
Jl. Manggala Wanabakti Blok I, Lt. 4
Jl. Gatoto Subroto
Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia***

Request that the Minister investigate the destruction of the Pulau Kaket Nature Reserve in South Kalimantan which led to the capture of large numbers of proboscis monkeys, many of whom have died at Surabaya Zoo. Request that the causes of the animal deaths be investigated and that any healthy surviving animals be released into a safe area.

Note that most proboscis monkeys exported in the past to foreign zoos have died and request that Indonesia allow no further exports of this species to foreign zoos. Suggest that the Ministry request overseas zoos interested in saving the species to spend the money they would spend on obtaining and building housing for proboscis monkeys on projects protecting the animals in their natural habitat and on establishing a well-run sanctuary in Indonesia for any that come into captivity.

Letters may also be sent to the Indonesian Ambassador in your country of residence. Below are the US and UK addresses:

***His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia
Embassy of Indonesia
2020 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington DC 20036, USA***

***His Excellency the Ambassador of Indonesia
Embassy of Indonesia
30 Grosvenor Square
London W1X 9AD, England***

Postage from the US to Indonesia is 60 cents per half ounce, \$1 per ounce. Postage from the UK is 43 pence for under 10 grams, 63 pence for 10-20 grams.

BRONX ZOO FACES LAWSUIT

In January 1999, word leaked out that Ray Fernandez had filed a \$1 million negligence lawsuit against the Bronx Zoo, New York, USA, in June 1997. In the lawsuit Fernandez alleged that a caged gorilla had injured his son Ramiro, then 8 years old, by successfully aiming a rock at the boy's head in June 1995.

Ray Fernandez claimed that Ramiro needed stitches to close the wound and that, since the incident, the boy has suffered from sleeplessness and a fear of wild animals.

Attorney Alan Berliner told Reuters wire service that:

The parents claim Ramiro has diffi-

culty concentrating and sleeping. According to his father, he has had a little difficulty in school and has had some psychological testing and treatment.

This questionable lawsuit is typical of the lawsuits that clog the US court system.

STOP PRESS – KSBK REPORT ON PROBOSCIS DISASTER

IPPL has just received a report on the removal from the wild and subsequent deaths of proboscis monkeys from our friends at the Indonesian non-governmental organization KSBK (Animal Conservation for Life) which earlier did a detailed study of Indonesia's wild animal markets for IPPL. Extracts from KSBK's report follow.

The proboscis monkey (scientific name *Nasalis larvatus*) lives only on the island of Borneo and is internationally recognized as endangered. On the national level in Indonesia, the proboscis monkey is one of the species protected by law.

Proboscis monkeys live in lowland forest, swamp forest and mangrove forest. This species lives in the trees and is active by day. In addition, they are good swimmers.

One of the proboscis monkeys habitats is Kaget island, located in South Kalimantan. The island is 267 hectares (660 acres) in size and has been a favorite place attraction for tourists visiting South Kalimantan.

Kaget Island is divided into two parts by two rivers about three meters wide. The south side (towards the Barito river estuary) consists of 85 hectares (210 acres) and was decreed a nature preserve based on the Decree of Agriculture Minister 701/Kpts/Um/11/1976.

Unfortunately, due to poor management, Kaget Island is facing destruction. The *Sonneratia caseloris* trees are withered; this tree is the proboscis monkeys' major diet. The destruction has appeared in the last two years.

Proboscis monkey evacuation

By the reason of the destruction of Kaget island and the claimed present unsuitability of this island as a habitat for proboscis monkey, a big evacuation of monkeys from Kaget island was conducted. 148 monkeys have been evacuated from Kaget island. Sixty-one of them were sent to Surabaya Zoo. According to the Executive Director of Surabaya Zoo, Bambang Suhardjito, the monkey shipments were conducted in three stages:

August 1997, 10 monkeys

December 3, 1998, 20 monkeys

December 12, 1998, 31 monkeys

The total number of proboscis monkeys sent to Surabaya is 61 monkeys, according to zoo authorities. The large shipments of proboscis monkeys to Surabaya Zoo have raised a big question mark - why did all of these proboscis monkeys have to be sent to the zoo while there are still many other places which are regarded as more natural and suitable ones as the habitat of proboscis monkey?

Furthermore, considering the low capacity of Surabaya Zoo to keep and breed this species, there is a risk of death for all of these monkeys. The economic crisis in Indonesia has a bad effect on the zoos, since many of them are now lacking food supply for their inhabitants. So why did Surabaya Zoo welcome the big number of proboscis monkeys from Kaget island?

Until June 1997 there was only one monkey in Surabaya Zoo. Because of the addition of monkeys from Kaget island, the total number of proboscis monkeys in Surabaya Zoo in December 1998 was 72 monkeys.

It is interesting to note that the total amount of proboscis monkeys in July-September 1997 was 17 monkeys - but in the quarterly report for October-December 1997, it was reported that the number in the previous month (September 1997) was only 11. In fact, the previous total number in September 1997 should have been 17 monkeys. The table does not mention where the other six monkeys are.

Officially, the total number of proboscis monkeys sent to Surabaya Zoo was 61. But, according to one of the Surabaya Zoo's officers, who did not want his name mentioned, the number of proboscis monkeys sent to Surabaya Zoo was about 80-100 monkeys.

If it is true that the number of proboscis monkeys sent to Surabaya Zoo was 80-100, despite the zoo reporting that it was only 61, then where are the other 20-40 proboscis monkeys?

Massive mortality

Sixty-one proboscis monkeys (some informants said 84-87) from Kaget island were sent to Surabaya Zoo. These monkeys were carried by ship and traveled for 20 hours from their starting-point. Throughout their trip, these monkeys were kept in wooden boxes about 2 x 2 meters. These small boxes contained several monkeys. In this shipment 25 monkeys reportedly died.

As monkeys arrive at Surabaya Zoo, they are placed on a small artificial island built by Surabaya Zoo staff. This artificial island was already inhabited by proboscis monkeys taken from Kaget island in August 1997.

From our observations, it is clear that this artificial island is actually too small for about 60-80 proboscis monkeys from Kaget Island.

Furthermore, this island is only barred by a 4 meter water barrier. In fact, proboscis monkeys are famous for their ability to swim. As a result many reportedly swam off the island. Some reportedly died by electric shock. In this zoo they were given bananas and beans as their daily diet.

Unfortunately, proboscis monkeys from Kaget island only live for very short times at the zoo. More than 30 monkeys died at Surabaya Zoo. Some zoo officials said that as many as 60 died. They died between December 1998 and early January 1999.

According to Liang Kaspe, veterinarian at Surabaya Zoo, these proboscis monkeys died of pneumonia which they already had in Kaget island.

She claimed that the kind of pneumonia they had is not caused by a virus, but by environmental factors due to the bad condition of Kaget island, such as pollution or forest fire.

Some other veterinarians have different opinions about this disease. Dr. Wita,

a veterinarian from the Environmental Education Center (PPLH Bali) believes that...the large number of proboscis monkeys which died makes it unreasonable to believe that they died only because of pneumonia. There must be some other reason which caused these proboscis monkeys to have died so tragically.

According to a Surabaya Zoo official, some of the proboscis monkeys that died were stuffed (like a doll) and the bodies of some others were burned.

Mistakes handling evacuation

When proboscis monkeys were removed from Kaget island, Surabaya Zoo did not involve any veterinarians. In fact the presence of a veterinarian was very important in order to find out the exact health condition of the monkeys that would be evacuated.

The shipment by boat of monkeys from Kaget island lacked attention to the health and comfort of the monkeys, causing stress and, further, death.

When the monkeys arrived in Surabaya Zoo, their health was not checked. These monkeys were put on a artificial island which is much too small for 60-80 monkeys.

Involvement of Toronto Zoo

There is a suspicion that the shipment of large number of proboscis monkeys to Surabaya Zoo may be related to the proboscis monkey captive breeding which will be done by Surabaya Zoo and some zoos in North America. One of these zoos is Toronto Zoo in Canada.

According to some information, previously, the number of proboscis monkeys from Kaget Island to be evacuated to Surabaya Zoo was to be only 40 animals, yet the amount was increased to become 60 animals because some will be shipped to Toronto Zoo.

However, Bambang Suharjito, director of the Surabaya Zoo, denies that the shipping of those proboscis monkeys from Kaget Island to the Surabaya Zoo relates to the Toronto Zoo. But he agrees that the government is now planning to promote a captive breeding program on the proboscis monkey in cooperation with the Toronto Zoo.

Again, according to Bambang, the government hasn't selected the Indonesian zoo which will cooperate with the Toronto Zoo.

Meanwhile, according to Johanes Subianto, Chief of the Division of Conservation on the Flora and Fauna at the directorate-general of PKA Forestry Department, it is true that there will be a cooperation program between the Indonesia zoo and the Toronto Zoo about the proboscis monkey captive breeding.

Based on the plan, captive breeding will be conducted in Indonesia and Toronto. And the chosen zoo in Indonesia is Surabaya Zoo.

Lots of oddities

The case of the death of proboscis monkeys at Surabaya Zoo contains of many oddities, namely:

- * The death of these proboscis monkeys has apparently been hidden. However, it has been characteristic of the zoo that, if there is a new born baby animal at the zoo, it will be greatly published to all mass media.

On the other hand, if there is a death - even massive death as in the case of the proboscis monkeys, the zoo people will conceal it up tightly in order it not be known by the public.

Through this imbalance of information, the society's impression of the zoo's success in conducting captive breeding is always good, although there are actually lots of animals that have died unidentified.

- * Moreover, one of the high officials of the Surabaya Zoo said that the animals now at the zoo are in stable condition and accordingly they will be returned to their habitat. But on the other hand, the official government agency said that these proboscis monkeys will be put on captive breeding.

- * There is no clarification on the number of proboscis monkeys which were delivered to the Surabaya Zoo. According to Bambang Suharjito, the executive director of Surabaya Zoo, the number of proboscis monkeys was 61, but other zoo staff said that the number of proboscis monkeys was about 100.

* There is also no clarification on the number of proboscis monkey deaths. On one hand, some of the zoo officials said that 37 of the proboscis monkeys died, whereas others said that 60 proboscis monkeys died. But another source indicates that the number is 100.

- * The executive director of Surabaya Zoo, Bambang Suharjito said that the proboscis monkeys were delivered from Kaget Island to Surabaya Zoo by plane, whereas according to a zoo veterinarian, these proboscis monkeys were delivered by ship.

- * The executive director of the Surabaya Zoo denied that the zoo will conduct captive breeding of proboscis monkey in cooperation with Toronto Zoo. According to him, the government will select the Indonesian zoo that will cooperate with the Toronto zoo.

On the contrary, the Department of Forestry said that the partner of Toronto Zoo in conducting the proboscis monkey captive breeding is Surabaya Zoo.

- * The death of those of proboscis monkeys is claimed to be caused by pneumonia resulting from the Kaget environment being poor, but it is strongly suspected that the true causes of the deaths are in shipping, care, and neglect of their health.

Stop the proboscis monkey captive breeding program!

The captive breeding plan on the proboscis monkey to be conducted by Surabaya and Toronto Zoos is completely unreasonable from the conservation standpoint. If they are really serious about preventing the extinction of the proboscis monkey, there is no need to take care of them in the zoos, because there are still many natural places in Indonesia.

It would be better to conserve proboscis monkeys in their own habitat. This is more important rather than captive breeding in the zoo since the success of captive breeding is dubious.

Some information sources state that recently there had been some shipping overseas of proboscis monkeys which were claimed to have been born in cap-

tivity in Indonesia. Any exported proboscis monkeys were certainly not obtained from captive breeding, because up till now there is no effort at the proboscis monkey captive breeding.

Moreover, the proboscis monkey is listed on Appendix I of CITES. Export has to meet a strict requirement; it must have an agreement from the scientific

authority to explain that the proposed export doesn't endanger its population in nature and that the shipping doesn't contravene the animal conservation law in that country. The proboscis monkey in Indonesia is fully protected by law.

The case of the deaths of dozens of proboscis monkeys at the Surabaya Zoo

suggests that the zoo's captive breeding plan imperils the species' conservation. To place these proboscis monkeys in the zoo will just cause them to become the object of entertainment as well as waiting for their death.

Moreover, according to KSBK's records, animals at the Surabaya Zoo frequently died previously, including three 3 tigers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SAVE THE PROBOSCIS MONKEY

KSBK—The Animal Conservation for Life—is planning a petition to reject the captive breeding of proboscis monkeys planned by the Surabaya and Toronto Zoos. Therefore, KSBK needs support from all who care about wildlife conservation. Remember that the more people send the protest letters requested by IPPL, the better it will be. Please send a copy of your letter to KSBK. Our address is:

KSBK (Animal Conservation for Life)

Jl. Raya Candi 179

Karangbesuki Klasman, Malang 65146

Jawa Timur, Indonesia

We need your help to save the Proboscis monkey!

NEWS FROM "NATURE'S BECKON"

by Soumyadeep Datta, Director, Nature's Beckon

Nature's Beckon is a wildlife protection organization located in the remote province of Assam, India.

Nature's Beckon is grateful to IPPL for receiving funds on several occasions. Because of the generous financial support from IPPL, Nature's Beckon has been able to increase its working capacity considerably. The organization has been able to motivate a larger target group of the population to work for the conservation of primates in Assam and has also educated the village youth students to work for the conservation of primates and their habitats.

The posters which were developed with the IPPL funds were highly appreciated by the general public and became very popular. These posters have been prominently displayed in all the forest range offices and important public places like post offices, bus stations and market places. Posters were also distributed in 60 public schools and about 18,000 students were motivated to protect the primates of Assam.

In January 1999, we took the school children to the Assam state zoological

park at Guwahati to educate them about primates.

We have identified some major primate habitats in the state of Assam and are now persuading the state government to declare these important primate habitats as sanctuaries and protected areas. The names of these habitats are: Jaipur, Dirak and upper Dihing West block. These three forests are parts of the rain forests of Assam.

To create stronger public opinion for the creation of primate sanctuaries in Assam, we have been imparting nature conservation and motivational training to the young people of Assam.

Incidentally, Hoolock gibbons, the only ape species of India, survives in these rain forests of Assam. As such, the conservation of these habitats is very important.

On 30 and 31 January 1999, we held a Nature Orientation Camp at Dibru-Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary, which is also an important habitat of Hoolock gibbons. The basic objective of this camp was to

train the voluntary workers in conservation work and to improve their skill and capacity for the effective activism for nature conservation.

In December 1998 a National Children's Science Congress Meeting was held in Duliajan Oil Town of Assam and an exhibition was organized for this event.

We have been able to generate interest about primates in quite a large group of people in Assam. To give a further boost to generating public interest in primates, a meeting of the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) of Assam, jointly organized by Nature's Beckon and Assam Science and Technology Council, will be held at Guwahati in the month of March 1999.

We plan to print colorful posters on primates which will be distributed among the participating NGOs to strengthen further the primate conservation movement in Assam. In all posters and printing materials, IPPL support will be acknowledged with gratitude.

MEET "BULLET"

Bullet is a small dog who very wisely chose IPPL for his home.

He reached us on 17 November 1998. Our two Great Pyrenees dogs, Patou and Ivy, started barking one day. Patou and Ivy love the sound of their own voices but this time it was different.

We went to check and found that the two dogs had their eyes fixed on something against our back fence. My assistants Paula and Donetta went to see what was there. They found a tiny emaciated dog lying against the outside of the perimeter fence. The dog was whimpering and distressed.

Our grounds manager went into the woods and picked up the little dog. He was infested with ticks. There was an open wound on his right side. He was disoriented and his eyes were red and inflamed. He was obviously starved and dehydrated—his ribs were protruding. After we had fed and watered him, we took him to our vet.

The vet found that the wound on his side was caused by a shotgun pellet. He had every parasite in the book. We were given various medications and eye drops. Throughout his ordeal, our new dog was sweet and loving. The two big dogs were so pleased to have a new family member one third their size!

We named our new friend **Bullet**.

The next stop was the spay-neuter clinic. The neutering went smoothly. Then on to the ophthalmologist to check his eyes. We were heart-broken to learn that



Photo: Shirley McGreal

Bullet and Beanie

our little dog is totally blind, probably as a result of shotgun injuries.

We also learned that, if medication did not keep the eye inflammation under control, **Bullet** might need one or both eyes removed.

Bullet has really settled in well. He is very intelligent and gentle. IPPL has a blind gibbon called **Beanie** and he and **Bullet** play nicely together. When **Beanie** eats a banana, **Bullet** licks his hands clean as he likes the flavor!

We took **Bullet** to "Basic Obedience" class and he "graduated" at the end of February. We use a "Gentle Leader" collar to have better control of him on walks

as he tends to bump into things!

Teacher Val Masters summed up **Bullet** when she said, "He's too cute."

THANKS TO IPPL'S E-MAIL LIST

When **Bullet** reached us, we realized that restoring his health would be a challenge and that it would also be very expensive. We told our E-mail list members about him and they kindly donated the funds that covered his initial medical bills. Thank you, Charlene, Joe, Nancy, Donna, and everyone else who helped!

ATTENTION – IPPL KIDS – WORK ON THE CHUNKY MONKEY MURAL!

IPPL has been working with the "Chunky Monkey" company which produces the Chunky Monkey™ stuffed toy. The company has a website which is sponsoring a primate mural. Kids from all over the world can participate if they have access to the Internet.

First locate the website, which is at;

<http://www.chunkymonkey.com>

Then click on "Kids for Primates" near the top of

the page. All the instructions and drawing lessons are there.

The website contains a lot of fun stories, including the tales of Jimja the little Jaguar, Toniwa Toucan, Skippity and Hoppity Rabbits, and Bahawa the Morpho butterfly. There are also wonderful drawings by cartoonist Pauline Comanor who designed the Chunky Monkey™ toy.

Check out this fun site!

A VISIT TO THE FAUNA FOUNDATION

by IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal

During the 1998 holiday season I was visiting Montreal and, having heard about the wonderful chimpanzee rescue work of the Fauna Foundation, asked foundation directors Gloria Grow and Dr. Richard Allan if I could visit and was so pleased when they said yes.

Gloria's brother-in-law Tony Smith came to meet me at Montreal Airport and we drove through a snowstorm to the lovely little town of Carignan.

Just taking the few steps from the car to the sanctuary indoor building was a freezing experience! Inside everything was warm and holiday decorations created a festive atmosphere.

The Fauna Foundation chimpanzees were all research veterans from the now-closed Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) of New York University, USA.

Some other sanctuaries have provided a home to retired LEMSIP chimpanzees,

but ONLY the Fauna Foundation had the courage and dedication to accept HIV-positive animals. Seven of the chimpanzees are HIV-negative and eight are HIV-positive. For this reason, the building is like a fortress and the spacious housing is super-strong, as possible local concerns must be respected.

There are two separate living areas, each huge with all kinds of equipment and play structures. The chimpanzees have lots of toys. One female spent hours using a stick to try to draw in presents from the base of the Christmas tree, eventually succeeding in getting one by holding the stick in the tips of her fingers!

In the evening we had a lovely get-together with the project volunteers and I handed over a \$1,000 gift from IPPL to these special people taking care of very special animals.

Since my departure there have been problems. The Canadian press was look-

ing for a "Canadian angle" to news reports on Beatrice Hahn's claim that chimpanzees are the cause of AIDS, and smear attacks on the foundation appeared in the Canadian press. Calls were made for the facility to be closed down, despite the extensive security precautions already in place and the impossibility of animal escapes.

At present things seem to have calmed down.

I would like to thank Gloria, Richard, Tony and Dawna for their wonderful hospitality. We strongly encourage our Canadian members to join the Foundation, which can be reached at:

Fauna Foundation
3826 Bellerive, Carignan
Quebec J3L 3P9, Canada

Phone: 514-658-1844

Fax: 514-658-2202

E-mail: fauna.found@sympatico.ca



Fauna Foundation chimpanzee



Gloria Grow (left) with Shirley McGreal

FOUL PLAY IN ZIMBABWE

Willis Makombe, Director of Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks and Wildlife, has been caught getting paid twice for one trip. According to the 16 March **Africa News Network**, Makombe got reimbursed \$46,000 by the Government of Zimbabwe for a trip which had been fully

paid for by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The double-dipping was uncovered "following an audit query by investigators appointed by the Ministry of Mines, Environment and Tourism into alleged corruption, maladministration and mis-

appropriation of funds and essential assets in the department."

Director Makombe has already returned \$26,000 of his loot. He was an active player in the successful effort to reopen the ivory trade and strongly supports sport hunting of Zimbabwe's wildlife.

UPDATE FROM LIMBE

by Linda Percy, Project Manager

1998 was a successful year for the Limbe Wildlife Center (LWC). A majority of the credit for the success goes to IPPL members for their overwhelming response to the Pitchou campaign.

Your donations ensured that the daily operating costs could be met and that a small amount of additional funds were available to make much needed repairs and finish new enclosures.

The staff and volunteers would like to thank all IPPL members again for their generous contributions.

Following is an update on YOUR money at work.

Pitchou

Pitchou, a baby gorilla who reached us in April 1998, is now fully integrated into our gorilla group.

On arrival she was extremely emotionally disturbed and severely ill with ringworm and various parasitic diseases. She made friends quickly and happily plays with each member of the group.

She now enjoys riding around on the back or belly of Chella, the oldest male, or Nyango, the oldest female.

Many of our returning visitors don't recognize her because she has gone from a shy, scabby little gorilla, to a healthy,



Pitchou on arrival

hairy, bold little eating machine! Her weight has almost doubled in the time she has been at LWC!

When Pitchou is not eating, she loves to stand upright, stretch her big belly and beat her chest. She still brings her fist under her chin after she beats her chest and clanks her teeth.

This is definitely the Pitchou trademark and a hit with our visitors! Luckily this is not a habit the rest of our gorillas have copied!

Another positive effect Pitchou has had on the rest of the group is creating an interest in foods that were not very popular



Pitchou now



Limbe Wildlife Centre

PO Box 878 Limbe SWP, Cameroon

Dear IPPL Members,
Thank you for helping LWC in 1998!
In 1999, we look forward to further developing our education program, along with constructing new enclosures for the Baboons and Chimpanzees. As the bushmeat trade and habitat destruction continues in Cameroon, our efforts become increasingly important and challenging. More animals will need our help. We are relying on your continued support to proceed with this vital work!! Again, THANK you ☺!
Kind Regards,

Linda Percy
Project Manager

Working for wildlife conservatin through education

in the past. Certain greens that are an important part of the gorilla diet were nibbled on, but never very popular with the rest of the group.

Following the introduction of Pitchou, the rest of the group observed her eating everything with such vigor, that they have become much more interested and now have a renewed interest in greens!

As you can see from the photo she loves to show off by beating her chest! You can also see from the photo that, as all our Cameroonian staff say in "pidgeon," **"Her belly done flop!"**

The gorillas at LWC require and receive 24 hour care. Your gifts have allowed LWC to cover staff costs and provide the diet and care these special animals, and all the Limbe animals, deserve.

Meet Loko!

Limbe Wildlife Center has acted as a rescue and rehabilitation site for orphaned animals over the past 7 years.

In early December 1998, the animal caregivers at Limbe heard a chimpanzee screaming. With 19 chimps at Limbe, this is not such an uncommon sound, except that the shouting did not stop!

They soon realized that the screams were coming from across the road at the police station. The two head caregivers went over to investigate and found a one and a half year old chimp in a small bird cage. They then brought her food and water and spoke to the policeman.

The chimp had been confiscated from a woman who was trying to smuggle her

out of the country along with a group of African Grey Parrots. After a few days of negotiations with the local police, and with the help of a representative from the Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, the chimp was brought to Limbe.

The door on the bird cage was so small, the cage had to be cut to get her out. Once free, she crawled straight into someone's arms. Her legs were so weak that she could not walk for the first few days. She was incredibly calm and resilient, and after a few days was stumbling around and always playing.

So the caregivers named her "Loko"—which means "play" in the local dialect. Loko has her own little corner of Limbe where she will live during her quarantine period and she is usually found climbing to the top of the mango tree.

There are many chimps in similar—if not worse—conditions as Loko in Cameroon. Limbe is currently at capacity and is seeking funding for operating costs and construction of additional enclosures.

IPPL has been a fantastic supporter of our efforts and we appreciate your continued support.

New drill enclosure

By having future months' operating costs covered, we were able to invest additional funds into the construction of new enclosures.

In November 1998 we completed a new Drill enclosure which enabled us to bring all our Drills together. It only took

\$1,000 to complete this enclosure, but this was money that was never available in the past, or else was needed for food and salaries.

It was a very moving moment to observe Tom (adult, male) outside for the first time in many years. He strolled around the perimeter of the electric fence with such grace and strength. He then immediately rubbed his chest on a fallen log, marking his territory.

All our staff were around to observe this big moment and all had huge grins on their faces. Moments like these are the rewarding parts of the job at LWC!

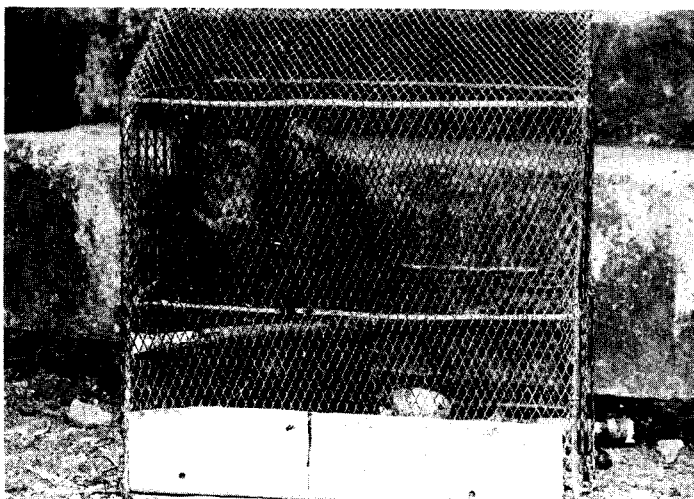
Tom was previously alone and in a very small cage. He was then introduced to Okon, the other adult male, and the rest of the females and juveniles. After a few months of all 12 Drills together, Tom is more confident and beginning to show his dominance. He is also starting to take an interest in the cycling females, which is very encouraging!

The outside enclosure has benefitted all our drills. Play has dramatically increased and there are noticeable increases in the animals' weights and improvements in health.

The Drill enclosure is a fantastic example of how a small amount of money can improve these animals' lives.

The other animals

It is the goal at LWC to provide decent outdoor and indoor enclosures for ALL our animals. In the next few months



Loko soon after confiscation



Loko now with chimp caregiver Emilia Fongha

we hope to construct new enclosures for the baboons, mandrills and juvenile chimpanzees.

We have the manpower and electrical equipment required to build these enclosures, but we need your help to obtain the necessary funds for the indoor enclosures.

As you can see from the example of the Drill enclosure, a little bit of money in Cameroon goes a long way and has a direct impact on improving many animals' lives!

Staff development

One of the project goals during 1998 was to further develop our local staff. Jonathan Kang, a gorilla and chimpanzee keeper, attended a three month training program at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. The money raised by IPPL helped us cover overtime costs while Jonathan was away.

Since his return, he has met regularly with our staff and shared his experiences and knowledge. All have benefitted!

Managing a project like Limbe Wildlife Center is challenging when you never know where next month's money

is going to come from.

Salary increases and investment in infrastructure are a luxury we could never afford. By having the year's operating costs covered from the kind donations of IPPL members, a small salary increase for our local staff was feasible.

The staff at LWC greatly appreciate IPPL members' assistance. Their dedication to the care of the animals at LWC is admirable, but also must be compensated.

Most of our staff live at poverty levels, and a slight increase in wages has a large impact. This slight raise allowed our staff to send their children to school, buy medicines and continue to pay the ever increasing food prices.

Thank you IPPL members, your donations have helped people and animals!

Increased attendance

We measure success at Limbe in two ways: the health and welfare of our animals and the increased number of visitors we are able to reach with our conservation message.

Your contributions have ensured that

the best care and attention is given to all the animals at Limbe. In addition, attendance in 1998 was up over 30%, with an increase of 1,500 visitors just on Christmas and New Year's days alone.

Changing attitudes

The animals at LWC are an integral element in educating the people of Cameroon and helping to ensure the survival of these species in the wild.

Observing the primates in natural settings and social groups has had an overwhelming impact on the community. They are no longer viewed as "bushmeat," but as an integral part of Cameroon's heritage, and a vital natural treasure to be preserved.

Your continued support of LWC is essential to build on the progress made in 1998!

Thank you!

Thank you again to IPPL members for your overwhelming response to the Pitchou campaign! She and the other 80 Limbe animals have greatly benefitted from the funds raised.

RETURNING THEM TO THE WILD

Yes, but please be careful

by Colin Groves, member, IPPL Advisory Board

I read in the November 1998 issue of **IPPL News** about some efforts to reintroduce primates to the wild. In Indonesia and Malaysia, in Africa, and in Central and South America, there are places where reintroduction of primates to the wild has been ongoing for a long time.

The ideal place for a wild animal is in the wild. No one would quarrel with that. And presumably no one would conduct a reintroduction without very careful planning first. So, what things must be taken into account before doing it? That they won't get shot or poisoned or crowded out by people living nearby, of course; that they are familiar with uneven terrain or flexible branches, and that they know what predators look like; but what else? Ecology, carrying capacity and genetics are vital.

Ecology

When you look around for a suitable place to reintroduce primates, what sort of place would you choose? A place within the range of the species or subspecies concerned? Yes, obviously.

A place where there is already a flourishing, virtually intact population of it? No, absolutely not. Why not? Well, the newcomers might be attacked by those already there, or, having been associated with humans, they might introduce a new disease to them; but the main concern is carrying capacity.

Carrying Capacity

Within any region, there is a limit to how many of each species can survive there, simply because food supply and social space, which is bound up with food

supply, is limited.

If there are 50 orangutans in a patch of forest, the reason is very likely because the patch can support fifty but not fifty-one; if we just shoehorn one or two more into the area, we risk exceeding the carrying capacity, and that means that any successful rehabilitation will be at the expense of others that have been living there all along—a horrifying thought.

An area that used to support the species, but from which it has been exterminated by human activity (there are, alas, all too many of them), is ideal. Provided, of course, that the ecosystem is, in other respects, more or less intact!

Genetics

Animals vary from place to place. If the majority of the individuals in areas A and B

differ in some respect, we classify them as different subspecies; if 100% of them do, we classify them as different species. New subspecies are constantly being described, old ones thrown on the scrapheap.

Species get downgraded to subspecies, subspecies get upgraded to species—all as new discoveries are made about them.

Taxonomy, unfortunately, is a bit unstable; scientifically this is no bad thing, it means that like any science it is dynamic.

But it means, too, that we must be con-

servative when reintroducing animals to the wild; even if it seems to be a place within the range of a particular subspecies, there could still be enough genetic differences to make the reintroduction inappropriate from a conservation point of view (wildlife managers are, after all, trying first of all to conserve gene pools), or some genetic differences might make the attempt fail altogether.

The differences could well be adaptive: for instance, a dark fur absorbs more heat than a light one so is more suited to cooler

climates; some fur colors contrast with one sort of background, but act as camouflage against another; and there might be underlying physiological differences, like different breeding seasons, or food or water requirements. Some of these genetic features might vary even between populations within a subspecies.

I am not trying to pour cold water on the aims of any programs. All I want to say is, please look before you leap. Don't let what you THINK is best for them override what IS best for them.

GORILLA TOURISTS DIE IN UGANDA

On 1 March 1999, fourteen tourists were kidnapped from the campground outside Bwindi National Park in Uganda. They were planning to view mountain gorillas that morning.

Eight of the tourists and several park employees, including game warden Paul Wagaba and three rangers, ended up being murdered, one shot to death and the rest killed with clubs and machetes.

The killers belonged to the Interhamwe militia, rebels who fled Rwanda after taking part in the genocide of 500,000 minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The Interhamwe are angry at Uganda for supporting the current Tutsi-dominated government of Rwanda.

The murderers left a note saying that their aim was to destroy Uganda's economy. Tourism was, until this tragedy, Uganda's second largest source of hard currency.

Sadly, the rebels succeeded all too well and tourists have been canceling their trips to all destinations in Uganda, not just trips to Bwindi.

One tour operator told the Associated Press:

Without exception tour operators are receiving massive cancellations, they either say they are too scared to come to Uganda as a whole or they are not interested in coming to Uganda if they can't see the gorillas.

The world's mountain gorillas are split between two areas, the Virunga Volcanoes and Uganda's Bwindi National Park (the

Impenetrable Forest).

The Virunga Volcanoes are located mainly in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). Both these countries are now closed to gorilla tourism because of civil strife. Some Virunga gorillas live in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda.

In August 1998, four gorilla viewers whose group crossed the Uganda-Zaire border were kidnapped. Three tourists are still missing and presumed dead.

Gladys Kalema, veterinarian for Uganda's national parks, told IPPL on 11 March 1999:

I was in Bwindi two days ago. The park looks desolate with burnt vehicles and a few structures, but the people are all so glad to be alive, as each of them had a story to tell how they escaped. There are 400 Army men now so it is very safe...

Two of my favorite rangers, Feni and William, managed to escape from the rebels and so did the driver Masindi who had to cut the path for the rebels to go to Congo and then was released with six other tourists.

Gladys was supposed to be at Bwindi on 1 March, but postponed her trip.

Gorilla tourism has always been controversial. The late Dian Fossey did not approve of it. She felt that habituating gorillas for tourism by interfering with their normal flight response from humans exposed gorillas to peril and she was also concerned about potential disease transmission.

Primatologists Dr. Thomas Butynski and Jan Kalina have recently raised questions about gorilla tourism. They feel that, despite its conservation image, there are major problems such as:

** Transmission of diseases. Transmission of pneumonia and measles from humans to gorillas has occurred.*

** Reliance on revenue earned from gorillas should not be promoted as the main justification for protecting gorillas: this can lead to the feeling that gorillas exist to generate profits. In the event of these profits disappearing, the reason to protect the gorillas may disappear.*

** Most of the money earned from gorilla tourism has not been put to work improving the local communities.*

** The tourism has not been well controlled to prevent stress to the gorillas. People have been photographed violating rules, for example by touching gorillas, which is forbidden.*

** Political events can ruin the tourism market. This has happened.*

It is unlikely that gorilla tourism will be viable in the near future. Therefore it is essential that governments, international aid agencies and conservation groups expand their efforts to protect mountain gorillas and provide employment in the communities near the parks.

TAKING CARE OF PRIMATES – NOW AND FOR EVER

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 (right, with Shirley) has already spent 12 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 Terri Dulin at IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA, if you would like a pamphlet about providing enduring help for IPPL.



THE SLENDER LORIS: A PRIMATE IN DARKNESS

by S. Theodore Baskaran

Mr. Baskaran has been an IPPL Field Representative for India since 1974

The slender loris *Loris tardigradus lydekkerianus*, a tiny, furry primate, just 25 cm. long, lives only in South India and Sri Lanka. This highly endangered creature lives in arid, thorny forests.

Nocturnal and evolved to hunt insects at night, it has forward looking eyes that

are acutely adapted to night vision and legs and forearms that are designed to hold and climb. It could hang upside down and reach its prey. The well developed index finger has a long claw.

There is a sub species which lives in rain forests of South India *Loris*

tardigradus malabaricus. Their close relative, the slightly bigger Slow loris *Nycticebus coucang* is found in North Eastern India.

We know very little about the life and habits of the Slender loris. One reason is that it is nocturnal and observation is quite difficult. The other is that traditionally in wildlife studies small creatures are neglected.

Much of our knowledge of the Slender loris comes from Germany, where a researcher, Helga Schluzer, has set up a captive breeding centre, with a few lorises she was able to acquire from Sri Lanka. But one thing is certain, there are very few Slender lorises left in the wild.

A few kilometers from the National Highway 45 near Dindigal in the state of Tamilnadu in South India, there is a geographic feature locally referred to as the Gun Hill.

During the eventful times of the Carnatic wars in the beginning of the 19th century, field guns had been positioned on top to guard the road leading to



Slender loris

Photo: Kimberly Nikaris

Dindigal where a king had a fort. This hill and the neighboring small ranges are clothed in thorny scrub jungle.

In these forests, a sizable population of Slender loris has been located recently. A chance meeting with a medicine man led primatologist Dr. Mewa Singh of Mysore University to this patch of reserved forest. He did a meticulous survey of the area and has started a long term study of the Slender loris and of its habitat.

The main reason for the steep decline in its numbers is of course the loss of its habitat, the scrub jungle. Added to this is the traditional belief in its purported medicinal value. Each part of *the vangu*, as it is known in Tamil, was credited with some magical property.

The variety of slender loris found in Sri Lanka has a mark on its head like the religious symbol *namam* and so is known as *namam thevangu*.

The bone of its head, in powder form, was considered a potent aphrodisiac. If the left leg is eaten, it would cure leprosy. The right leg is considered an antidote for persistent cough. If you rub your head with the bones of its spine, then you could carry the ritual fire pot without any difficulty.

In every village shandy, you could see the loris man holding a pole with the poor creature crouching on it. He sold colored ropes, touched by the loris, to be worn around the waist of sick children.

The slender loris was also a popular cage animal. Some were caught for experiments in laboratories. Twenty-five years ago, one could buy a loris for a few rupees in Chennai Moore market or

Bangalore Russel market. Since very few knew what its diet was in its natural state and a well-meaning professor of Zoology had written in the Tamil Encyclopedia that it subsisted on bananas and rice, most of them died within a short while in captivity, to be soon replaced by freshly caught animals.

Slender lorises live on insects and require a high amount of calcium to survive. There has been no record of this species ever having bred in captivity. Although it had been declared a rare and endangered creature under schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, the hapless primate had no chance.

Relentlessly persecuted, its population dwindled even as its life was wrapped in mystery.

Ms. Sindhu Radhakrishna, a Ph.D. student of Dr. Mewa Singh, is now studying

the lorises in the forests near Dindigal. She starts work at dusk and goes on till the first light. If you are studying lorises, you have to work with a head lamp, covered with a red filter, so as not to disturb the animal. I visited the site in July 1998 and went with her into the forest one night. Within a few minutes of walking inside the jungle, we spotted the first loris.

You scan the bushes with the beam of this light and two large, perfectly spherical eyes light up like a decorative lamp in a Christmas tree. The luminous eyes can be spotted nearly 25 metres away. I watched this loris as he went about the serious business of looking for insects. The second loris we saw was with a young one. The mother "parks" her baby in one of the trees and goes out to feed and returns at day break to join the young one.

The other creatures that share the habitat with the loris are the jackal, the jungle cat and snakes such as Krait and Russel's sand boa. When I roamed that patch of forest in day time, I spotted two short toed eagles, a crow pheasant, and several grey partridges and tree pies.

The forest was dotted with **Kudai seetha** trees **Acasia fornesiana**, once so common and now sadly missing from much of its original home. There was barely any undergrowth, though an occasional cactus bush broke the monotony.

This is the kind of forest that would have covered much of the plains of South India a century ago. When these two researchers complete their study, we will know a lot more about this secretive primate than we now know.



Photo: Siddharth Buch

Loris with colored ropes

CHIMPANZEES REPORTED TO HAVE CAUSED HUMAN AIDS

In a highly publicized Letter to the Editor published in the 4 February 1999 issue of the British magazine **Nature**, Dr. Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama, USA, and several colleagues described various tests on chimpanzee blood and stated that:

*We conclude from our results that **Pan troglodytes troglodytes** is the natural host and reservoir for HIV-1.*

The repercussions of this finding are certain to be widespread.

There has been considerable controversy over the origin of human AIDS. An African origin has long been suspected. Some have claimed that the disease was created in biological warfare laboratories. Mangabeys, an African monkey family, have been identified as the likely origin of HIV-2.

In order to clarify the origin of HIV-1, Hahn and fellow-scientists studied blood and tissue samples taken from Marilyn, a chimpanzee who was part of the U.S. Air Force colony. Marilyn, aged 26, died in 1985 while giving birth to still-born twins. Tissues from her body had been stored.

Several simian immunodeficiency viruses (SIVs) have been identified in laboratory monkeys and hundreds of monkeys have been deliberately infected with disease-causing viruses taken from other monkeys. The monkeys become sick and die miserable deaths.

The virus found in Marilyn and two other chimpanzees (named SIVcpz) was reported to resemble three strains of human HIV virus.

Dr. Anthony Fauci of the US National Institute of Allergies and Infections Diseases (NIAID), the government agency which funded Hahn's research, commented:

This virus infects a primate species that is 98% related to humans. This may allow us—if done carefully and in collaboration with primatologists to protect this endangered species—to study infected chimpanzees in the wild to find out why these animals don't get sick, information that may help us better protect humans from developing AIDS.

People in many parts of Africa eat chimpanzee and monkey meat and could easily get infected with animal viruses during the bloody process of butchery.

The Hahn findings produced varied reactions, some positive and some of great concern. Many crusaders against the gruesome bushmeat trade hope that the claim that AIDS was originally caused by chimpanzees will persuade Africans to stop eating chimpanzee meat, and maybe meat from other primates.

Others are less optimistic and are worried that Africans, even if they stopped eating chimpanzees, could slaughter even more animals out of fear.

According to the 25 October 1998 issue of the French magazine **Marianne**, the Jardin des Plantes Zoo in Paris killed three mangabeys in 1996, after the animals tested positive for the mangabey immunodeficiency virus.

The article was hysterical in tone and bore the screaming headline:

EPIDEMIC—the worst has been avoided at the Jardin des Plantes, AIDS-Monkeys at the Jardin des Plantes were carriers of a virus transmissible to humans. They have been eliminated.

Another Jardin des Plantes mangabey had earlier been sent to another zoo. This animal was killed "as a precaution." This was around the time of the ridiculous US movie "**Outbreak**."

In its 8 February 1999 issue **Newsweek** proclaimed that:

More than brilliant scientific detective work, the Alabama research, if it turns out to be correct, could lead to new treatments and possibly even a cure for a fatal disease that afflicts more than 35 million people around the globe.

How the finding of an HIV-like virus in chimpanzees, which does not make them clinically sick, would lead to a cure was not explained in the **Newsweek** article.

Newsweek quoted Hahn as saying, "All they [chimpanzees] would need to do is give a pint of blood every so often." The writer of the article

commented, "*That certainly beats being rocketed into space—or extinction.*"

Hahn has since stated that she would only need fecal samples from wild chimpanzees and that these would have to be obtained from habituated wild chimpanzees. She has also stated that African sanctuary animals could be a valuable source of tissues and blood.

In an article **From Pan to Pandemic** in the same issue of **Nature**, conservationists Robin Weiss and Richard Wrangham comment that:

The four chimpanzee subspecies have deep evolutionary roots and may yield further types of SIV beyond the two already identified. They are best studied in the place where host-virus systems evolved. Chimpanzees in captivity are mostly taken from the wild before they become sexually active, and so rarely harbor SIV. Infection can be expected at higher frequencies in wild adults, and such individuals would offer research opportunities that simply do not pertain in captivity...biomedical researchers have the prospect of collaborating with field workers in a synthesis that would benefit conservation. The link between HIV-1 and SIVcpz may open a door for research that helps both humans and apes.

In April 1999 a meeting will be held at the US Centers for Disease Control at which the Hahn findings will be discussed. Several African scientists have been invited to attend.

It is understandable that anti-bushmeat crusaders are excited at these findings. It is also understandable that many are concerned that any publicity or campaign that makes people view chimpanzees as objects of fear and loathing, rather than as wonderful beings sharing our world, may backfire.

If you want to read the actual articles, which are very technical, they can be found at **Nature's** web site which is:

<http://www.nature.com>

You have to register to find the article. Registration is free.

WHY CHIMPS ARE POOR MODELS FOR STUDYING AIDS

by Professor Vernon Reynolds

Vernon Reynolds is Professor of Biological Anthropology at the University of Oxford, England. Vernon has been a member of IPPL's Advisory Board since 1974.

It is argued by some research scientists that because the chimpanzee is man's closest relative, sharing 98.4% of his genes, it is also the animal species of choice for developing new vaccines or studying human diseases. For some diseases that may well be true, but it is not true in the case of AIDS.

When HIV is transmitted to chimpanzees, they initially show a marked immune response with production of the killer T cells of the immune system, just as humans do. Next there is a reduction in the HIV which also occurs in humans. But the third phase is different. In humans, HIV lies dormant in the body for 5-10

years, after which it inserts itself into the DNA of the host person's immune cells (the T cells that are designed to destroy the virus) and destroys them, leaving the person without immune defenses against common diseases.

In all except one of the chimpanzees that have been given HIV there is no third phase. Why this occurs is not known, but clearly there are differences between the chimpanzee's immune system and our own. It was originally thought that if we could locate these differences we could find a cure for HIV.

However, the immune system of chimpanzees or humans is enormously

complex and it is not possible to graft a part of the immune system of one species on to another. To make humans resistant to HIV it would be necessary to give them a chimpanzee's immune system which is impossible and would in any case be fatal. Most scientists have thus concluded that this line of research is a waste of time and resources.

This conclusion was reached by a panel of experts from the National Institutes of Health in the USA, after reviewing the last 10 years of research there. Funding for AIDS research on chimpanzees has been reduced almost to vanishing point in the USA.

CHIMPANZEE EXHIBITOR SURRENDERS ANIMALS

On 7 August 1998, the US Department of Agriculture and Joel Kuhns of Lebanon, Oregon, settled a pending Animal Welfare Act case against Kuhns.

Without admitting having violated the Animal Welfare Act, Kuhns agreed to pay a penalty of US \$20,000 and give up his primates. The USDA suspended \$19,000 of the fine, provided Kuhns committed no further violations of the Animal Welfare Act for ten years. Kuhns

also agreed not to work with primates for ten years.

Kuhns owned two chimpanzees, a male named "Herbie," born in Florida in 1985 and "Himbie," a female born in Florida in 1988. Both are now at Chimps Inc., a small sanctuary in Oregon run by Lesley Day. Lesley reports that both chimpanzees have settled down well. Himbie's name has been changed to "Kimie."



With Joel Kuhns



Kimie's old home



Kimie at Chimps Inc.

NEW ZEALAND BILL PROPOSES RIGHTS FOR APES

According to the 11 January issue of the **Electronic Telegraph**, the New Zealand Parliament was then about to vote on a bill that would accord the equivalent of human rights to gorillas, orangutans and chimpanzees. Such a law would protect them from all but the most benign experiments and provide them with the legal right to life and not to suffer degrading or cruel treatment.

There are no chimpanzees in New Zealand laboratories and only 28 chimpanzees and six orangutans in zoos and entertainment facilities. However, bill sponsors and supporters, mostly affiliated with the Great Ape Project, hope that it will set a precedent for worldwide protection of apes by the United Nations.

David Penny, a biologist from Massey University, is leading the campaign. He

commented:

The idea is to set a precedent that other countries can follow.

The **Telegraph** quoted Frans de Waal, who studies primate behavior at the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, as opposing the idea of legal rights for great apes because:

If you argue for rights on the basis of continuity between us and the great apes, then you have to argue continuity between apes and monkeys.

De Waal felt that the logic would result in laboratory rats eventually having "human" rights.

Taking a different position to De Waal was Jane Goodall, who commented:

One has to make a start to break the arrogant perception that most people have that we are totally

different.

Commenting in the 13 February 1999 issue of the US scientific magazine **New Scientist**, author Rachel Nowak states:

The [New Zealand] law could have an impact in the US. Here, around 1700 chimps are kept for experimental use, mainly for testing vaccines against viruses like HIV or hepatitis, although only a small fraction are used at any one time. Moves are afoot in the US to win legal rights for these animals—not by introducing a new bill, but by setting a precedent through a carefully chosen lawsuit on behalf of a chimpanzee. If chimps in New Zealand have legal rights, it might just persuade a judge in the US to grant similar rights to their American cousins.

UPDATE ON TACUGAMA CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY

by Rosalind Alp

I had hoped that the next time Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone was featured in **IPPL News** it would be with stories of the chimpanzees being released into large forested enclosures—and not of the war. I am grateful for this space to tell you the latest news. It is an important story that I feel is worthy of attention. Thank you, IPPL, for giving us your support.

On January 6th, Freetown, Sierra Leone, was again faced with war. The RUF (Revolutionary United Front) rebels entered the city and began destroying everything in sight. Far worse than anyone could have expected, they attacked the eastern part of the capital and without mercy slaughtered people in their homes and on the streets, burning down anything that would catch fire.

Most of the eastern side has been burnt to the ground and residents suffered the despicable mutilations typical of the rebels. At one point approximately 40,000 people were "living" in the National Stadium which became a refuge for those who could reach it. There was hardly any food or clean water in the city and the hospital was packed to the brim with men, women and children with amputations.

The Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary lies in the hills just outside of Freetown, near Regent Town. When the rebels attacked the city, the sanctuary's Director, Bala Amarasekaran, refused to leave with the last evacuees, knowing that if he did the staff would have no support and therefore no choice but to pull out and seek safety—thus leaving the 21 chimps still caged at the sanctuary almost certainly in danger of starving. All communications to the country were broken and we lost contact with Bala and the staff for 12 days.

Bala's description of the situation could hardly have been worse for the sanctuary. As the rebels were pushed out of Freetown, they headed



©Bala Amarasekaran

Moses and "Kafoe"

to the hills surrounding Tacugama and attacked from there.

This time though, civilians in Regent armed themselves and most decided they would not run. The staff refused to leave Regent Town, where they took refuge, determined to make sure the chimps would get food. However, they advised Bala not to go further than Regent as rebels were abducting people and with the project vehicle he may have been a target.

Bala cooked what food he could find at home (very little food was available and everything was extremely expensive), and took it up to Regent. The journey there was far from safe, but Bala said he had no choice.

Once in Regent, he delivered the food to the staff and they took it in turns to walk the forested 3 kilometer road to the chimps. Each day two of them walked alone to the isolated camp without security escort as even ECOMOG (the international peace-keeping force) said it was too dangerous.

Fortunately, all the chimps stayed healthy despite being under great stress from fighting around them. They were thrilled to see the staff members, even though for security reasons they could only stay for a couple of hours. For the

chimps as well as the people, it was not the first war they have been forced to experience.

More ECOMOG troops were sent to Regent which gave the staff more security and they began spending longer hours re-assuring the chimps. A mortar shell exploded along the sanctuary road less than one kilometer from the chimps and the staff were afraid that during ECOMOG air attacks, the sanctuary might be mistaken for a rebel camp. Luckily the chimps were spared and the site was not touched.

Just prior to the rebel attack on Freetown, Bala had rescued a young pet chimp, Christo, who was in the later stages of tuberculosis. Bala eventually managed to find a place where he could get medication and nursed Christo through the war.

Miraculously, although Christo was even at the stage of becoming rigid from the TB, Bala brought him back to health and was able to save him.

Now that it is quiet in Freetown, the city is trying to gather enough strength to rebuild what has been destroyed. More than 3,000 people were killed in Freetown alone. The war is still far from over and there are continuous attacks in the provinces with even worse conse-

quences. The Sierra Leone government has said that they are now willing to open negotiations with the rebels and we can only hope that this will take place and peace will result.

I feel the solution is not to ignore the situation or question the worth of helping a project surrounded by war. On the contrary, the only way forward is to increase our support at this most crucial time.

I am ashamed to say that the international media have largely ignored the war in Sierra Leone and I can find no other excuse than that it is not financially advantageous to intervene—no oil or other desired resources—and there are not enough western residents to evoke attention.

Meanwhile, as Clinton caught the front pages again and again, Sierra Leone was burning down like a match. The devastation to the city and the beautiful environment of the whole country is frightening.

Just as it was nearly 2 years ago, the sanctuary found itself in the middle of a pointless and wasteful war and just as before, the staff voluntarily committed themselves to doing everything humanly possible to keep the chimpanzees in Tacugama alive. So far they have succeeded.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

IPPL welcomes donations earmarked for Tacugama. IPPL's practice is, and has always been, to transfer 100% of restricted donations directly to the project for which they are intended—and even to supplement them when possible. Please send your check earmarked for Tacugama or the amount of your gift and your credit card information (name on the card, card number and expiration date) to **IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA** or **IPPL, 116 Judd Street, London WC1H9NS, England**.

ZOO OWNER FINED

In November 1998 Norman Waycott of Saco, Maine, operator of the Saco Zoo, pled guilty to charges of providing improper care for his monkeys by keeping them in an unventilated shed. Waycott was fined a trifling US \$66.

Acting on a tip-off, a Maine state game warden and two officials of the

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited the zoo and found 20 monkeys, capuchins and squirrel monkeys living in a small shed in appalling conditions.

Waycott attempted to defend himself by saying the monkeys were his personal pets and not part of his zoo.

Write a Letter!

Please write a letter requesting that the Saco Zoo's license not be reinstated to:

Dr. Ron De Haven
APHIS/REAC
4700 River Road
Riverdale MD 20737-1234

A CHIMP'S LAMENT

Diane McKellar, who wrote this poem, is a volunteer at the Fauna Foundation, Carignan, Quebec, Canada

When I was a baby Chimpanzee
They murdered my mother to capture me.
I witnessed the terror upon her face
As they tore me from her arms and last embrace.
They think they know what's best for me,
I'm now in diapers in a nursery.
In hopes of helping me overcome my fright
They rock me and bottle feed me every night
But today my fears were again renewed
When they all held me down to be tattooed.
The surprise of my life was on my sixth birthday
When from my new friends I was taken away.
You won't believe the things they've done
I'm in a dark world.... no moon, no sun.
Each day brings some new pain, new fear:
A biopsy there, a surgery here.
My cage's so small and up in the air
I'm scared, I'm stressed, I'm losing hair.
My forehead and lip were pierced by a dart
Sometimes I wish they'd have aimed for my heart.
My entire body is covered in scars;
I'm committed to spending my life behind bars.
I'm fed the bare minimum, I've nothing to spare,
I'm lonely, I'm sad.... on the verge of despair!

I can never foresee an end in sight
To this dreadful life, I'm losing this fight.
I heard that my brother's in a circus somewhere
With elephants and tigers and the dancing brown
bears.
I hope that he's healthy and doing O.K.
I wonder how he likes getting dressed every day.
As for my sister she's a Hollywood star!
She's in T.V. commercials, smoking cigars.
I wish we could all be together again,
Though I'll never know the where or the when.
When you buy your ticket for the circus this year:
Remember the suffering that landed me here.
When you watch us sometime on T.V. or the
movies
While you wait for the cure to the latest disease
Don't forget how my mother was taken away
And that man was responsible for that horrible day.
They say that my DNA is the closest to man
Is being guinea pig a part of the plan?
I never was meant to spend my life in a cage,
Tell the world that you care and show your outrage!
I'm asking mankind to hear my sad plea
In hopes that one day I may be free.

REMEMBERING JEROM – A CHIMPANZEE

by Rachel Weiss

Rachel Weiss took care of Jerom, the first laboratory chimpanzee to die of experimentally-induced human AIDS. Rachel now cares for retired research chimpanzees at a sanctuary in the USA and prepared this tribute to Jerom for the third anniversary of his death.

On February 13, 1996 Jerom Chimpanzee died of AIDS at the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. From the age of two he lived in biocontainment, interacting with only one or two other chimpanzees, and rarely catching a glimpse of the sun. He suffered mentally and physically throughout his battle with AIDS. More chimpanzees, at Yerkes and elsewhere, have been experimentally infected with the virus which killed Jerom.

I ask you, on the anniversary of the first chimpanzee AIDS death, to give a mo-

ment of thought for these individuals whose lives have been usurped to fight this war. Why am I asking that you consider mere lab animals? Because chimpanzees are different from all other lab animals.

We all recognize the paradox of using Great Apes in invasive research. I'm asking that you take this moment, if you haven't recently considered the implications of this paradox, to consider that these apes suffer from the isolation of biocontainment and single housing, and from the rigors of illness and medical

monitoring which often characterize laboratory life. Please give these chimpanzees at least a brief moment of your time.

If you are in favor of invasive research on chimpanzees, spend this moment in thanks and gratitude. Consider the supreme sacrifice we require of these apes. Be grateful for these living test-tubes, and never take for granted what has been taken from individuals of their species in order that individuals of our species can live better. Find some way in which to repay them for their service.

If you are opposed to biomedical stud-

ies on chimpanzees, spend this moment thinking of a way, however seemingly small, in which you can better the lives of these chimpanzees, and then follow thought with action. Bleak living conditions, isolation, and a routine of needles and medical procedures are not a pleasant way for a chimpanzee to spend his or her entire life.

I was with Jerom for his last six months. I was his caretaker, his nurse, his friend, and watched his decline just as I have watched human friends die of AIDS. My life has been profoundly affected by my work with Jerom and the other chimpanzees he lived with.

I write for Jerom because I was his witness. He died in a cruel and unusual manner, and I think that people need to know, in order that research of this sort can come to a halt.

I write about Jerom because for me he has become a symbol of something greater, and while I harbor private memories and an endless grief for the son/

brother/patient I lost, I am filled with a sense of disgust which grows and will not be silent when I hear of the latest cruelties committed in the name of humanity and in the name of Science.

Jerom represents 200 chimpanzees in biocontainment in HIV studies. He represents the babies taken from mothers' breasts, poked with needles, and given experimental vaccines. Jerom represents countless individuals taken from social groups in labs to live alone in a tiny cage while malaria or hepatitis experiments are performed on their blood.

He represents the quandary of the biomedical researcher, who is somewhere deep inside so conflicted by the immorality of this business that he or she never once sets eyes on his or her research subject.

Now Jerom also represents the wild chimpanzees who sleep in trees in West Africa, and who unknowingly face the prospect of being chased, darted, and having blood drawn in pursuit of SIVcpz—a

sort of Holy Grail. And above all else, Jerom represents the fear, desperation and vanity of the human species, which refuses to look beyond itself and covets everything in sight for its own ends.

Although the 200 HIV/AIDS project chimpanzees in labs across the US are never mentioned in the media, these individuals do exist, and no matter which opinion you hold, they deserve a moment of your time, your sympathy, or your energy. If nothing else, they have earned at least that much.

Twelve of these individuals who live in biocontainment at Yerkes—Betsie, Joye, Arctica, Jonah, Mark, Roberta, Hallie, Tika and Manual, Nathan, Sarah and Buster who are living in isolation—await the same fate as Jerom, who died at the young age of 14, and who never once was allowed the pleasure of sitting amidst the leaves of a tree.

This tribute is also dedicated to the memory of Denise Shuler, who once loved a chimpanzee named Ada.

THE 1999 PRIMATE FREEDOM TOUR

The 1999 "Primate Freedom Tour" is a caravan that will travel across the United States to protest and work to end the use of non-human primates in biomedical and scientific experimentation.

Stopping at the seven regional primate research centers along with at least fourteen other facilities that exploit and profit from innocent monkeys and apes, the 1999 tour will consist of educational activities including teach-ins, vigils, rallies and protests.

The goal of the 1999 Primate Freedom Tour is to create a national dialogue on the use of primates in experimentation and to place an immense amount of pressure on the research industry to completely halt primate experimentation.

CATCH THE BUS! JUNE 1 – SEPTEMBER 4, 1999

* June 1-4: Washington Regional Primate Research Center, Seattle, Washington

* June 6-9 Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, Beaverton, Oregon

* June 11-14 California Regional Pri-

mate Research Center, Davis, California

* June 17-19 Primate Foundation of Arizona, Mesa, Arizona

* June 22-25 Coulston Foundation, Alamogordo, New Mexico

* June 28-July 1, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, Texas

* July 3-4 University of Texas, Bastrop, Texas

* July 7-10 University of Southwestern Louisiana's New Iberia Research Center, New Iberia, Louisiana

* July 12-15 Tulane Regional Primate Research Center, Covington, Louisiana

* July 18-19 National Center for Toxicological Research, Jefferson, Arkansas

* July 21-22 Squirrel Monkey Breeding and Research Resource, Mobile, Alabama

* July 24-27 Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center, Atlanta, Georgia

* July 29-1 July, LABS of Virginia, South Carolina, Yemassee, South Carolina

* August 4-5, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

* Aug. 7-10 Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Madison, Wisconsin

* Aug. 12-13 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

* Aug. 16-17 Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

* Aug. 20-23 New England Regional Primate Research Center, Southborough, Massachusetts

* Aug. 26-27 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

* Aug. 29-30 Poolesville NIH Center, Poolesville, Maryland

* Aug. 31-September 4, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

Contact the Coalition to End Primate Experimentation (CEPE) if you are interested in getting involved with the 1999 Primate Freedom Tour. For more information check CEPE's web site, which is located at:

<http://www.enviroweb.org/cepe/>

Address: Coalition to End Primate Experimentation (CEPE), P.O. Box 34293, Washington, D.C. 20043

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS INVESTIGATES ZOO DEALS

Linda Goldston, an investigative reporter with the **San Jose Mercury News**, spent two years investigating the ways in which US zoos dispose of surplus animals. Goldston alleged that:

Animals once admired at dozens of the country's major zoos are sold or given away to dealers, contributing to a multi-billion-dollar-a-year exotic species marketplace where they can be resold, auctioned off to the highest bidder or advertised to the public in specialty magazines.

According to Goldston, some of these animals, including endangered or threatened species, end up as backyard pets or in roadside zoos or private collections. Others are shot on fenced hunting ranches, of which there are many in the state of Texas.

According to Sydney Butler, Executive Director of the American Zoo Association (AZA), AZA zoos do not contribute to the exotic animal trade and the association has had strict guidelines on disposal of surplus wildlife since the early 1990s when regulations were tightened after negative publicity.

In order to determine what was going on, Goldston and database editor Jennifer LaFleur created a computer database of transactions and found that thousands of animals were traded annually by zoos.

Many of the dealers who obtain animals from zoos, especially primates, breed them to produce offspring for trade. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires those engaged in dealing in animals to register as either Class A (primarily breeder) or Class B (broker) dealers. Some dealers operate with Class C (exhibitor) licenses.

The **Mercury News** used federal and state open records laws to obtain transaction data from the secretive zoo International Species Information System (ISIS). 19,361 animals left the nation's zoos from 1992 to mid-1998.

Of these animals 7,420 (38%) went to:

Dealers, auctions, hunting ranches, unidentified individuals or unaccredited zoos or game farms

whose owners actively buy or sell animals.

The majority of these transactions (involving 5,200 animals) were zoo-dealer moves.

Unfortunately tracking animals once they fall into dealers' hands is almost impossible. This gives the zoos the opportunity to deny that any harm comes to them.

Butler admitted to Goldston:

There is no way for an animal to be tracked beyond the initial sale, and there is no way the AZA or anybody could be held accountable for offspring down the road.

Several zoos claim they use dealers only as transporters of animals, and that they know where the animals are really going. For some reason the final recipient is not listed in the database. Therefore Goldston's efforts to check the location of many animals were met with frustration.

Officials of San Diego Zoo said that providing such information would "violate the privacy" of the recipients.

The director of animal management at the Oklahoma City Zoo said all buyers of animals had to sign a form that the animals would not be disposed of improperly,

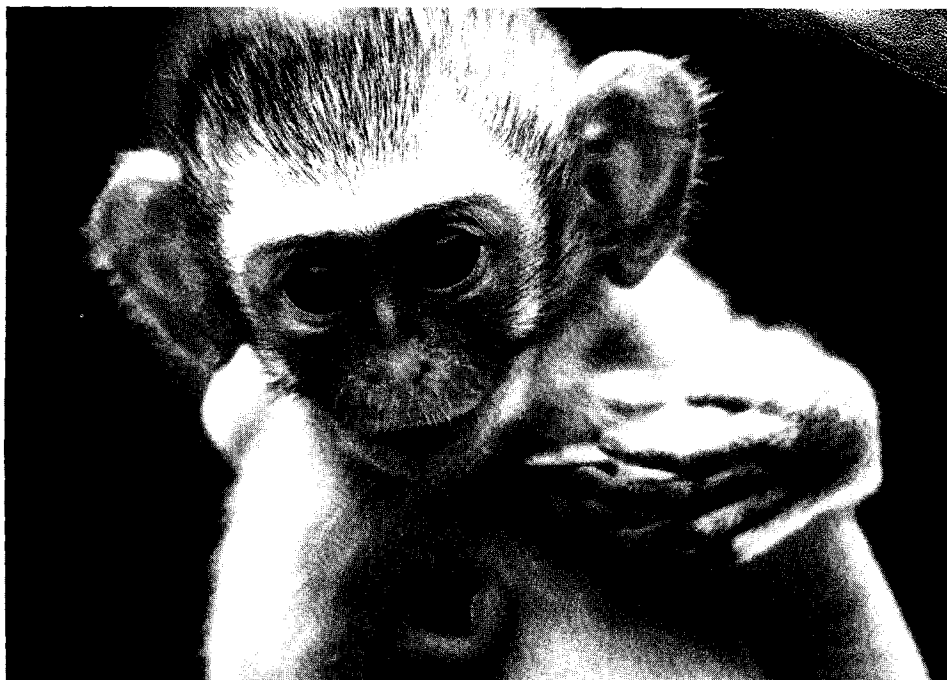
but admitted that no follow-up was done. Cincinnati Zoo even refused to provide Goldston with a copy of its "transaction" form.

Studbooks of the North American population of some rare species are maintained. Many animals are lost track of, including over 600 giraffes since 1970. Giraffe studbook keeper Laurie Bingaman Lackey refused to be interviewed by the **Mercury News**.

Goldston learned that the San Antonio Zoo has four game ranch owners on its Board of Directors. Zoo director Stephen McCusker angrily defended the presence of game ranchers on the board, but refused to name them. However he admitted that board members are allowed to buy zoo surplus animals.

There are thousands of primates now in the pet trade. Inspection of the zoo database shows that many zoos may be feeding this trade by selling their surplus stock to animal dealers. Some zoo directors say in their defense that the dealers keep the animals from their zoo in their private collections and will neither sell them or breed them for trade.

There is such a glut of big cats and bears on the market that many may end up getting killed to be mounted or sold to restaurants or, in the case of bears, sold



Baby vervet monkey

to suppliers of Asian traditional medicinal products or gourmet foods.

Kevin Adams, head of the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, told Goldston that:

We always hear about the industry, the zoos and every place else self-regulating. Well, that would clean it up. But it isn't going to happen.

Terry Maple, head of Zoo Atlanta and currently President of the AZA, commented that action was needed. The database shows that Zoo Atlanta sent two Mona monkeys to animal dealer Robert Crowe at some time during the period covered by the database. As of 1 April IPPL's request for further information about this deal has not been answered by zoo director Terry Maple.

Cheryl Asa, head of the AZA's Contraception Advisory Committee, told the **Mercury News** that the problem was partly caused by the public's craving to see baby animals. This was confirmed by Thomas Garlock, Director of the Buffalo

Zoo, a major supplier of surplus animals to non-AZA parties, who said that:

Sometimes we do breed for babies. It is incredibly popular with the public when we have baby Polar bears.

According to Goldston, most zoo transactions are legal. But a few are dubious. The **Mercury News** reported:

In Alabama, officials at the Birmingham Zoo, an AZA-accredited institution, claimed that nearly 20 spider monkeys—most only one or two years old—died on the same day on September 27, 1989. Animal transaction records and interviews showed some of those "dead" monkeys were sold by Birmingham to dealer Ed Novack of New York, who then sold them to Burton Sipp, owner of a private zoo and pet store in New Jersey. Sipp also acknowledged receiving spider monkeys via Novack around the same time.

The current director of the Birmingham Zoo told Goldston that the problem started

when animal records were computerized and it was decided that, since there were no records:

We're just going to put all of the deaths on the same day, 27 September 1989. It was a matter of clerical ease.

Listing animals that have been sold to dealers as dead is one way zoo administrators can prevent sales to dealers becoming public knowledge and is one reason why the database probably shows only the tip of the iceberg of back-door zoo transactions.

Many zoos are private and subject to no laws such as state and federal Freedom of Information Acts. The one zoo subject to the US Freedom of Information Act, the National Zoo in Washington DC, was involved in hardly any dubious transactions.

The Director of Little Rock Zoo, who resigned in May 1998, sold animals directly to Bob Brackett's "Little Ponderosa Animal Auction" in Illinois for two decades.

ZOOS INVOLVED IN QUESTIONABLE TRANSACTIONS

The San Jose **Mercury News** prepared a table showing which zoos "had the highest percentage of sold, traded, loaned or donated surplus animals that went to dealers, auctions, game or hunting ranches, unidentified private individuals or unaccredited zoos whose owners deal heavily in the exotic-animal trade."

The period covered was 1992 to mid-98. The list below shows the name of the zoo, the number of animals it placed into questionable homes and the percentage of disposals such placements represented.

Mesker Park, Evansville, Indiana 87% of 253 animals
Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield, Illinois, 80% of 140 animals
Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester, NY, 80% of 128 animals
San Diego Wild Animal Park, California, 79% of 1,455 animals
Wildlife Safari, Winston, Oregon, 78% of 364 animals
Hogle Park Zoo, Utah, 78% of 364 animals
Buffalo Zoo, New York, 74% of 760 animals
Albuquerque Zoo, New Mexico, 71% of 224 animals
Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana, 64% of 357 animals
Fort Worth Zoo, Texas, 62% of 321 animals
Little Rock Zoo, Arkansas, 62% of 276 animals
Montgomery Zoo, Alabama, 60% of 186 animals
Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Kansas, 48% of 234 animals
The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 48% of 149 animals
Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma, 44% of 204 animals
Denver Zoological Gardens, Colorado, 40% of 278 animals
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Texas, 39% of 361 animals
Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas, 37% of 211 animals
Cleveland Zoo, Ohio, 36% of 341 animals

Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, Nebraska, 35% of 186 animals
Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona, 34% of 317 animals
San Diego Zoo, California, 33% of 1,063 animals
San Antonio Zoo, Texas, 32% of 315 animals
Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio, 22% of 489 animals

At the low end of the scale were:

National Zoo Conservation Center, Washington DC, 0% of 882 animals
National Zoological Park, Washington DC, 3% of 193 animals
Detroit Zoo, Michigan, 3% of 119 animals
Audubon Park Zoo, Louisiana, 4% of 77 animals
Milwaukee County Zoo, Wisconsin, 8% of 249 animals
Lincoln Park Zoo, Illinois, 6% of 318 animals
Dallas Zoo, Texas, 8% of 130 animals
Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, Washington, 9% of 204 animals
Wildlife Conservation Society (Bronx Zoo), 11% of 362 animals

DEALERS RECEIVING ZOO SURPLUS PRIMATES

The following animal dealers were recipients of zoo primates. Unfortunately there is no way for zoos or anyone else to track most animals once they reach dealers' premises. Many dealers hold hundreds of animals at any given time.

Zoos may claim that all the animals originating from their zoo are fine and protected by paper agreements, and it is very hard to prove or disprove any such claims, **except that common sense tells one that animal dealers are in business to make money off animals by selling them.**

In the case of endangered species, dealers can legally, among various options, 1) keep them, and maybe breed them to produce babies for trade, 2) donate them to anybody in the United States or 3) sell them within their home state to anyone, and 4) sell them between states to any organization owning a US Fish and Wildlife Service captive wildlife permit.

These captive wildlife permits are easily obtainable by animal dealers who can then bring in animals from an out-of-state dealer and legally sell them within

their state to anybody. **Essentially this makes the clause of the Endangered Species Act barring interstate commerce in endangered wildlife inoperative and a joke.**

In one case known to IPPL, an American Zoo Association accredited zoo in Texas sent two gibbons, members of an endangered species, to a South Carolina dealer holding a captive wildlife permit.

The dealer who brought them into South Carolina did not keep the gibbons: he legally placed them in a deplorable roadside zoo. IPPL uncovered this disgraceful deal when our Chairwoman visited the menagerie, saw the two gibbons, one looking desperately sick, and did a trace-back.

Some animal "donations" may also be a sham, with the dealer donating the animal belonging to an endangered species to a recipient and getting paid high fees for another, cheaper animal. **There is no way for such dubious dealings to be monitored. The law is so full of loopholes that anyone can get almost any endangered species—a comment frequently found on**

Internet exotic pet chat lists.

IPPL does not know the ultimate fate of the animals sent to the dealers listed below. All were received from AZA-accredited zoos.

Some of the zoos IPPL contacted stated that they have an agreement with the dealer in question that the animal will not be harmed. Some state that the dealer maintains a personal collection as well as dealing, into which the zoo's animals have been placed. Some state that the receiving dealer is a man of high integrity who could be trusted not to breed primates and "pull" their babies for the pet trade, or send animals to hunting ranches, etc.

Endangered species are identified in bold type. Some species such as chimpanzees, Celebes macaques and Japanese macaques are "split-listed" on the US Endangered Species List and can be traded interstate without permits.

Some of the recipients have A or B licenses (dealing) and some have C licenses (exhibitors). Many trade primarily in hoofed stock, some of which undoubtedly ends up at hunting ranches.

ZOO-DEALER TRANSACTIONS

Bob Brackett of Bob Brackett, Little Ponderosa Animal Farm and Auction, Illinois, exhibitor's license 33-C-0057, but also deals in animals

3 white-throated capuchins from Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Indiana

2 Schmidt's monkeys from Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Indiana

1 colobus monkey from Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Indiana

1 tufted capuchin from Little Rock Zoo, Arkansas

3 lion tailed macaques from Mesker Park Zoo, Evansville, Indiana

2 colobus monkey from Mesker Park Zoo, Indiana

1 squirrel monkey from Mesker Park Zoo, Indiana

John Chatfield, Texas, dealer's license 74-A-1075

3 ring-tailed lemurs from Honolulu Zoo, Hawaii

13 ruffed lemurs from Mesker Park Zoo, Indiana

6 ring-tailed lemurs from Mesker Park Zoo, Indiana

5 pygmy marmosets from Mesker Park Zoo, Indiana

2 colobus monkeys from Mesker Park Zoo, Indiana

1 ring-tailed lemur from Metro Washington Park Zoo, Portland, Oregon

1 ring-tailed lemur from The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida

Ed Novack Animal Exchange, New York, dealer's license 21-B-0013

2 colobus monkeys from Albuquerque Zoo, New Mexico

7 "grey-legged douroucoulis" (probably owl monkeys) from Buffalo Zoo

2 Senegal bushbabies from Buffalo Zoo, New York

2 Geoffroy's tamarins from Buffalo Zoo, New York

1 spider monkey from Buffalo Zoo, New York

1 mandrill from Buffalo Zoo, New York

2 hamadryas baboons from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio

1 colobus monkey from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio



Young baboon



Ring-tailed lemur

2 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Fort Worth Zoo, Texas
2 spider monkeys from Salisbury Zoo, Maryland

Debbie Kolwyck, pet monkey dealer, Missouri, dealer's license 43-B-0118 and USFWS captive wildlife registration

2 **Allen's swamp monkeys** from San Diego Zoo, California
1 **ring-tailed lemur** from San Diego Zoo, California
1 **agile mangabey** from San Diego Zoo, California

Buddy Jordan, Texas, dealer's license 74-B-0084, also has US captive wildlife registration

1 gibbon from Silver Springs, Florida
3 **ruffed lemurs** from Busch Gardens, Tampa, Florida
2 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Busch Gardens, Tampa, Florida
1 **white-handed gibbon** from Cameron Park, Waco, Texas
2 spider monkeys from Central Florida Zoological Park, Florida
3 **white-handed gibbons** from Fort Worth Zoo, Texas
5 **white-handed gibbons** from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas
3 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas
1 **black spider monkey** from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas
1 **siamang** from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana
1 **Diana monkey** from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana

2 "black apes" (**Celebes macaques?**) from Jacksonville Zoo, Florida
2 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Jacksonville Zoo, Florida
2 **ruffed lemurs** from Jacksonville Zoo, Florida
1 **siamang** from Jacksonville Zoo, Florida
8 "black apes" (**Celebes macaques**) from Los Angeles Zoo, California
1 spider monkey from Los Angeles Zoo, California
1 De Brazza's monkey from Los Angeles Zoo, California
1 **ring-tailed lemur** from Memphis Zoo, Tennessee
1 colobus monkey from Montgomery Zoo, Alabama
1 squirrel monkey from Montgomery Zoo, Alabama
1 **siamang** from Riverbanks Zoo, South Carolina
1 colobus monkey from San Antonio Zoo, Texas
4 **cotton-top tamarins** from The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida
1 De Brazza's monkey from The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida
1 red-handed tamarin from The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida
1 weeper capuchin from Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona
1 **white-handed gibbon** from Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona
(Jordan also received two **chimpanzees** confiscated by the California Fish and Game Department)

Len Bohn, Minnesota, exhibitor's license 41-C-0056, but also deals in animals

2 **Japanese macaques** from Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio
1 pygmy marmoset from Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio
3 pale-headed sakis from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio
2 **black howler monkeys** from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio
1 **brown headed spider monkey** from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio
6 purple faced langurs from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana
3 **chimpanzees** from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana (later sold to dealer Sheri Roche)
2 black handed spider monkeys from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana
2 white-nose guenons from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana
1 **mandrill** from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana
1 Senegal bushbaby from Lake Superior Zoo, Duluth, Wisconsin
1 colobus monkey from Montgomery Zoo, Alabama
1 De Brazza's monkey from Omaha Zoo,

Nebraska
2 black handed spider monkeys from Taupthaus Park Zoo, Idaho

Jim Fouts, dealer's license 48-B-0046, operator of Tanganyika Wildlife, frequent advertiser in exotic animal dealers' publication "Animal Finders Guide"

6 colobus monkeys from Caldwell Zoo, Tyler, Texas
2 squirrel monkeys from Caldwell Zoo, Texas
4 common marmosets from Columbus Zoo, Ohio
3 hooded capuchins from Denver Zoo, Colorado
2 **cotton-headed tamarins** (cottonop?) from Denver Zoo, Colorado
2 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Denver Zoo, Colorado
4 red-handed tamarins from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas
6 colobus monkeys from Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma
9 white-throated capuchins from Phoenix Zoo, Arizona
3 tufted capuchins from Riverside Zoo, Nebraska
3 red-handed tamarins from Riverside Zoo, Nebraska
2 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot, North Dakota
1 **black spider monkey** from Roosevelt Park Zoo, North Dakota
3 **brown-headed spider monkeys** from Sequoia Park Zoo, Eureka, California
4 **ruffed lemurs** from Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona
1 **cotton-headed tamarin** from Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona

Zoological Animal Exchange, Virginia, dealer's license 52-B-0041, frequent advertiser on the Animal Finders' Guide

3 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Akron Zoo, Ohio
4 red-handed tamarins from Bergen County Zoo, New Jersey
1 spider monkey from Bergen Park Zoo, New Jersey
6 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Vilas Park Zoo, Madison, Wisconsin
5 spider monkeys from Vilas Park Zoo, Madison, Wisconsin
3 squirrel monkeys from Vilas Park Zoo, Madison, Wisconsin
3 Schmidt's monkeys from Vilas Park Zoo, Madison, Wisconsin
2 colobus monkeys from Vilas Park Zoo, Madison, Wisconsin
2 pygmy marmosets from Jacksonville Zoo,

Florida

2 brown capuchins from Santa Ana Zoo, California

1 pygmy marmoset from Santa Ana Zoo, California

1 owl monkey from Virginia Zoological Park, Norfolk, Virginia

International Animal Exchange, Michigan, dealer's license 34-B-0004.

This huge company is an AZA associate member and operates worldwide. It has supplied Taipei Zoo, Taiwan, Grand Park Zoo, South Korea, and many overseas zoos. IPPL receives regular complaints about many overseas zoos.

1 **siamang** from Burnet Park Zoo, Syracuse, New York

5 hamadryas baboons from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio

2 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio

2 **mandrills** from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio

4 squirrel monkeys from Fort Worth Zoo, Texas

2 pale-headed sakis from Fort Worth Zoo, Texas

1 **mandrill** from Fort Worth Zoo, Texas

3 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas

1 **black spider monkey** from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas

1 **ring-tailed lemur** from Gladys Porter Zoo, Texas

2 **white-handed gibbons** from Baton Rouge Zoo, Louisiana (sent to South Korea)

6 Patas monkeys from Honolulu Zoo, Hawaii

3 colobus monkeys from Memphis Zoo, Tennessee

16 colobus monkeys from Miami Metrozoo, Florida

1 colobus monkey from Montgomery Zoo

8 white-fronted marmosets from Philadelphia Zoo, Pennsylvania

1 variegated spider monkey from San Diego Zoo, California

1 De Brazza's monkey from St. Pauls Como Zoo, Minnesota

7 Sykes monkeys from Toledo Zoo, Ohio

3 Schmidt's monkeys from Hogle Zoo, Utah

Bob Troumbly, license status unknown to IPPL, prosecuted on criminal wildlife charges in 1991

2 red handed tamarins from Bramble Park Zoo, Watertown, South Dakota

11 squirrel monkeys from Central Florida Park Zoo, Florida

2 colobus monkeys from Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado

26 rhesus macaques from Cleveland Zoo, Ohio



Common marmosets

2 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Great Plains Zoo, South Dakota

1 red-handed tamarin from Great Plains Zoo, South Dakota

1 spot-nose guenon from Lake Superior Zoo, Minnesota

2 common marmosets from Little Rock Zoo, Arkansas

2 Senegal bushbabies from Little Rock Zoo, Arkansas

1 tufted capuchin monkey from Little Rock Zoo, Arkansas

1 squirrel monkey from Montgomery Zoo, Alabama

1 colobus monkey from Montgomery Zoo, Alabama

6 **Japanese macaques** from Omaha Zoo, Nebraska

6 **black-handed spider monkeys** from Omaha Zoo, Nebraska

3 black apes (**Celebes macaques**) from Omaha Zoo, Nebraska

2 **brown-headed spider monkeys** from Omaha Zoo, Nebraska

1 colobus monkey from Omaha Zoo, Nebraska

1 red handed tamarin from Omaha Zoo, Nebraska

2 pygmy marmosets from Point Defiance Zoo, Tacoma, Washington

Antonio Alentado, Florida, license 58-B-0110, charged with wildlife offenses in 1991, with Troumbly and others

3 black and white colobus monkeys from Miami Metrozoo, Florida

1 **Diana monkey** from Palm Beach Zoo, Florida

1 white-throated capuchin from Palm Beach Zoo, Florida

6 **lesser mouse lemurs** from San Diego Zoo, California

1 Diana Monkey from The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Florida

2 weeper capuchins from Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona

1 common marmoset from Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Arizona

Jurgen Schulz, New York, license 21-B-0233

2 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester, New York

2 colobus monkeys from Topeka Zoo, Kansas

Bob Crowe, Ashby Acres, Florida 58-B-0142

4 **Japanese macaques** from Milwaukee Zoo, Wisconsin

9 **Japanese macaques** from Pittsburgh Zoo, Pennsylvania

2 **stump-tailed macaques** from Racine Zoo, Wisconsin

2 **ring-tailed lemurs** from Racine Zoo, Wisconsin

6 **Japanese macaques** from Burnet Park Zoo, Syracuse, New York

1 **siamang** from Burnet Park Zoo, Syracuse, New York

2 **Goeldi's monkeys** from Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio

1 white-throated capuchin from Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Indiana

Larry Johnson, Texas, animal dealer

2 **siamangs** from San Diego Zoo, California

1 Pale-headed saki from San Diego Zoo, California

6 **ring-tailed lemurs** from San Diego Wild Animal Park, California

1 **siamang** from Chaffee Zoo, Fresno, California

HOW TO USE THE SAN JOSE MERCURY DATABASE

To use this database to find out about any zoo's animal disposal activities, locate the web site:

<http://www.mercurycenter.com/nation/zoo/>

You can select from many parameters such as institution, city, state, recipient, and animal type. Here's a useful hint: sometimes zoos are known by names not generally known to the public. If you can't find your local zoo's name, just use the "city" parameter.

It is also best to use just the last name of the dealer (e.g. Novack, Troumbly).

EXOTIC ANIMAL AUCTIONS

Reporter Linda Goldston visited the Lolli Brothers Livestock Market in Macon, Missouri. Lolli's holds four auctions a year. There are dozens of other auctions around the nation. All or most now have policies banning cameras.

The auction was held in a barn crammed with animals—including "baby monkeys, baby African lions,

baby mountain lions, baby buffaloes, baby deer."

A baby spider monkey was sold for \$2,200. According to the auctioneer, it was "just pulled from its mother two days ago and hasn't really been handled yet."

An 11 month old female rhesus macaque was withdrawn from sale after nobody bid the requested \$2,500. Ac-

cording to the auctioneer, the monkey was "great with adults but not real good with little bitty children."

A frantic 7 year old pigtail macaque named Elvis had been on display at Tasmanian Farms Wildlife Park in Southern Indiana, and was being sold, according to the park owner, "to make room for some rhesus monkeys that were coming in—we want \$800 to \$1,000."

PRIMATES LEAVING ZOOS FOR NON-AZA INSTITUTIONS

Most of the primates leaving zoos for non-zoo homes went to animal dealers. If not directly sold, they may be used as breeders to "pull" babies for sale as pets. Colobus monkeys and gibbons are extremely fragile and it is appalling that they may be entering the pet trade.

Lemurs, 102 (endangered species)

Tamarins, 90 (some species endangered)

Marmosets, 52

Spider monkeys, 86

Japanese macaques, 48 (threatened species)

Celebes macaques, 38 (threatened species)

Other macaques, 61

Capuchin monkeys, 49

Gibbons, 29 (endangered species)

Colobus monkeys, 70

Baboons, 36

Squirrel monkeys, 29

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Local citizens should monitor the activities of their local zoos. Contact your zoo director and ask him/her how many animals were disposed of in the past year(s). Ask him where the animals went and where they are now. Request that the zoo adopt a policy of performing vasectomies or tubal ligations or some form of birth control to prevent births of surplus animals and not to release fertile primates from the facility.

If your local zoo is among those listed as disposing of large numbers of animals to questionable sources, contact the zoo director to express your concern. Emphasize that animals should never be sent to animal dealers who may sell them to hunting ranches or breed them for the exotic pet trade, or who may export them to foreign countries where follow-up is difficult and where conditions for captive animals are often deplorable.

Please contact the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to express your concern at how easy it is for endangered species to move from zoos to animal dealers. Request that the San Jose Mercury findings be carefully studied by the Division of Law Enforcement and that any party that has violated the Endangered Species Act be prosecuted. Request also that the regulations be tightened up so that moving endangered animals interstate for commercial purposes not be so easy.

Ms Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington DC 20240, USA

UK NEWS UK NEWS UK NEWS UK NEWS

IPPL Welcomes Stephen Brend

The UK Office says goodbye to Cyril Rosen, our UK representative for the past 23 years, and HELLO to Stephen Brend, who is taking over most of Cyril's IPPL work. Cyril is retiring so that he can spend more time at home with his wife. He will be coming into the office regularly, however, to help out and pass on his knowledge of primates. Cyril is looking forward to a bright future for IPPL-UK, with the handing over of the office into Stephen's capable hands.

Stephen has just returned from the Middle East, where he spent three years in Oman as Project Biologist for the Arabian Oryx Re-introduction Programme. Having spent his time chasing poachers (just one of the many aspects of the job), Stephen is getting used to city life in London and travelling on the tube (known as subway in the USA or Metro in France).

A zoologist by training, Stephen has first hand experience working with primates, having volunteered for IPPL in a UK primate sanctuary and with **Pandillus** in Nigeria. As primates are his favourite animals, Stephen is glad to be back working with them and IPPL. His only worry is that Cyril will be a very hard act to follow!

Chimps Given the Secure Future They Deserve

Pencynor Wildlife Park in Wales, where a chimpanzee called Neusi and six of her companions entertained the general public for years, closed down in November 1998, apparently because of financial difficulties. The chimps faced a grim future.

In the past these chimps have been moved around from place to place. One of them, Jeremy, came from a research lab. Now, they were in danger of being destroyed.

IPPL heard of their plight and stepped in. Jan and Graham Garen, with help and

support from IPPL, have been able to offer the chimps a new home in their animal sanctuary. But funds were needed for the construction of a suitable enclosure on site before the chimps could be moved. Pencynor set a deadline, by which time the chimps had to be gone. The race was on.

IPPL sent out an appeal to our UK supporters. The response was fantastic. On 22 February the chimps were moved. They took to their new home immediately.

Winnie and Jeremy, the elders of the group, sit back contentedly as the younger ones play. Fergus, the youngest male, tries to bully the three females, Neusi, Susi and Vicki, but he is soon put back in his place by Twmi, his older brother. They all love the ropes donated by IPPL. Now, they are a happy and settled group. Jan, Graham and IPPL want them to stay that way.

Funds are still needed to complete and expand their outside enclosure. After all, we want the best possible accommodation for them and seven chimps need a lot of accommodating!

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who have helped so far, particularly the Garens. We also thank Mayvene Bell (tireless as always), Simon Adams for his help with the veterinary work, the men of the British Army's Royal Engineers who helped move parts of the old enclosure, and our supporters who contributed so generously.

HIV Research in Netherlands

Early last year, the Biomedical Primate Research Centre (BPRC) in the Netherlands advertised their chimps for use as research models for HIV vaccine development. BPRC wanted to improve their image by having ongoing research to present to the Dutch Government before the Government reviewed future funding.

Clearly, the review would influence what BPRC did with its chimps. The

funding review was originally planned for October 1998 but relentless campaigning by IPPL and other groups swayed the Government and the review was postponed.

International and national policies of many nations accept that for conservation, ethical and welfare reasons the great apes should not normally be used for intrusive research.

Whilst IPPL would like to see those policies cover all primates, in the present case the argument is even stronger. Scientific evidence suggests that chimps are poor models for HIV/AIDS research.

The latest findings concerning SIV(cpz) (Simian Immunodeficiency Virus, Chimpanzee) support this. Many scientists have concluded that attempting to find a vaccine through the use of chimps is a waste of time and money, not to mention lives.

Petitions continue to be sent to the Dutch Prime Minister asking him to consider the validity of the work being undertaken by BPRC. A number of organisations are prepared to help with the retirement of these chimps. So far, there has been no response from the Dutch Government.

It is believed that a meeting of the evaluation committee will take place in spring 1999. As yet, we do not know who will be on the committee and what its terms of reference will be. IPPL is watching closely for any developments.

To prevent BPRC from pursuing invasive and destructive use of its chimps is our top priority.

CONTACTING IPPL-UK

IPPL-UK can be reached at **116 Judd Street, London WC1H9NS, England.** The office phone is **44-171-833-0661.** The fax number is **44-171-278-3317.** The office will soon have e-mail.



US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS SPEAK OUT!

Sixty-one percent of law enforcement agents employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service responded to a survey conducted by the US-based organization Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). Wildlife agents reported serious problems—ranging from obstruction of justice by agency managers and political interference with agency decision-making.

IPPL has for over two decades tried to get the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to take cases of primate trafficking seriously. Many cases were dropped with no action taken. In other cases, such as the “Bangkok Six” orangutan smuggling case, it was very hard to shake the obvious agency inertia.

Among the PEER findings:

* More than half the responding agents reported first-hand experience of managers “interfering with an investigation in order to protect a prominent individual or powerful group.”

* 81% of the respondents said that agency “managers overseeing investigations often inject political considerations into what should be strictly law enforcement decisions.”

* 95% of the respondents agreed that expenditures and staffing are insufficient to meet the agency’s wildlife protection mission.

* More than 75% of the agents felt that “hunting groups exercise disproportionate influence” over agency decision-making.

* Only 5% of agents thought law enforcement is improving. 75% thought it is getting worse.

Justice Department statistics show that criminal referrals from the US Fish and Wildlife Service dropped by 52% between 1992 and 1996 and that prosecutions dropped by 43%.

One agent commented to PEER:

Increasingly we look the other way at violations as we realize nothing will be done by our supervisors.

Another commented:

Big cases, big problems. Little cases, little problems. No cases, no problems.

The survey showed deep alienation between US Fish and Wildlife Service agents and agency leaders. Over 60% of agents feared “job-related retaliation for raising concerns” about agency problems. Less than 10% stated that morale was “good.” **Surprisingly, more than half the agents thought that wildlife law enforcement should be removed entirely from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and transferred to another agency.**

Here are the agents’ responses to several of PEER’s questions.

*** Expenditures and staffing in the Law Enforcement program have kept pace with the growth in other Fish and Wildlife Service programs.**

0% strongly agree
0% agree
1% don’t know
20% disagree
79% strongly disagree

*** Expenditures and staffing in the Law Enforcement program have kept pace with the needs of wildlife protection.**

0% strongly agree
0% agree
2% don’t know
34% disagree
64% strongly disagree

*** The Law Enforcement program is sufficiently staffed to fulfill its wildlife protection mission.**

0% strongly agree
3% agree
2% don’t know
24% disagree
71% strongly disagree

*** I feel that Fish and Wildlife Service leadership adequately supports the Law Enforcement program.**

0% strongly agree
10% agree
13% don’t know
39% disagree
38% strongly disagree

*** Increasingly, Fish and Wildlife Service regional managers overseeing law enforcement operations lack field experience.**

37% strongly agree
43% agree
9% don’t know
10% disagree
1% strongly disagree

*** I have confidence in the leadership of law enforcement managers to whom I report.**

4% strongly agree
34% agree
8% don’t know
35% disagree
19% strongly disagree

*** I feel that my Law Enforcement management would back me up in a “tough case.”**

4% strongly agree
21% agree
28% don’t know
28% disagree
19% strongly disagree

*** I think that the Law Enforcement Division should be removed from the Fish and Wildlife Service and instead become part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a separate agency unto itself.**

51% yes
16% don’t know
33% no

*** In my experience, law enforcement managers have, for political reasons, interfered with an investigation in order to protect a prominent individual or a powerful group.**

52% yes
27% don’t know
21% no

*** Morale within the Law Enforcement Division is —**

0% excellent
9% good
27% fair
51% poor
13% extremely poor

*** Chief Kevin Adams is providing able leadership to the Law Enforcement Division.**

6% strongly agree
22% agree
40% don't know
18% disagree
14% strongly disagree

*** I fear job-related retaliation for raising concerns about the conduct of the Law Enforcement program.**

19% strongly agree
42% agree
18% don't know
18% disagree
3% strongly disagree

Agents Speak out!

Here are some of the individual agents' comments.

"Field agents are given suspensions from work for speaking out on the truth of the resource issues. Good agents are given poor performance reviews, isolated from assignments, force transferred, and other administrative sanctions are used by this current management. This division has gone from agents who believe in protecting the resource to agents protecting themselves. Law enforcement needs to be taken from the regions to a central or na-

tional supervision in its own division."

"Bringing the division together as one unit. Currently we are eight different regions administered eight different ways. We could again become the strong, productive, and influential world leader in wildlife law enforcement if we were a separate organization with a budget the American people would expect us to have!"

"Our technological branch, computer information system has been and still is a joke and almost completely ineffective, while more and more day to day administrative duties are placed upon the agents who, instead of buying office supplies and typing should be conducting investigations."

"I love my job and the personal rewards it brings. However, I despise the agency I work for. They see no benefit of law enforcement and make no effort to seek out the benefits of law enforcement."

"The current Regional Directorate has shown they will not support the agents when they are right in enforcing the law. They would rather punish the agent—when the agent has done nothing wrong—than face the political pressure put on by special interest groups and tell

them they must comply with the law. We no longer do law enforcement, but cater to special interest groups' desires."

"The political aspect of wildlife management is getting involved in the day to day work of the Special Agent. It is increasing the danger to agents as we attempt to enforce the law, but know that if anything goes wrong—we will have no support from above."

"Kevin Adams as Chief is a real problem. He caves in to political pressure, and sells the agents and resource out."

"It's a sad situation when the most advanced wildlife law enforcement agency in the world can't afford to put gas in vehicles or agents on the road."

"The Law Enforcement program is weak and lacks serious funding, field agents still borrow equipment from other agencies to follow through with investigations. Law Enforcement Offices need their own recording devices, tape recorders, video recorders, copy machines, night vision, GPS [global positioning] systems, undercover training, etc. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement needs management that is strictly law enforcement oriented all the way from first line supervisors to Washington, DC."

ADAMS DENIES INTERFERENCE IN BABY MONKEY CASE

Kevin Adams, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement, has denied that political considerations have led to the apparent inaction in the case of a series of shipments of monkeys from Indonesia that reached the United States in 1997.

A series of shipments of crab-eating macaques shipped by the Indonesian animal dealing firm Inquatex to the South Carolina firm LABS contained baby monkeys as young as 3-4 weeks old, in violation of US humane shipment regulations. Many of the monkeys were listed as "captive-bred" and 15-16 years old, before most of Indonesia's breeding facilities existed.

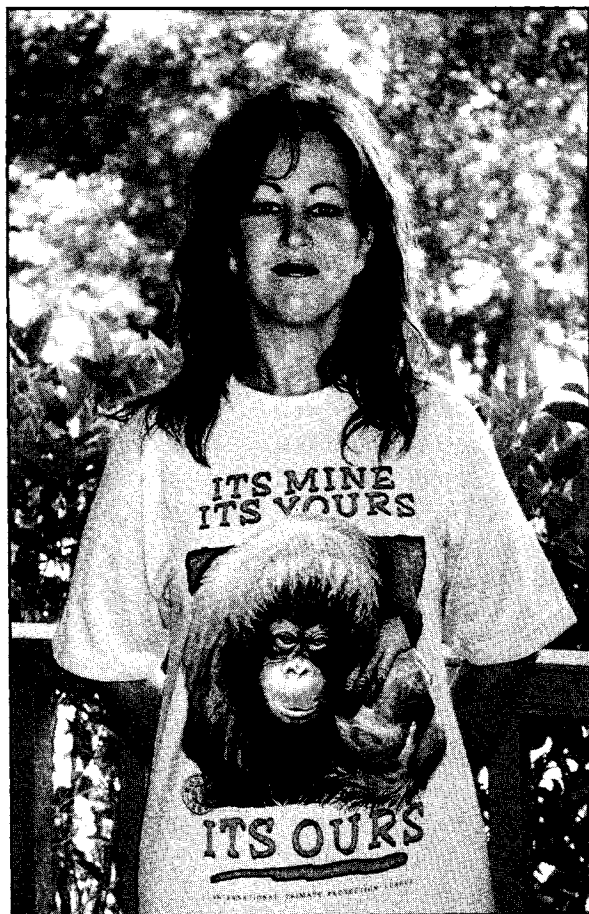
After reading the PEER report, IPPL contacted Adams to ask whether political considerations were interfering with the handling of the still unresolved "Baby Monkey" case.

Adams stated:

Have I "caved in" to...pressure and thwarted this investigation? No. There is no political pressure, the investigation is progressing, and we are meeting our responsibility to the resource and the public...Please be assured that our agents continue to pursue the investigation of the 1997 monkey shipments.

Frequently US Fish and Wildlife Service employees refer to wildlife as "the resource" as if all wildlife is here on earth for human benefit of some kind. IPPL is totally opposed to this concept. Animals are wonderful beings with whom we share this earth and who have every right to be here. In most cases, animals were on this earth long before humans were here—and are worse off since humans came on the scene!

GIFT ITEMS



Gorilla T: \$14
(\$17 overseas airmail)
XXL, XL, L, M
White only



6 Primate Species T: \$14
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Color: Linen

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

BRAND NEW STYLE!
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Overseas checks to be drawn on
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40% to prices.

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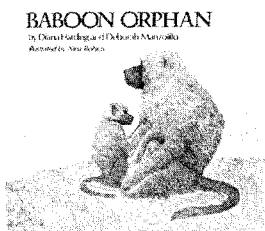
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Mail your order to: IPPL PO Box 766 Summerville, SC 29484 USA

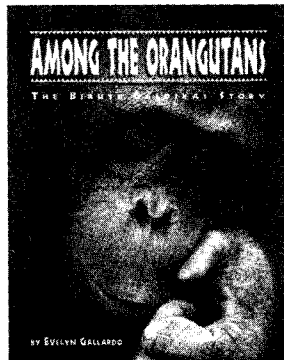


Chimp Sweat: \$25
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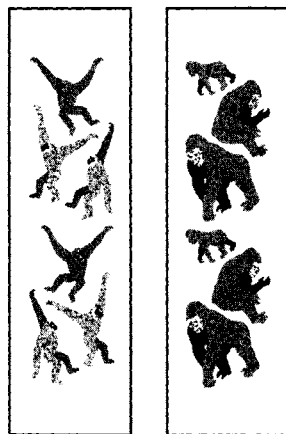
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 Hard cover: \$8
 Overseas: \$12



"Among the Orangutans"
 Soft cover: \$8
 Overseas: \$12



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WILDSIGHT VIDEO
 Starring Beanie and the
 IPPL gibbons
 \$19.95 US, \$24 overseas



**Lovely note cards featuring IPPL gibbons Beanie,
 Igor, Shanti with Michele, and Arun Rangsi**
 Artwork by Michele Winstanley
 12 for \$10 US, \$13 overseas

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IPPL can now take credit cards for both payment of membership dues and purchase of merchandise. We accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover cards. When making donations always provide us with the name of the company whose card you are using, the card number and the card's expiration date.

DONATIONS BY BANK DRAFT NOW AVAILABLE

IPPL members who prefer the safety and convenience of sending donations electronically may do so using a monthly bank draft. By following these steps, we can process your request:

1. Complete and detach the IPPL Funds Transfer Application form below
2. Enclose a voided check from the account you want debited
3. Enclose a photocopy of your driver's license (this is for your protection concerning verification of your signature)

IPPL Funds Transfer Application

(Please print or type)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Time Phone (_____) _____

I authorize the International Primate Protection League to initiate debit entries to my checking account below and the Bank named to debit my account.

Bank Name _____ Branch _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

My Account No. _____

Amount to be debited: \$ _____

Draft date: _____ 5th _____ 20th

Beginning: _____

I understand it is my responsibility to make certain that funds required are in the account on the date it is drafted. If not, there could be a fee charged for insufficient funds that may be deducted from my account. I also understand that this service will be continued each month on the same day until terminated by me; however, First Federal reserves the right to terminate this transaction if the account is insufficient three (3) times.

Signature _____ Date _____

NEW GIFT ITEMS

photography by **ART WOLFE**

THE AMAZING WORLD OF LEMURS, MONKEYS, AND APES

PRimates



Text by Barbara Sleeper

Foreword by Dr. Russell A. Mittermeier

GREAT PRIMATE BOOK!

Award-winning wildlife photographer Art Wolfe takes wonderful photos and Barbara Sleeper is a first-class writer. Together they created **Primates**—sub-titled **The Amazing World of Lemurs, Monkeys and Apes**. This book is a delight to read and suitable for people of all ages.

It contains hundreds of the most spectacular and colorful primate photos you'll ever see. The book costs \$20, plus \$4 shipping and handling (US), or \$10 (overseas). You can use your credit card to place your order. Contact **IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA**.

GIBBON PENDANTS

Ann Wilson, a well-known craftswoman and long-time friend of IPPL, makes lovely gibbon pendants by hand. Each ceramic pendant is made to order. The cost of the pendant is \$60 (US), plus \$5 shipping and handling for US orders (\$10 overseas). Ann will donate \$10 to IPPL for each pendant she makes. To order your's, write **Ann Wilson, 8360 Eckhert Road #14, San Antonio, TX 78240, USA**.



PRIMATE POSTER

Artist Jan Rogers has designed a 22" x 28" print of apes in colored pencil medium, with the message "Their Future is in our Hands" encircling the ape drawings. Signed and numbered prints cost \$55. For each poster sold, Jan will donate \$25 to IPPL. Contact Jan at **RR1, Box 106, Gatewood MO 63942-9709, USA**. Please mention IPPL. Packages will be insured.



ANOTHER SPECTACULAR INDONESIAN PRIMATE

The Javan leaf monkey is an endangered species that lives in the tropical rain forests of Indonesia. While its fur is normally black, a golden phase also occurs.

All leaf monkeys have long tails which fly out from behind as they make spectacular leaps from tree to tree.

In Indonesia the species is protected in the Gunung Halimun Reserve, which contains the largest area of primary rain forest left in Java.

from Barbara Sleeper
"The Primates"

Javan leaf monkey

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International Primate Protection League
P.O. Box 766
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