



IPPL

International  
Primate  
Protection  
League

Venus

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## Inside

- ♦ The doucs of Vietnam
- ♦ Hoolock gibbons in peril
- ♦ Help stop China's abuse of Guinea's chimpanzees



A mother and child  
hoolock gibbon in  
northeast Bangladesh ►



Photo © Sirajul Hossain

## A Letter from IPPL's Executive Director Shirley McGreal

I hope you and all your human and nonhuman friends will have a wonderful holiday season despite the difficult economic conditions so many of us face. As usual, I plan to stay at Headquarters in Summerville where I'll enjoy the company of IPPL's unique family of gibbons, dogs, and our three lively pairs of Asian short-clawed otters.

At IPPL Headquarters we are currently caring for 33 gibbons. During the year we added one elderly gibbon, Rosie, for end-of-life care. All other gibbons remain in good health. We received a visit from Dr. Michele Martino, who came to Summerville to check the gibbons' health and perform vasectomies.

Some of the highlights of the year 2010 were:

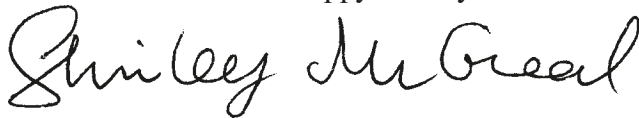
- 1) Holding our biennial international conference in Summerville in April. We assembled a wonderful roster of speakers from around the world who made excellent presentations and got a chance to mingle with each other and with our members.
- 2) Acquiring three acres of land directly behind Courtney and Whoop-Whoop's gibbon house. This gives us buffer space and room for expansion.
- 3) IPPL's UK branch developed and linked up with Bill Oddie of the Goodies, a legendary comedy trio. The group's hit, "The Funky Gibbon," was updated (more on that on page 10). Thanks to Bill for his great help with the "Save the Gibbon" campaign.

During 2010 IPPL continued to help several overseas activist groups and rescue centers. All these groups are on the front lines of battles to end the international traffic in apes and monkeys and to get wildlife criminals put where they belong—behind bars themselves, in prisons! Many also provide homes for primates rescued from the hands of animal dealers or cruel owners. All have educational programs to teach local people about our wonderful world and its wildlife.

There was one sour note: the biennial Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) was held in Doha, Qatar, in March. I attended this meeting with Helen Thirlway of IPPL (UK). The prevailing mood was strongly anti-animal, and we saw many rare species for sale in the souks. It was a relief to get home.

To all who supported our work this year, our sincere thanks.

With best wishes for a happy holiday season and a joyous 2011,



Shirley McGreal

P.S. Be sure to visit IPPL's Web site ([www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)) and join our new and improved e-mail list!



One bright side to attending an otherwise disappointing CITES conference was a chance to meet old friends, like Bourama Niagate, Mali's director of parks and natural reserves.





# *The Last Wild Hoolock Gibbons in Bangladesh*



Photo © Sirajul Hossain

*Sirajul Hossain, Bangladesh-based Conservation Author and Wildlife Photographer*

The town of Cherrapunji, in the state of Meghalaya, India, is said to be the wettest place on Earth. It is only 16 kilometers (10 miles) from the northeastern border of Bangladesh. The Meghalaya hills border Bangladesh to the northeast, and ranges of smaller hills continue from there through the eastern periphery of Bangladesh, through eastern India, and into Myanmar (Burma). The high quantities of monsoon rainfall on these hills produce a unique forest habitat for one species of ape: the Western hoolock gibbon.

Today, most hoolock gibbons live quite close to (and often surrounded by) human settlements. Fortunately, most people in Bangladesh do not like to keep pets at home and are not fond of animal street shows as entertainment. That has prevented one common threat to most primate species—the mass trafficking in live animals—from being a problem for hoolocks. But those cultural norms are not stopping the disappearance of hoolock gibbons from their native forests.

## **Dwindling gibbon numbers**

In a census conducted in 1980, there were an estimated 3,000 gibbons in Bangladesh, but by 2006 that number

had dwindled to fewer than 300. Just a decade ago, the forests of Satchuri, Chunati, and Rema-Kalenga were filled with gibbon songs, but during my visits there for my last book project in 2009,



Photo © Sirajul Hossain





Photo © Sirajul Hossain

those forests were mostly silent. There are reports of only six individuals living in two groups in Satchuri, one group in Chunati, and one lonely pair in Rema-Kalinga. All these tiny communities are doomed, genetically speaking. The animals' quick disappearance from these "protected" areas is the effect of continuous deforestation and canopy fragmentation.

### A forest of many moods

The single largest forest area in Bangladesh populated by hoolock gibbons is the Lawachara National Park (LNP), where about 50 gibbons reside in 13 groups. The park covers 1,250 hectares (3,090 acres) and is a part of the West Bhanugach Reserve Forest. The core forest area is quite small in size but rich in biodiversity: some recent studies of the LNP have counted 167 plant species, 17 odonate (dragonfly-like) insects, four amphibians, six reptiles, 246 birds, and 20 mammals. On a good day, any visitor who has a little forest trekking experience can go to the LNP and can see at least six kinds of primates there, including

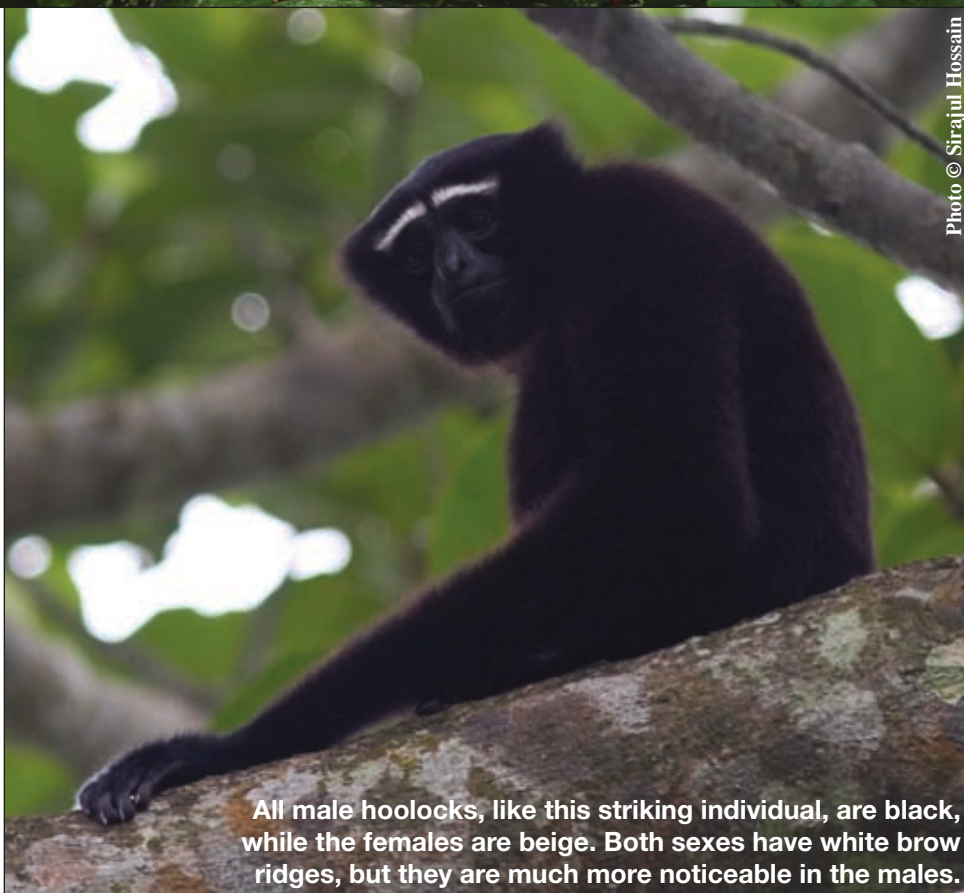


Photo © Sirajul Hossain

All male hoolocks, like this striking individual, are black, while the females are beige. Both sexes have white brow ridges, but they are much more noticeable in the males.





Photo © Sirajul Hossain

gibbons. According to the 2008-2010 International Union for Conservation of Nature special report, *Primates in Peril*, hoolock gibbons are considered to be among the top 25 most endangered primate species in the world.

The LNP is categorized as a mixed evergreen forest. Some parts of this forest are natural, some have been planted, and a small part seems to consist of old-growth primary forest. The mood of the forest changes depending on the time of year and the rainfall. During the monsoon season, it seems like a tropical rainforest, hot and humid, with many reptiles, butterflies, and other insects in evidence, as well as a great deal of primate activity. In spring and summer, when figs and other fruits are abundant, bird activity increases while the primates mostly stay put under the canopy for shade, especially at midday. In the winter, the day usually starts with a thick fog, and most plants have stopped fruiting. In particular, the absence of large fruits makes the competition for food high, and animals spread out from the core protected area to the periphery in order to forage. Some primates even approach close to human habitations to steal crops.



Photo © Sirajul Hossain





Photo © Sirajul Hossain

## Disappearing forest islands

Sadly, there were formerly many bio-hotspots in Bangladesh: on the Teknaf peninsula, among the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and in the Sylhet region, there were large numbers of similar forests, most of them interconnected. Today, surrounded by human encroachment, those forests have become isolated, barren islands in a vast human ocean. Through limitless ignorance, carelessness, and the inefficiency and corruption of the government officials, one by one those tiny treasure islands are sinking forever. Along with them, the future of the hoолоck gibbons may be sinking, too.

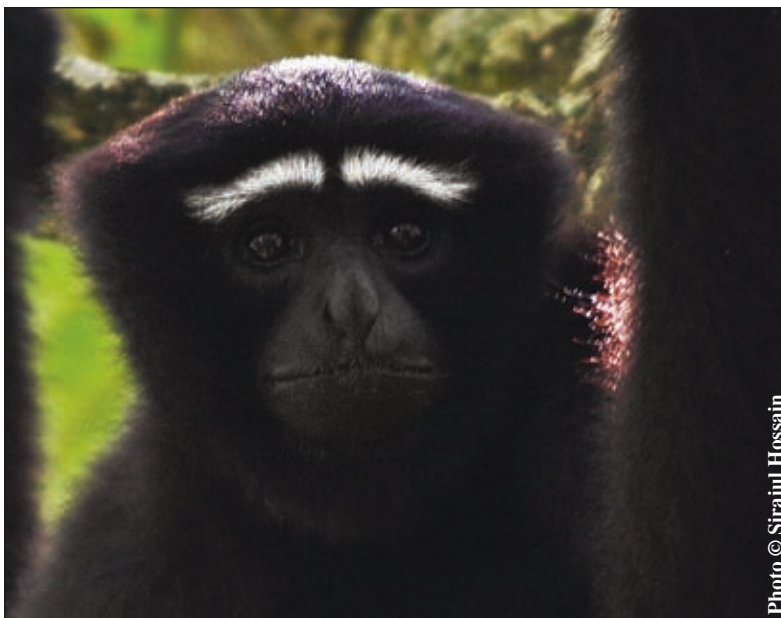


Photo © Sirajul Hossain



Photo © Sirajul Hossain

# Smuggled Chimps from Guinea Reach Chinese Zoos

On 28 September 2010, an article published in the *Jakarta Post* told about a “chimpanzee wedding” at the Hefei Wildlife Park, located in the town of Hefei in central China’s Anhui province. The photo showed two chimps in gaudy costumes. The paper reported:

*Chimpanzee groom Yangyang, left, holding hands with his bride Wanxing, walks on a red carpet while attending their symbolic wedding at Hefei Wildlife Park in Hefei in central China’s Anhui province, on Tuesday. Four-year-old Yangyang from*

*Guinea was brought in last year to mate with six-year-old Wanxing by the park, according to a local news report.*

You can find the story online (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/09/28/it039s-official.html>).

Commenting on the story, a Spaniard identifying himself as Fede R wrote:

*Pathetic, from all perspectives... including the Chinese zoo for removing individuals from their natural habitats and companions, even more for bizarre*

*wedding and mating purposes with two too young chimps, clad in ridiculous clothes, promoting the exotic pet trade and the pathetic press giving enthusiastic, uncritical coverage to this kind of human pathology.... Shame on you...!*

*Meanwhile, China and other countries continue deforesting tropical Africa and destroying their habitats... Well done, human beings...*

Cleve Hicks of the Bili Ape Project, a long-time friend of IPPL, commented:

## How You Can Help Guinea’s Chimpanzees

Please contact Chinese authorities and embassies and Guinean authorities and embassies to make a courteous request that the trafficking of baby chimps from Guinea to China be thoroughly investigated and stopped, and that any violators of CITES and Guinean or Chinese domestic laws be prosecuted and punished.

*His Excellency the Ambassador of China*  
*Embassy of China*  
2133 Wisconsin Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
E-mail: [chinaembpress\\_us@mfa.gov.cn](mailto:chinaembpress_us@mfa.gov.cn)

*His Excellency the Ambassador of China*  
*Embassy of China*  
49-51 Portland Place  
London W1B 1JL  
UNITED KINGDOM  
E-mail: [political@chinese-embassy.org.uk](mailto:political@chinese-embassy.org.uk)

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Guinea*  
*Embassy of Guinea*  
2112 Leroy Pl NW  
Washington, DC 20008

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Guinea*  
*Embassy of Guinea*  
258 Belsize Road  
London NW6 4BT  
UNITED KINGDOM  
E-mail: [ambaguineeuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ambaguineeuk@yahoo.co.uk)

*The Endangered Species Import and Export Management*  
*Office of the People’s Republic of China*  
State Forestry Administration  
18 Hepingli Dongjie  
Beijing 100714  
CHINA  
E-mail: [cites\\_cnma@yahoo.cn](mailto:cites_cnma@yahoo.cn)

*M. Ansoumane Doumbouya*  
*Chef de Section du Plan et Schéma Directeurs*  
*d’Aménagement et de Gestion des Aires Protégées*  
*Terrestres, Marines et Zones Humides*  
*Direction Nationale de la Diversité Biologique et des*  
*Aires Protégées*  
*Ministère de l’Environnement et du Développement*  
*Durable*  
B.P. 761  
Conakry  
GUINEA  
E-mail: [boundyala2000@yahoo.fr](mailto:boundyala2000@yahoo.fr)

***Working together, the International Primate Protection League and other wildlife protection groups around the world can help ensure that no more chimps leave the forests of Guinea.***

*Having spent the last 10 years studying great apes in their natural habitat, I am extremely disturbed by this photograph. Chimpanzees are an endangered species, being slaughtered for their bushmeat in Congo, experimented on by the biomedical industry in the US, and now—this. Chimpanzee orphans are regularly abused and beaten in the course of getting them to pose for clichéd photos such as this. I also wonder just how these orphans were acquired from Africa... How do we know that money was not paid for them, which would drive the market for baby chimpanzees and lead to more chimpanzee deaths? These are our closest living relatives, and this is the way we treat them?*

Dr. Shirley McGreal, Executive Director of IPPL, immediately contacted Guinean wildlife officials. On 29 September we received a prompt response from Mr. Doumbouya Ansoumane of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority. He said that an investigation had been opened regarding the export of young chimpanzees and requested further information and documents so that the smugglers, if Guinean nationals, could be arrested. He also suggested that traffickers from the Ivory Coast might be involved.

On 15 November, chimpanzees reported as being of Guinean origin were in the news again. We learned from the Reuters news agency:

*Three baby chimpanzees from Africa enjoyed a spoiled “whatever you want” shopping experience in a department store in a southeast China city over the weekend. The three chimps, the oldest two-years-old and the youngest eight-months-old, were imported by a zoo in Jiangsu Province... In order to avoid some unnecessary expenses, zoo keepers put diapers on the baby chimps in case they accidentally contaminated goods they didn’t want. But the effort was in vain as zoo keepers had to pay 1,300 RMB (US\$200) for a stroller in which one of the chimp cubs urinated, according to local TV.*

Photos and video of the babies on their shopping spree can be found online (<http://www.3news.co.nz/Baby-chimps-enjoy-high-end-shopping/tabid/1160/articleID/186355/Default.aspx>).

Other baby chimpanzees have apparently reached China, including four animals who reached Shandong Zoo in July 2010. Their photos can be seen online (<http://www.focac.org/eng/zjtz/t719854.htm>).

It is clear that there is a well-organized pipeline of wildlife smugglers in action. Chimpanzees are listed on Appendix I of the CITES, and trade is totally banned.

China has been very active in Guinea and other African nations. In Guinea, Chinese engineers and work crews are very active in projects that involve building infrastructure, and some dishonest employees may be finding it relatively

easy to take wild animals home to China. However, the situation requires further investigation.

In October 2009, Guinea signed a seven billion dollar mining and oil partnership with China. According to China Africa Asia (<http://www.chinafrica.asia/tag/guinea/>),

*The junta-backed government of Guinea has signed a seven-billion-dollar mining and oil partnership deal with the China International Fund (CIF), Guinea’s mining minister said Thursday, reported AFP. While the majority of Guineans live in abject poverty, the West African country has vast mineral resources. It is the world’s biggest exporter of bauxite, used to make aluminium, and has important iron, gold and uranium reserves. The investment will be mainly in infrastructure projects including hydroelectric dams, roads, railways, social housing, power plants, water infrastructure, schools and hospitals, said mining minister Mahmoud Thiam. In exchange (the CIF) will become our strategic partner in a mining project that will start with setting up a national mining company in Guinea. The signing of the deal comes at a time when Guinea’s junta is coming under increasing international pressure over the massacre of over 150 anti-junta protesters by the army on September 28 2009.*

These circumstances will make it very difficult to control animal trafficking in this part of Africa.

## ~ Special Gifts to IPPL ~ Given by:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✂ <b>Barbara and Lee Allison</b>, in memory of Rosie and Zoe</li> <li>✂ <b>Anonymous</b>, in honor of Luke Cadman and his favorite primates</li> <li>✂ <b>Lynne Bailey</b>, in memory of Dr. Carole Noon</li> <li>✂ <b>Betty Brescia</b>, in memory of Rosie and Zoe</li> <li>✂ <b>Karen J. Campagna</b>, in honor of all primates, large and small</li> <li>✂ <b>Brien Comerford</b>, in honor of all God’s creatures</li> <li>✂ <b>William Dracksdorf</b>, in memory of Mae Noell</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✂ <b>Barbara B. Kirman</b>, for Rosie’s care</li> <li>✂ <b>Christa Lyons</b>, in honor of Lesa Miller</li> <li>✂ <b>Jackie McCaffrey</b>, in memory of Rosie and Jumper</li> <li>✂ <b>John McGreal</b>, in memory of Rosie</li> <li>✂ <b>Shirley McGreal</b>, in memory of Rosie and Zoe</li> <li>✂ <b>Carol Silverman</b>, in memory of Cheryl Beth Silverman</li> <li>✂ <b>Graeme and Robin Smith</b>, in honor of Tika Sugar Blackie Smith</li> <li>✂ <b>Nancy and Bert Tobin</b>, for Rosie’s care</li> <li>✂ <b>Friedrich Wendl</b>, in memory of Rosie</li> </ul> |
|---|--|



# (Sad) News from IPPL's Headquarters Sanctuary

Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director

## Farewell to Rosie Gibbon

We at IPPL are heart-broken to tell you that sweet Rosie Gibbon left us during the night of Saturday-Sunday 16/17 October. Her autopsy was performed at 3 p.m. Sunday by our wonderful veterinarian, Dr. John Ohlandt. His determination was that she died of ovarian cancer. Dr. Ohlandt said he did not believe anything could have been done for her beyond providing the supportive care that she received.

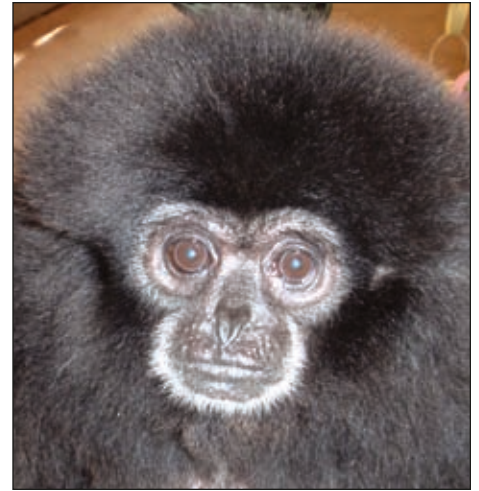
We all feel very glad we had her here at IPPL for a month. We all loved her. We hope that Rosie's free spirit is swinging along in a more gibbon-friendly world, and we thank the Turtle Back Zoo in New Jersey for allowing this sweet gibbon to spend her last days with us. Rosie was 38, which is actually a great age for a gibbon.

Condolences reached IPPL from all over the world: Japan, England, Australia,

Nigeria, Egypt, and many more nations. Rosie's saga of life in a laboratory, followed by zoo life, followed by a brief retirement at IPPL, caught peoples' imagination.

Gina Zullo, Zoo Supervisor at the Turtle Back Zoo, wrote:

*We mourn because Rosie is gone, but we can laugh at her toothless grin and dance because she is with her gibbon family now. Thank you Shirley and Keri and everyone else who fell in love with our Rosie. I am glad that she could have a few weeks in a warm place and that she chose her time to go with you taking care of her.*



Find us on  
Facebook

You can read more remembrances of Rosie and Zoe on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague)).

## A Sad Good-bye to Our Great Pyrenees, Zoe



On 19 October, IPPL staff said a sad farewell to Zoe, our rescued Great Pyrenees dog who had lived with us since May 2005. She was 10 years and five months old. For several weeks her health had been failing. So finally we (me, Betty, and her special caregiver Tina) took her to our vet, and he agreed with us that it was time to let Zoe leave. He suspected a recurrence of cancer.

Zoe reached IPPL from the Charleston SPCA on Friday, 27 May 2005, the day Zoe had been slated for euthanasia. I received a call from a former employee who has the sad job of performing euthanasia among her duties. When working for me, she helped with the care of our first Great Pyrenees, Sebastien. On that Friday morning, she checked the work list for the day and found that a Great Pyrenees was slated for

euthanasia, with no chance of adoption. Because she had heartworms, there would be no reprieve. Ginny was frantic and begged us to please get her out, so within a couple of hours the IPPL family had a new member: a very sweet, very scrawny, and very dirty girl named Zoe.

Originally, Zoe's main health problem was the heartworms, which was why the SPCA did not plan to put her up for adoption. She was also not spayed. She had been an outdoor dog, which means certain heartworm here in South Carolina for an unprotected dog. Our vet suggested giving her a monthly Heartgard pill, as it would prevent new worms from forming and would kill off existing ones within a couple of years. Zoe was too scrawny to risk a full treatment. Amazingly, this treatment worked, and she was soon heartworm-free.

She enjoyed being a house dog and going outdoors to visit the gibbons. Zoe followed Sebastien, Patou, and Ivy as IPPL's house Pyrs. All were wonderful animals. One day we hope to bring another rescued Pyr into our lives.

# Save the Funky Gibbon!

*Helen Thirlway, Director, IPPL (UK)*

Our supporters will remember that this time last year we announced our new “Forgotten Ape” campaign to raise awareness of the urgent plight of our much-neglected cousins, the gibbons. This year, the campaign has been gathering momentum with the help of its first celebrity supporter, Bill Oddie, who has given us tremendous support, and with pro bono help from the marvellous 3 Monkeys Communications agency.

Since we welcomed Bill and the team from 3 Monkeys on board, the newly re-

named “Save the Gibbon” campaign has gone from strength to strength—thanks in no small part to their efforts. First of all, we managed to get Bill and the Goodies’ 1970s comedy hit single, “The Funky Gibbon,” re-mastered (including our very own IPPL gibbon sounds!) and much fun was had by all at the Rainforest Café in London when we shot a special music video to go with it!

We were also delighted when the multi-talented design partners, Meg Mathews and Rory Dobner, produced a special, limited edition T-shirt for

us, and when British TV celebrities Amanda Holden, Joanna Lumley (you may remember her from the hit comedy series *Absolutely Fabulous*), and Terry Nutkins all joined in to pledge their support. We now have the track available to download, the video for your viewing (and laughing) pleasure, along with fun facts and much more to enjoy at the campaign Web site ([www.savethegibbon.org](http://www.savethegibbon.org)). Do please help us to raise funds for gibbon conservation by downloading the track, buying a T-shirt, and/or donating to the cause!

## Why Save the Gibbon?

The gibbons are often overlooked because, due to their smaller size, they have traditionally been excluded from the category “great ape.” This means they don’t receive the same funding and protection, and yet they are equally at risk from poaching, illegal trafficking, and habitat destruction.

The CD cover design. ▼



*“Once upon a time, a trio of Goodies did the funky gibbon; little did they know that their chimp-rovvised dance routine would be used again over 30 years down the line to help save the very creatures that had influenced them. It may be a small mercy that the Goodies are extinct, but don’t let the gibbons go the same way! Do the funky gibbon 2010!” – Bill Oddie*



*“How long will it be before we finally accept that the apes are our nearest relations and deserve our compassion and protection? The majestic and glorious gibbon is eerily similar to us in habit and behaviour; please let’s ensure its safety and protection in the wild, while we learn how to respect our fellow creatures on this earth. “Too late” are the most awful words to hear: and yet if we do nothing today we will find that tomorrow it IS too late for the gibbon, for the apes and, finally, for us as well.” – Joanna Lumley*



### Special thanks to:

- ◆ **Bill Oddie** for the “Funky Gibbon” song, the amazing video performance, and for all the wonderful support
- ◆ **3 Monkeys Communications** for EVERYTHING!
- ◆ **Red Triangle Productions** for the re-mastered track
- ◆ **Tom, Dick and Debbie Productions** for the music video
- ◆ **Graeme Garden and Tim Brooke-Taylor** for use of the song and screening of the video
- ◆ **Amanda Holden, Joanna Lumley, and Terry Nutkins** for supporting the campaign
- ◆ **Meg Mathews and Rory Dobner** for the T-shirts
- ◆ **One Limited** for the Web site and T-shirts
- ◆ **Lucie Pankhurst** for the dance routine
- ◆ **Dragon Personal Management, Marlowes Dancers & Musical Theatre Agency, Nyland Management, and Newtown Will Management** for providing dancers and actors
- ◆ **Bristol Silents** for screening the film at the Goodies’ 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in Bristol

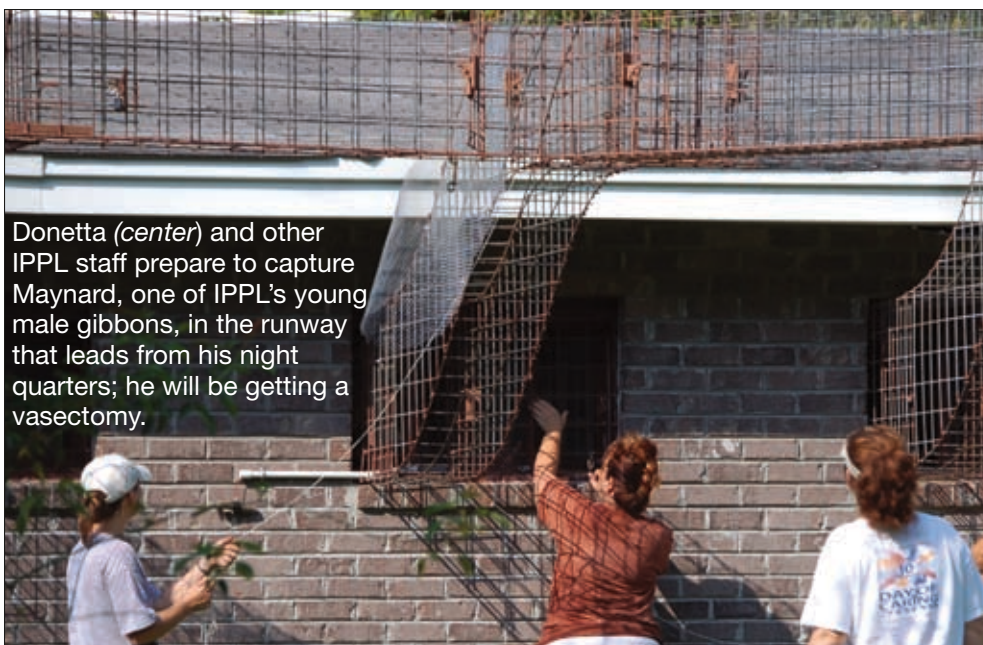


# Catching On to Ape Anesthesia

How do you catch a gibbon? Very quickly!

These acrobats of the animal kingdom can swing through the trees (or across their enclosures) at speeds of up to 35 miles an hour. And they're smart little primates: they can figure it out pretty quickly if you're up to something.

Here at IPPL's Headquarters Sanctuary, it's sometimes



Donetta (center) and other IPPL staff prepare to capture Maynard, one of IPPL's young male gibbons, in the runway that leads from his night quarters; he will be getting a vasectomy.

necessary to capture one of our gibbons for a veterinary procedure. And if one should escape, we would need to be prepared to dart the animal with a syringe loaded with anesthetic. "God forbid that ever happens out here," says IPPL's senior animal caregiver, Donetta Pacitti, but if it does, she's ready: this past October, IPPL sponsored Donetta's attendance at a two-day class on the "Sedation, Immobilization, and Anesthesia of Nonhuman Primates" offered by Safe-Capture International.

## Minimizing the risks

The course emphasized the stress experienced by animals during the capture and sedation process. Animals that must be chased down experience a physiological "fight-or-flight" response, with increased heart rate, blood pressure, respiration, and stress hormone levels, leading to an increased risk of shock. Even once an animal is brought down, the body still experiences stress. One major consideration is the inability of sedated animals to maintain proper body temperature—they can get overheated during the capture process, and then dangerously chilled while immobile under the influence of medication. "That's why, at IPPL, we don't schedule discretionary veterinary procedures like vasectomies during the hot summer months," says Donetta, "and we try to start any procedures

first thing in the morning, so that if any problems arise, we have the entire day to sort things out."

At IPPL, we typically catch gibbons in their aerial wire-mesh enclosed runways (or "tubes") that link their night quarters to their outdoor enclosures. "We'll let them out of their night quarters in the morning, as usual," says Donetta, "and we'll station three people to pull closed the doors that are placed at intervals along the tubes, using string to operate the doors remotely. That way we can take the targeted gibbons by surprise and minimize the stress of capture. We'll isolate a gibbon in one section of his tube, pull an arm or leg through the wire mesh, and inject him in one of his larger muscles. It usually takes about 30 seconds." For short-term sedation we use ketamine (a very safe drug that is hard to overdose), and we bring out the isoflurane gas for longer procedures.

## Darting 101

We hope we never have to dart an animal (unlike Donetta's classmates, who will need to do this regularly; some attendees came from animal control units, but most were from the National Institutes of Health, which conducts extensive animal testing). IPPL's gibbon houses are fitted with hurricane straps to hold down the roofs during severe weather. The gibbons sleep inside barred enclosures within their night

quarters, so even if a falling tree limb were to damage one of the buildings, the little apes would probably not be able to escape.

But if one ever does, Donetta now knows how to dart a gibbon. During the class, she practiced using a variety of dart guns, pole syringes, and blow dart equipment. "Blow darts were easy," she said. "I was able to hit a target with a blow

dart up to 30 feet (10 meters) away; that was definitely my strong point!"

## From start to finish

One of the most important parts of the sedation process—and one that is easiest to overlook—is the recovery period. The primary course instructor, Dr. Keith Amass, emphasized the importance of continuously monitoring sedated animals until they are awake and alert. Although ketamine is a safe and effective sedative, it does not have a corresponding "reversal" medication that can be given to speed up recovery.

At IPPL, that is less of an issue than it would be for a vulnerable animal that has been immobilized under field conditions. IPPL's staff members are always present to make sure that our gibbons come out of sedation safely. Dr. Amass recommended checking every three minutes on a recovering animal's pulse and "capillary refill time" (by pressing on the upper gum to see how quickly it turns from white to pink); a prolonged refill time could indicate the animal is going into shock.

Donetta was impressed with the expertise and caring shared by Dr. Amass. Said Donetta, "He told us that, from the time of sedation until the animal wakes up safely, you should take every breath with that animal as though it's your own."

# The Doucs of Danang

*Dr. Ulrike Streicher, Wildlife Veterinarian*

Vietnam, with its 23 primate species and a population of 84 million people, is one of the world's primate conservation hotspots. Primates are strictly protected in Vietnam, but they still are hunted for use in traditional medicines, traded as pets, or simply used as trophies and decorative objects. Sadly, increasing prosperity in the past year is leading to an increasing demand for "luxury" wildlife products, and awareness within the population regarding conservation issues is extremely low.

One of the most charismatic primate species in the country is the red-shanked douc (*Pygathrix nemaeus*). The name is derived from a local name for the colorful primate; in Vietnamese, it is called the "monkey of five colors." The species is found in primary and secondary forest in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 14°33' N to 19°02'. It is protected in Vietnam under Decree No. 32/2006/ND-CP and is categorized in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as "Endangered."

One of the largest populations of the species in Vietnam lives on the Son Tra peninsula near Danang city in central Vietnam. In 1992, part of the peninsula was designated as a nature reserve comprising 2,595 hectares (6,410 acres) of strictly protected land and 1,844 hectares (4,560 acres) of "forest rehabilitation area" (consisting of plantation areas and regenerating forest cover). The Son Tra Nature Reserve holds a population of about 150 to 180 doucs.

Despite their proximity to Danang city, doucs have survived in this location due to a large army base, which restricted public access in the past. However, in recent years, tourism has been developing rapidly on the peninsula. Forest areas are being cleared for restaurants, tourist roads, and resorts. One large resort has been constructed at the bottleneck of the peninsula, effectively separating the eastern part of the population from the larger western part. Roads cut through the forest, many of them wide enough to create a barrier for the doucs. An invasive climbing plant follows road construction and has covered nearly a



Photo © Ulrike Streicher

third of the remaining forest. On public holidays, local tourists enter the nature reserve uncontrolled and unaware of any regulations. Trees and plants are destroyed and rubbish is disposed of without control.

Hunting in Son Tra might not be quite as rampant as in other forests in Vietnam, but it appears to be increasing. The new tourist roads facilitate access to the area, and traps are now commonly found in the forest. Trapping targets wild pigs, muntjacs (small deer), small mammals, birds—and doucs. Although primarily arboreal, doucs do come to ground to drink and visit mineral licks, and on the ground they are vulnerable to snaring. Snare lines up to a length of 200 meters (650 feet) have been found in Son

Tra in recent months. Between January and August 2010 alone, four live doucs were confiscated from hunters while a fifth infant was taken from a house in Danang by Forest Protection Rangers. It is unlikely that all hunted animals are discovered, and it is suspected that an even higher number of doucs were killed during the same time period.

If confiscated doucs are not injured and were only recently captured, the authorities return the animals immediately to the forest. However, captured doucs are not always so lucky. The injuries caused by traps can be profound and may lead to a permanent loss of function in a hand or foot. Such animals cannot, of course, be released back to the wild.



Ranger stations are rarely prepared to maintain injured doucs during recovery, so the animals must be sent to a rescue facility. With the Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC) at Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam has a high-quality facility where sensitive doucs can be cared for. Animals transferred to the center are integrated into a carefully-designed captive-breeding program. IPPL has helped support the EPRC since 2002.

However, captivity can only be an emergency solution for some animals, and captive breeding programs do not make much sense without appropriate habitat protection and *in situ* conservation measures.

In Son Tra, conservation and city development compete for the remaining habitat. The Son Tra peninsula, with its beautiful forest and spectacular views, is an obvious tourist attraction. The city administration of Danang does acknowledge the importance of the doucs and of Son Tra as a natural resource, but it is an unequal competition: conservation groups struggle to contribute a few thousand dollars, whereas tourism investors

are prepared to pay several millions for a few hectares of the peninsula.

Most of the rangers in Son Tra have been in their positions for a long time—some for over twenty years—and have been

witness to the destruction of Son Tra in the name of tourism development. The U.S.-based Douc Langur Foundation has supported the rangers' work in Son Tra over many years, but, despite all their efforts,



Photo © Ulrike Streicher

*Left, a douc langur in the Son Tra Nature Reserve, in central Vietnam, near the city of Danang. Above, snares removed from the reserve in one day of field research. Below, the view towards Hai Van Pass from Son Tra.*



Photo © Ulrike Streicher

hunting and habitat loss continue, and the douc population decreases year after year. Decisive action is needed to ensure the survival of this population for the future.

In 2009, the Frankfurt Zoological Society started the Son Tra Douc Research and Conservation Project. As part of this project, a detailed long-term study of the doucs' ecology is being conducted, which is urgently needed for several reasons:

- Danang has an understandable demand for recreational space. Son Tra is the closest natural site, only 25 minutes from the city center, and it will be developed one way or another. The main reason for the city to maintain it as a natural site is its recreational value. Sustainable tourism, which does not jeopardize the existence of the doucs, is therefore the monkeys' greatest hope for survival on the Son Tra peninsula. Such tourism can only be developed with a detailed knowledge of the doucs' ecology. The project cooperates closely with the Department of Science and Technology (DOSTE) of Danang, and findings are immediately relayed to

the relevant authorities so they can be taken into consideration in any further decisions.

- Douc populations all over Vietnam are severely depleted. At the same time, red-shanked doucs are being kept at the EPRC in Cuc Phuong National Park very successfully and have bred in captivity up to three generations. Restocking wild populations with captive-bred individuals will become an important measure to ensure the survival of the species in the wild. Detailed information on the doucs' ecology and habitat requirements are necessary to develop reintroduction programs.
- There is still a lack of young scientists in conservation and primatology in Vietnam. The presence of scientists who can continue to do primatological fieldwork in the future is an important part of the project's sustainability. The project is training a number of young biologists in field research methods and helping them pursue their degrees at Danang University.
- Doucs are kept in a few zoos around

the world, but the zoo population is not self-sustaining. These doucs are dying mainly of prolonged metabolic problems as a result of long-term malnutrition. If doucs are to remain represented in zoos, detailed information on their wild feeding habits is required in order to develop an appropriate captive diet.

The project is a joint effort being carried out by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Danang University, and DOSTE. The field research is being run by Larry Ulibarri, a Ph.D. student from the University of Colorado at Boulder (and who, along with the author of this article, was present at IPPL's 2006 Members' Meeting). The study is gathering detailed data on the doucs' ecology, home ranges, and group structure. The work is being financed by the Margot Marsh Foundation, the Frankfurt Zoological Society, the Endangered Primate Conservation Fund in Vietnam, and the Primate Society of Great Britain.

In order to survive for even another decade, the doucs of Son Tra need public



A douc langur, with plenty of fresh leaves to eat, is ready for the 14-hour drive to a rescue station. *Opposite page: top left, a handsome male douc; far left top and bottom, Forest Protection Rangers release a confiscated female.*

Photo © Ulrike Streicher





Photo © Ulrike Streicher



Photo © Ulrike Streicher

conservation awareness on a broad scale. People need to be made aware of the impending loss of their wildlife and forests. Assuring that information from the field is immediately available to authorities at the decision-making level is an important step. We hope the city will, with the help of this project, recognize the value and needs of the doucs and start to take pride in having such a charismatic primate within the city's boundaries. Danang city authorities have recently appointed the author of this article to help them develop a conservation awareness program for Son Tra. This is a challenging task. One of the first steps will be to set up an educational exhibit that will highlight the biodiversity of central Vietnam, especially the doucs of Son Tra, and point out the threats these animals face. The exhibit will be held over the Vietnamese New Year (Tet), which will fall in February 2011.

The residents of Danang have a unique opportunity for conservation on their hands; we can only try to convince them not to squander it.





# Ikamaperu Takes Monkey Rescue to the Amazon Rainforest

The village of Lagunas is one of the busiest jumping-off places for treks into the legendary Amazon rainforest. A visitor to this remote settlement in northeastern Peru will bump into a United Nations of fellow wildlife enthusiasts, hailing from such faraway places as Egypt, Turkey, Denmark, Ireland, and the U.S. One U.S. visitor, long-time IPPL volunteer Susan Parker, found herself arriving by boat early one hot and humid morning last August. It was about 1:30 a.m.; as she says, "The boats leave when they leave!"

The purpose of her trip was both "business" and "pleasure." A part-time zookeeper with a special love for primates,

Susan was going to volunteer for a couple of weeks with Ikamaperu, a nonprofit organization devoted to the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintroduction of woolly monkeys and other primates native to Peru. IPPL has helped sponsor Ikamaperu's work since 2006.

## The original Tarangue reserve

Hélène Collongues and Carlos Palomino started out, in 1997, by establishing a nature reserve they called Tarangue, near the Peruvian city of Moyobamba; the 70 hectare (173 acre) reserve lies within the natural range of three primate species (see the September 2006 issue of *IPPL*

*News*). The Ikamaperu primate rescue center was later built on this property and is now home to about 10 woolly monkeys, a dozen spider monkeys, and two rare yellow-tailed woolly monkeys (a baby female and a sub-adult male); all were rescued from the trade in bushmeat and pets and are now undergoing an extensive rehabilitation process with the help of local caregivers. One of the latest rescues, an adult female spider monkey, had been living alone in a cage in an apartment in Lima for eight years. The Tarangue reserve itself is home to many other indigenous animals, including squirrel monkeys, tamarins, and more than 150 free-ranging

**One of Ikamaperu's rescued woolly monkeys is learning what it's like to live in the forest. Top corner, a large group enclosure at the Lagunas field site. Bottom corner, a group of woolly monkeys gathers around a water bowl.**



All photos © Susan Parker



A trio from Tarangue: *left to right*, a spider monkey, an Andean titi monkey, and a yellow-tailed woolly monkey.



endangered Andean titi monkeys—there are about 30 groups of these raucous little brownish-gray primates, with five to six monkeys per group. “They’re even louder than gibbons!” reports Susan.

After checking in with her friends at Tarangue, where Susan had spent two previous volunteer stints, she headed out to Ikamaperu’s newest addition, the field site in Lagunas, which lies inside the buffer zone of Peru’s vast Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. The trip from Tarangue meant a four-hour taxi ride to the river port of Yurimaguas, followed by a 12-hour overnight boat trip (if you’re not lucky enough to catch a speed-boat, which can get you to Lagunas in only three hours). According to Susan, you should be prepared to bring your own bowl and

spoon for the communal supper, to tie up your own hammock, and to become accustomed to the scent of speckled cattle wafting up from the bottom deck.

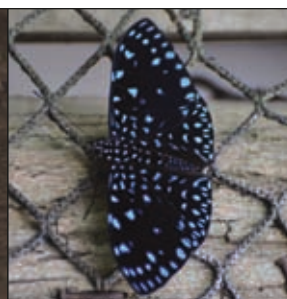
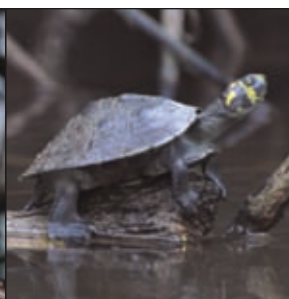
### The new Lagunas field site

Hélène and Carlos expanded their scope of operations to Lagunas in 2006. They hoped that they would eventually be able to release their rescued primates into the nearby reserve, the largest area of protected rainforest in Peru. More importantly, they wanted to protect the wild populations of primates still living in the area, where humans have traditionally hunted them.

The primate rehabilitation center in this remote location consists of one cooking and storage hut/nursery/caregiver

residence, a couple of bungalows for eco-volunteers, an animal care hut for food and veterinary medicine, a quarantine hut, two large group monkey enclosures, and two smaller monkey housing units, as well as access to 70 hectares (173 acres) of conservation easement land within the buffer zone, for use in rehabilitating rescued monkeys.

Currently, there are 33 adult and juvenile woolly monkeys, who have mostly been relocated from Tarangue, and seven babies in the nursery. The monkeys spend part of each day free-ranging under the supervision of a keeper and return to their protected enclosures at night, a routine they are familiar with from their time living in Tarangue. They also receive four daily supplemental







A rescued male baby woolly monkey.

provisions of fruit in their night quarters. This additional fruit comes straight from the rainforest, the animals' natural habitat, and is an important first step toward reintroduction.

Apik and Nungkui, two female woolly monkeys, recognized Susan from her previous visits to Tarangue, and each shook her head back and forth at Susan in a typical woolly monkey greeting. But Susan was pleased to see how much more mature and confident they had become. "They're much less clingy now," she noted.

The hope is that these rescued woolly monkeys will one day be released to an independent life in their natural forest home. Hélène and Carlos have already signed an agreement with the Pacaya Samiria authorities to start preliminary studies for replenishing populations of woolly and spider monkeys inside the reserve.

### Conservation education is key

Meanwhile, Hélène, Carlos, and their team have been working hard to make sure that the habitat the animals will return to is indeed going to be preserved for future generations—of people and monkeys, alike. Since 2009, over 1,500 schoolchildren have taken part in education programs sponsored by Ikamaperu, learning about biodiversity and primate conservation. Susan was impressed to see about 20 youngsters show up on a Saturday morning at one of the local schools to learn about conservation from an Ikamaperu volunteer. The children read about monkeys (*Yo Soy un Mono*, "I Am a Monkey"), played games (like Hangman, using words such as "animales"), and drew pictures about what conservation meant to them. Children who have learned about primate conservation can come and watch Ikamaperu's woolly monkeys enjoying their freedom in the forest. Already, three

families whose children had visited the Ikamaperu rehabilitation center have given up their pet woolly monkeys to Hélène and Carlos for integration into normal woolly monkey life.

The open-air cinema has also proved to be very popular. As often as three nights a week, Ikamaperu shows conservation-oriented films in different places around the town and regularly draws crowds of children and adults. Afterwards, Ikamaperu staff and volunteers lead group discussions about the conservation activities of the organization. The town government has been very supportive of these efforts, providing electricity for the screenings.

### Working with communities

Hélène and Carlos are also working with an indigenous community of about 100 individuals on the other side of the river across from the new Ikamaperu center. This community has made a commitment to stop all bushmeat hunting and to protect the biodiversity of the 18,000 hectares (44,480 acres) of pristine forest that is their territory; community members now make a living from fishing and agriculture, instead. In return, Ikamaperu has built a bungalow for them to use to receive tourists, promote their handicrafts, and offer visitors local food prepared with consideration for non-local tastes. A sustainable eco-tourism industry is one of the best hopes for a sustainable primate population.

It all seems to be working. The Lagunas town government is reinforcing the pro-environment message by ordering garbage bins for the whole village, and signs around the town announce "No Se Compra Animales Silvestres" ("We Do Not Buy Bushmeat").

One day, Susan may have to travel into the Pacaya Samiria rainforest itself to see Apik, Nungkui, and the rest of her woolly monkey friends.







## Kids From Peru Love Monkeys, Too!

In Peru, near where the great Amazon River gets its start, kids are learning to love monkeys. A group called Ikamaperu is helping teach children in the small town of Lagunas how great monkeys are and why we should help protect these animals. This is important for three reasons:

1. The kids live near the biggest protected area of Amazon rainforest in Peru, the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. This park bigger than the state of New Jersey!
2. In this area, people traditionally used to hunt monkeys for meat. Now there are so many people that monkeys are in danger of being wiped out.
3. When the kids grow up, they are going to have to decide whether or not to protect the monkeys and the rainforest where they live.

Ikamaperu is helping kids learn to care about their monkey neighbors by using all kinds of games, books, and activities. Check out these pictures! ▶ ▶ ▶



Bottom row and center photo © Susan Parker  
All other photos © Ikamaperu

## Congratulations to Isabel, Sophie, and Lily!

An artistic trio sent us their versions of Furious George, the crazy cartoon ape in Michael Rex's new book *Furious George Goes Bananas*. We held a contest in the last issue of *IPPL News* and asked all young artists to send us their drawings of the purplish-blue gorilla. We selected at random the envelope containing pictures drawn by Isabel, Sophie, and Lily, of Nebraska. As a result, we've sent these winners a copy of the book, signed by the author. Good work, gals!



# Taking Care of Primates—Now and Forever

Since our founding in 1973, IPPL has greatly benefited from caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills.

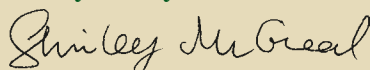
**Y**ou, too, can help us ensure that future generations will also have the opportunity to know and love a world in which primates are protected—where those in the wild will be able to live free from fear of abuse at human hands, and where those remaining in captivity will have access to expert, loving care.

Thanks to the foresight of many of our departed supporters, IPPL has been able to accomplish many wonderful things to improve the lives of the primates we cherish:

- ◆ Providing the best possible care for the special gibbons at our Headquarters Sanctuary.
- ◆ Giving support to primate rescue centers overseas, in countries where primates are native.
- ◆ Assisting grassroots wildlife groups in their efforts to promote concern for primates.
- ◆ Carrying out investigations of primate trafficking and abuse worldwide.
- ◆ Doing outreach in the community and at our education center to share with others the plight of the world's primates.

By making a legacy gift to IPPL, you will ensure that IPPL can continue to protect the primates you love. I 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 now and in the future. Please contact us at **IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA**, or **843-871-2280** if you would like to discuss providing enduring help for IPPL. IPPL's tax identification number is 51-0194013.

**Thank you for your concern for IPPL's future.**



Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director



## IPPL Supporter's Donation Form



If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL supporter, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world's primates by making a financial donation. By sending in a contribution, you will be sure to continue receiving thrice-yearly issues of *IPPL News*. You may also donate online, if you wish, on IPPL's secure Web site ([www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)). All donations are welcome!

**Please accept my contribution to support the work of IPPL. I have enclosed the following donation:**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 regular dues | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 sustaining dues     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other amount: \$_____ (dues)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 patron dues | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 student/senior dues | <input type="checkbox"/> Other amount: \$_____ (one time donation) |

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☐ I will be paying via credit card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

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amount / month  
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**IPPL Baseball Cap:**  
100% cotton; khaki;  
adjustable  
**Cost:** US\$12 (US)/  
US\$16 (overseas)

# Primate Paraphernalia!



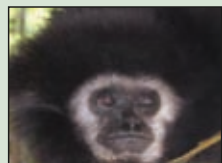
**Mountain Gorilla T-Shirt:**  
100% cotton; black  
**Sizes:** Adult M, L, XL  
**Cost:** US\$15 (US)/  
US\$22 (overseas)



**Multi-Monkey T-Shirt:**  
100% cotton; gray  
**Sizes:** Adult L  
**Cost:** US\$15 (US)/  
US\$22 (overseas)



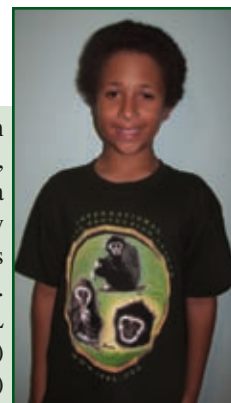
**Orangutan Baby T-Shirt:**  
100% cotton; brown  
**Sizes:** Adult M, L, XL;  
Child S, M, L, XL  
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**Child** US\$12 (US)/  
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**Gibbon Notecards:**  
12 cards and envelopes, 3  
each of 4 IPPL  
gibbons (Arun Rangsi,  
Courtney,  
Igor, and Tong)  
**Cost:** US\$10 (US)/  
US\$14 (overseas)

**IPPL Gibbon T-Shirt:** 100% cotton; green  
Shirts feature 3 IPPL gibbons: **Arun Rangsi**,  
who came to IPPL as a baby from a  
biomedical lab; **Igor**, who spent 26 lonely  
years in research; and **Beanie**, who was  
blinded by illness.

**Sizes:** Adult M, L, XL, XXL; Child S, M, L  
**Cost:** Adult US\$15 (US)/US\$22 (overseas)  
**Child** US\$12 (US)/US\$16 (overseas)



You can also order IPPL merchandise using our secure server.  
Go to **www.ippl.org** and select **How to Help > Shop at our online store.**

## Method of payment:

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All prices include shipping and handling.

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**Questions? 843-871-2280 or info@ippl.org**

# Adopt an IPPL Gibbon!

Each of the many gibbons living at IPPL Headquarters deserves a happy life. Many of IPPL's residents have come to the sanctuary after years in research, as pets, or in sub-standard living conditions. By adopting an IPPL gibbon, you help to ensure that your chosen animal (and all the IPPL gibbons) will continue to get the best care possible: a quiet, peaceful life in sunny South Carolina, living in spacious enclosures with their mates, and eating only fresh, natural foods. For a donation of \$15 or \$25 per month for at least six months, you will receive the following:

- A signed Certificate of Gibbon Guardianship.
- A large glossy photograph of your gibbon.
- A biographical sketch of your gibbon.
- A quarterly update on your gibbon.
- An IPPL sanctuary fact sheet.
- A gibbon fact sheet.
- An IPPL window cling.

In addition, if you choose to adopt a gibbon at the \$25-per-month level, IPPL will send you one of our forest-green T-shirts featuring several IPPL gibbons.

***And remember: adoptions make wonderful gifts that will last all year!***

## Yes, I want to adopt an IPPL gibbon!

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please check if this is an adoption **RENEWAL**: ☐

I would like to adopt (insert name of gibbon)\_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to **pay in monthly installments** ☐ **OR** I would like to **pay in full** ☐.

1. At the **\$15 per month** level for 6 months (in full: \$90) \_\_\_\_ 1 year (in full: \$180) \_\_\_\_ 2 years (in full: \$360) \_\_\_\_

**OR**

2. At the **\$25 per month** level for 6 months (in full: \$150) \_\_\_\_ 1 year (in full: \$300) \_\_\_\_ 2 years (in full: \$600) \_\_\_\_

For the \$25/month level, select the desired size of T-shirt (circle). **Adult sizes:** S M L XL XXL **Children sizes:** S M L

☐ **This is a gift.** Please send the adoption packet and updates (and T-shirt, if applicable) to the following recipient:

Recipient's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL.

☐ I will be paying by credit card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Name (on card): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card billing address (for verification purposes): \_\_\_\_\_

For information about adopting your gibbon through a monthly automatic checking account withdrawal, or if you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail ([info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)).

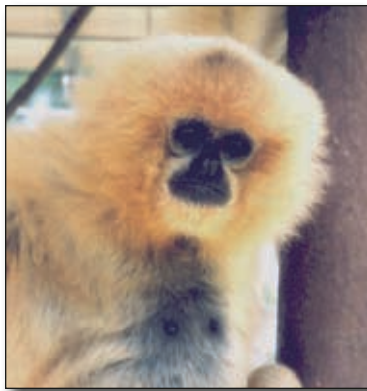
You can also adopt a gibbon on our Web site: go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and click on the "Adopt an IPPL Gibbon" link.

Please mail your application to: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA; or fax it to 843-871-7988.



## IPPL Gibbons Currently Available for Adoption

**Tong** belongs to a different species from most of IPPL's gibbons. She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and was wild-born in her native Vietnam probably around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold as a pet to an American serviceman stationed in Vietnam; her mother may have been one of that nation's many wild animals that succumbed to Agent Orange or other hazards of war. When Tong's owner left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, the servants did not know much about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Eventually, in 1973, Tong was transferred to the protection of newly-founded IPPL, and she has been a part of the family ever since. By adopting Tong, you'll share in IPPL's commitment to lifelong care for beautiful apes like her.



**Arun Rangsi** was born in 1979 at a California research laboratory. Abandoned by his mother at birth, he was raised with a substitute mother made of wire to which he clung. Then the laboratory lost the funding for its program, and IPPL Founder Shirley McGreal, acting on a tip-off, rescued him from possible euthanasia. Once he arrived at IPPL's sanctuary, his physical and mental condition greatly improved, thanks to a good diet and lots of love. Today Arun Rangsi lives happily with Shanti, another former laboratory gibbon. To keep this sweet, gentle ape happy and healthy, we'd love for you to adopt him.



**Courtney** was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was just 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving the little 12-ounce infant with a terribly mangled leg. Thanks to the skill of our veterinarian and months of attention from Courtney's special nannies, her injuries have healed remarkably well. She has had minor follow-up surgery, but is nonetheless extremely active. If you saw her leaping around, you would hardly believe how badly she had been hurt. Since she is now mature, she has accepted a gibbon companion to share her life, our gentle lab gibbon Whoop-Whoop—but she still enjoys regular visits from her human friends. We hope you'll consider adopting this spunky and determined little ape.



**Igor** was born in the wilds of Thailand some time in the 1950s. Most likely his mother was shot and he himself kidnapped while still an infant. Eventually, he was sold to an animal exporter who shipped Igor to the United States to live in a laboratory. Igor spent a total of 26 years in different labs. At some point early in his "career," he developed a bizarre and distressing behavior: he became a self-mutilator, savagely biting his own arms whenever he caught sight of another gibbon. As a result, he was forced to live isolated behind black Plexiglas. In 1987, Igor was allowed to "retire" after his years of service. Since arriving at IPPL, where he lives in a special house within earshot of IPPL's other gibbons, he has not attacked himself once. Please think about adopting this wonderful, resilient fellow.



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# Meet Gus the Dentist

Gus arrived at IPPL in March 2007. He had been raised as a pet. Little is known about his history. Gus has a beautiful, dense coat. We believe he is in his 30s.

He adores animal caregiver Hardy and chatters when he sees him approach. He insists on lengthy grooming sessions (he'd be groomed all day long if given the choice). He loves to dig into Hardy's shirt to see what he can find! He likes examining Hardy's tree pendant and never tries to grab it. He loves to stand on Hardy's hands and get bounced up and down; Hardy calls it "playing horsey." Another of Gus's favorite pastimes is inspecting peoples' teeth. He loves to check out Shirley's and Hardy's mouths and does this very gently.

He doesn't eat much of his healthy breakfast of greens and veggies and instead waits for lunch. For lunch he just loves kiwis, papayas, and mango. Once a week he gets a boiled egg and, like the other gibbons, he gets very excited when he sees the food cart coming with a bowl of boiled eggs.

The only problem with Gus is that he hates his friends to leave his side!



## IPPL: Who We Are



IPPL is an international grassroots wildlife protection organization. It was founded in 1973 by Dr. Shirley McGreal. Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of *all* nonhuman primates, great and small, around the world.

IPPL has been operating a primate sanctuary for gibbons in Summerville, South Carolina, since 1977. There, 33 gibbons (the smallest of the apes) live in happy retirement. IPPL is also proud to help support a number of other wildlife groups and primate rescue centers in countries where primates are native, to reduce the illegal trafficking in these animals.

*IPPL News*, which first appeared in 1974, is published thrice-yearly. It and IPPL's Web site ([www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)) provide information about primate conservation and welfare issues.



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