

A Note from Shirley

Dear IPPL Friend,

Finally, our horribly cold, wet winter seems to be coming to an end. I suspect those of you up north also had your woes.

Currently, the IPPL grounds are glorious with spring flowers, like azalea and sweet-smelling Carolina jasmine. Our hummingbird feeders are ready for our returning feathered friends.

The gibbons, who spent so many days indoors in their heated houses this winter, are now enjoying the sunshine.

We are very happy that a new gibbon joined us in March. Her name is Mia. She was widowed last year and living alone at Jackson Zoo in Mississippi.

Arrangements were made to bring her to IPPL, where we have four males with no companions. As soon as she arrived, Mia could not believe her own eyes! Around her, to the left and right, were active, playful gibbons, swinging and singing! She arrived on March 13, and she is doing wonderfully.

Food prices have escalated here (like everywhere else), and it is only thanks to our members that we have been able to keep on feeding our gibbons high quality fruits, greens, and vegetables. Toward the end of March, we had a wonderful surprise. One of our local supporters told a nearby Costco store about the gibbons, and Costco donated to us a whole truckload of produce. Our senior animal caregiver Meg went down to Charleston to collect it. Thank you, Costco!

I hope you will also have a wonderful spring.

Best wishes,

Shirley McGreal

IPPL Founder and Executive Director



In This Issue:		
\$Action Item!	Page	
Mama Mia, a new gibbon for IPPL!	3	
International Year of the Gibbon	5	
Primates in peril in Australia	6	
HELP Congo's promise to chimps	9	
Leave a lasting legacy	14	
♥ The Mauritius monkey trade	15	
2014 U.S. primate trade stats	16	
Rescuing Vietnam's rare primates	18	
Farewell to Charles Shuttleworth	24	

IPPL News

EXECUTIVE EDITORShirley McGreal

MANAGING EDITOR
Sharon Strong

About the Cover

Vietnam is home to an amazing diversity of rare, native primates. This Delacour's langur baby is one of them. IPPL has long supported the work and mission of the Endangered Primate Rescue Center, which seeks to rescue, rehabilitate, and reintroduce Vietnam's endangered primate species that are threatened by trade. (See page 18.)

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.

IPPL has been operating a sanctuary in Summerville, South Carolina, since 1977. There, 37 gibbons (the smallest of the apes) live in happy retirement.

IPPL also helps support a number of other wildlife groups and primate rescue centers in countries where monkeys and apes are native.

IPPL News is published three times a year.



The South Carolina Lowcountry is becoming a popular destination for retired seniors seeking a little old-fashioned relaxation in the Southern sunshine. Now meet the sweetest new retiree to come to our sanctuary. Shy little Mia is being retired from zoo life to enjoy a forever home at IPPL.

Ready to retire

Mia was born on October 6, 1991, at Reid Park Zoo (in Tucson, Arizona), so at 23 years of age she gets to enjoy a relatively early retirement—lucky Mia! She came to us from Jackson Zoo, in Mississippi, which had been her home since 2010.

She's a widow, too. She had been paired with a mate, Cookie Man, and the two of

them were a very compatible, pair-bonded couple. His gentle, laid-back personality was a good match for Mia's somewhat nervous temperament.

Although they produced several babies, it turned out that Mia was not capable of raising her own offspring, and she was placed on birth control. Soon after, Cookie Man sadly passed away unexpectedly; he died from heart disease last June. Mia was left alone. And everyone knew that this was not the best state of affairs for her.

A man with a plan

Gibbons living in captivity at reputable zoos and similar facilities are tracked by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The AZA oversees about 400 "Species Survival Plans," programs to manage

the captive population of a given species as a whole and ensure the continuation of a "healthy, genetically diverse, and demographically varied" group of animals to be shared among the member institutions of the AZA.

The Gibbon SSP coordinator, Jay Petersen, knew of Mia's situation—and of IPPL's fine reputation as a great place for gibbons, with a policy of not breeding our animals. Not only that, our executive director Shirley McGreal had informed him that we currently care for four single-housed males and would welcome any gibbon females who could be paired with them.

Jay recommended that Jackson Zoo send Mia to us, and we all quickly agreed that this would be a win-win solution.



Read more updates about IPPL's activities on our Facebook page. "Like" us! www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague

www.ippl.org | April 2015 3

Welcome!

After a few weather-related delays, Mia was driven all the way from Mississippi by Jackson Zoo's long-time vet tech, Donna Todd: personal door-to-door chauffeur service is just the way she rolls when it comes to gibbons. Donna reported that Mia had tolerated the trip well, feasting regularly on grapes, apple slices, and bananas along the way. Donna has thirty-plus years' experience caring for and even hand-rearing these little apes, having helped raise Cookie Man back in the 1970s as well as Cookie and Mia's only surviving daughter, Jari, in 2013–2014.

Mia was soon safely installed in Gibbon House #4 by our two most senior animal caregivers, Hardy Brown and Meg McCue-Jones, who admired her fluffy black fur. Donna was very appreciative of the warm welcome. "I was tickled at your 'Welcome Mia' sign!" she exclaimed.

She was also impressed with IPPL's facilities and was soon trying to figure out ideas she could take back home with her. She especially liked the muscadine grapevines that are trained along some of our outdoor enclosures and aerial runways. Muscadines do well in the humid South, and our gibbons enjoy foraging among the vines for fresh grapes in late summer. "It's like Disneyland here!" she said. A gibbon Disneyland!

Holding her own

Mia has settled in well to the routine at IPPL. Even though she is actually a svelte gibbon underneath all that fur, she has had a good appetite from Day 1. For the better part of a week, we let her stay in her night quarters with access to just the first few yards of attached aerial runways, to let her adjust to her new surroundings. But we could see that she was active and curious about her new home and quite capable of holding her own against the squirrels intent on raiding her lunch bucket.

We then released her into the 50-footlong outdoor enclosure next to the one used by Helen and Peppy. Within



five minutes, Mia was delivering the soaring female "great call" that is characteristic of white-handed gibbons. Almost instantly, she was answered by neighboring females, and soon the call-and-response was in full swing as she vocally asserted her presence. We saw she was making great use of the new available space, too, leaping about energetically at the climax of each of her songs. It was all beautifully normal territorial female gibbon behavior!

Lucky Mia!

Mia arrived at IPPL on March 13—Friday the Thirteenth, in fact. But we figure she will bring nothing but *good* luck to one of the bachelor gibbons

here. She can see all four of them from her current home in our main gibbon yard. Who will she choose as her next companion in life? Will it be...

- Louie-Louie, a son of two lab gibbons, who was sadly widowed, himself, just last year?
- Maynard, our favorite "bad boy," who came from a small sanctuary where he had been housed with a capuchin monkey?
- Gus, a playful former pet, who came to IPPL in 2007 from another sanctuary?
- Spanky, a handsome youngster and another former pet, who came to IPPL from Texas only last May?

Whomever she chooses is sure to be one most happy fella!



For more news about Mia and the other 36 IPPL gibbons, check out our blog! Go to **www.ippl.org** for regular updates.

PPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

It's Our Year!



Sharon Strong, IPPL Program Coordinator

The lunar calendar may have ushered in the Year of the Sheep, but according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 2015 is actually the International Year of the Gibbon. Of course, at IPPL's Headquarters Sanctuary, *every* year is the Year of the Gibbon!

If you include the larger-bodied but closely-related siamangs, as many as 19 species of gibbons have been identified so far. For some mysterious reason, there are many more species of gibbons than there are of orangutans (two), gorillas (two), chimpanzees (one), bonobos (one), or humans.

But don't let that number fool you. The status of many of these species in the wild ranges all the way from unknown to dire.

Gibbons are not only the rarest of the apes, they are the rarest of the primates. That means the next primate species to go extinct will likely be a gibbon.

Precarious rarities

The Cao Vit gibbon, for example, has been designated as Critically Endangered by the IUCN (of which IPPL has been a member since 1992). According to the Gibbon Conservation Alliance, there are only 100 individuals remaining in the wild, perhaps fewer. In fact, this species was considered extinct by the 1960s. As reported in the April 2003 issue of *IPPL News* (page 19), in 2002 a team led by

gibbon expert Dr. Thomas Geissman discovered a remnant population of these little apes (also known as the eastern black crested gibbon or *Nomascus nasutus*). IPPL had helped fund the early stages of Dr. Geissman's long search for this elusive ape.

The animals continue to hang on in a remote area of northern Vietnam and neighboring China, but as much as 99 percent of their habitat is gone: the IUCN reports that the animals' land is in constant danger of being cleared for agriculture or firewood/charcoal. Hunting remains a threat, as well.

But they are not the rarest of the gibbons. That dubious honor goes to the Hainan gibbon (Nomascus hainanus). Once considered a subspecies of the Cao Vit gibbon, Hainan gibbons have been elevated to their own species on the basis of Dr. Geissman's assessment of coloration and vocalization differences. They live in only one park on one Chinese island, and there are only a couple dozen individuals left. They are only one natural disaster—or one renegade poacher—away from being wiped off the face of the planet.

Gibbon mysteries

Gibbons are small-bodied (mostly 12 to 24 pounds) and fast (they can reportedly brachiate through the canopy at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour). They are most at home in the treetops, seldom

coming to ground. Their agility makes them very difficult to track in their native habitat, despite their fondness for singing loud duets. As a result, there are many details about their ecology and behavior in the wild that we simply don't know.

Logo courtesy of Gabriella Skollar

At the IPPL Headquarters Sanctuary, all but one of our 37 apes are white-handed gibbons (the sole exception, Tong, is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon, Nomascus gabriellae, from Vietnam). White-handed gibbons (Hylobates lar) are thought to be among the more numerous types of gibbons, with thousands of these primates spread across parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar (also known as Burma), Thailand, and southern China. But the number of animals actually remaining in the wild is unknown. Population estimates are lacking for 11 of the 19 named gibbon species.

According to information released by the Perth Zoo in Australia, the International Year of the Gibbon will be spearheaded by the IUCN Primate Specialist Group Section on Small Apes (SSA). The Primate Specialist Group defines itself as a "network of scientists and conservationists who stand against the tide of extinction which threatens humanity's closest kin."

The risk of threatened extinction for gibbons is higher than for most other primate species. Let's hope the International Year of the Gibbon sees that tide start to turn.

www.ippl.org | April 2015 5

Primates in Peril Down Under

Lynette Shanley, IPPL Overseas Representative, Australia

Importing primates into Australia for the pet trade has been illegal since the 1990s. But that doesn't mean all the battles are over. Even though Australia has no native primates, recent clashes about the fate of certain **macaques**, **capuchins**, and **lorises** have made headlines.



nly a handful of Australians currently have licenses to keep primates as pets. This is at least partly because of a successful campaign to make pet primates illegal throughout Australia, which was waged in the mid-1990s by the Australian grassroots advocacy group Primates for Primates and the International Primate Protection League.

At that time, all the states in Australia except for Victoria and New South Wales (NSW) had already brought about legislation to ban the keeping of primates as pets decades earlier. Victoria quickly came into line with the rest, but the fight to get NSW to agree to a similar ban took two years. Finally, in 1996, the NSW government reclassified primates as a category of animals that could not be

kept as pets under the Non-Indigenous Animals Act. People who already had pet primates could keep them once they applied for a license—but with no new markets for such animals, the number of permit holders has naturally dwindled over the years.

A red-carpet rhesus

One of the last such permit holders had a license to own rhesus macaques. In September 2011, he applied for permission to keep crab-eating macaques (also known as long-tailed macaques), as well. He claimed that he wanted a companion for his solitary female rhesus monkey and that, as no other rhesus were available, he was seeking permission to own a crabeating macaque, instead.

His rhesus already had to deal with

some dubious "15 minutes of fame" in 2007. Australians may remember her as the companion to Nicole Kidman as she walked down the red carpet for the premiere of the film *The Golden Compass* in Sydney.

A lonely legal battle

The monkey's notoriety notwithstanding, the owner's application was rejected in February 2012. He appealed, and, in May 2014, his case was finally heard. A decision was made that the application should be reconsidered only on the basis of laws on the books in 2011, not those stricter laws regarding exotic animal ownership that came into force in 2012. The applicant had

hired a heavy-hitting legal team, led by the former NSW attorney general John Hatzistergos, to make his case. The monkey owner was quoted as saying, "I'm going to keep going to court on the principle of the situation."

While this expensive legal wrangling dragged on, the man's lone rhesus monkey was moved from the care of her litigious owner. Another one of the few remaining primate permit holders had offered her a home where she would be less lonely. In July 2014, word got out that the monkey had died, and the owner subsequently withdrew from his three-year legal battle to acquire crab-eating macaques.

Thanks to years of patience, hard work, and support from IPPL, we should soon see the end of all pet monkeys in Australia.



he fifth installment of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie franchise is currently being filmed in Port Douglas, Australia. That's perhaps good news for the 3,000 inhabitants of the scenic town on the northeast coast of Queensland. Its lush, tropical setting, adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest, will make for a stunning backdrop to the movie. State governments have lately been busy promoting Australia as a haven for filmmakers.

But it's bad news for two white-throated capuchin monkeys from California—a 20 year old female and a 19 year old male—who will be playing the role of Jack, Captain Hector Barbossa's pet monkey. Even though monkeys are on the federal government's list of animals generally barred from being imported into Australia, in this case both the state and federal authorities permitted the primates to be brought in under limited circumstances.

Restrictions imposed

The federal government allows primates to be imported for three reasons: for medical research, for conservation and breeding programs, and for commercial purposes. The making of a movie is one such allowable commercial enterprise. The primates are to be sent back to the United States once the filming is completed.

The main concern of the Australian government is that monkeys could escape and establish a feral colony. However, the government decided that such an outcome was virtually impossible in this case, as

the female has been sterilized.

According to a statement from the federal government, a number of restrictions have been put in place to control the monkeys' movements during their stay Down Under:

The animals will be transported to Australia by air in individual crates that meet IATA [International Air Transport Association] specifications, on or about March 9, 2015. They will be transported by road to purpose built facilities in the grounds of Village-Roadshow Studios, Gold Coast, Queensland, that have been approved by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture for the purposes of post-arrival quarantine isolation. Here they will be used for filming. They will also be taken to Port Douglas in Queensland, early in July 2015, where they will be temporarily housed and taken to a location for the purposes of filming.

The facilities for the animals will have been assessed and approved under the Application to Import Wildlife submitted to the Australian Government Department of the Environment.

The facilities will also be approved by Biosecurity Queensland, a branch of the Queensland Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests.

The animals will be held in secure mesh and steel enclosures within a fenced compound. They will be transported in their crates, by air, to Port Douglas, Queensland and held in approved facilities. They will be taken and used in a filmed sequence on a film set to be identified, after which they will be returned to their secure facilities before

being returned to the Village-Roadshow Studios, Gold Coast.

On completion of filming in July 2015 the animals will be returned to the USA on or about July 4, 2015.

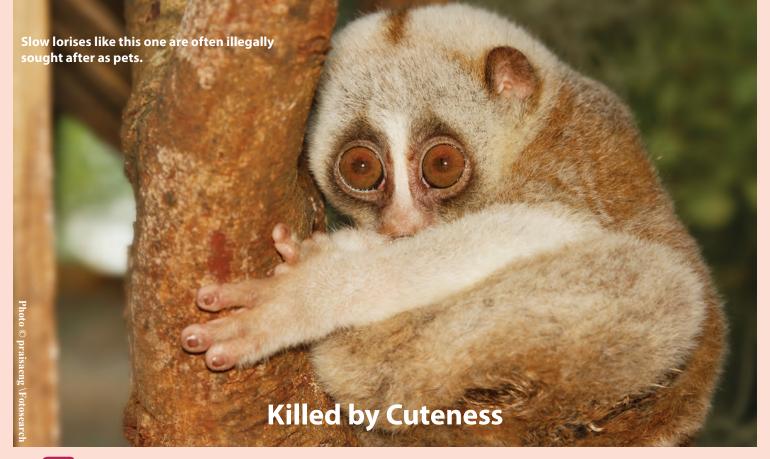
At all times the animals will be supervised by suitably trained and experienced staff.

Welfare concerns remain

Even though the monkeys will be covered under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Queensland), there is no doubt that the lengthy trip to Australia and back will be stressful to them. In addition, the government has insisted that the animals be single-housed, which is an unnatural state for a naturally group-living primate. They will also be restrained by leashes when being forced to perform, an uncomfortable situation (at least) for both animals. Finally, a recent study published in the online scientific journal PLOS ONE has pointed out that seeing monkeys in the media—when they are shown in human settings—has negative long-term consequences for such primates: they are more likely to be perceived by the public as desirable as pets and less likely to be thought of as endangered in the wild.

Although it was not possible to prevent this particular primate import venture, we have been speaking with government officials and are hoping to make it harder to bring in primates in the future. In this day and age, we should not be shipping animals across the globe just for the sake of a movie, when digital imaging can create the same effects in a much more humane way.

www.ippl.org | April 2015 |



hey have been described as reallife Furbies. They are small, fuzzy, and super-cute. Upon seeing videos of these primates on YouTube, many people say that they would love to own a pet slow loris, themselves.

But their cuteness is killing these endangered nocturnal primates. Even though Australia has some of the toughest quarantine laws in the world, and even though importing primates for the pet trade is illegal, people have still attempted to smuggle these animals into the land Down Under. Lorises are native to Southeast Asia, where weak wildlife law enforcement means that the animals can be bought and sold on the black market. The fate of such smuggled animals can be dreadful.

In 2011, for example, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) was informed that two small primates had been discovered in the airplane cabin of a flight (originating in Dubai) that was arriving in Brisbane from Singapore. The story we heard was that a child playing on the floor of the plane saw one of them as it tried to escape from its box. AQIS had originally been advised that the animals were lemurs, but upon their arrival at Brisbane a vet identified them as slow

lorises. The Australian Federal Police boarded the flight to question passengers, but everyone denied knowing anything about the primates.

A danger to whom?

The AQIS North East Regional Manager said that smuggling these animals into Australia posed a threat to Australia's native wildlife; AQIS stated that the slow lorises could carry exotic pathogens, including rabies (Australia is rabies-free). Not only that, AQIS went on to state that the lorises are known to have a toxic bite. The government was not willing to risk having employees get bitten or having the animals spread disease.

We immediately started liaising with AQIS to have the slow lorises rescued. We argued that the animals should be tested for disease by experts in handling the animals, as lorises are now entitled to the highest level of protection under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This is a status that IPPL worked to achieve for these endangered primates back in 2007.

Sadly, despite our efforts, the animals were euthanized within three hours of

their arrival at Brisbane. It turned out that the only animals in danger were actually the lorises themselves. It is likely that any slow lorises smuggled into Australia in the future will meet the same fate.

The truth behind the cute

This is why it is so critical that Australians—and anyone else who may have been charmed by videos of slow lorises eating rice balls or being "tickled" on YouTube—need to be aware of the reality behind the images. Not only is it illegal for Australians to own these animals, most people would not want one if they knew the truth: these animals suffer terribly before they even get to the purchaser.

Slow lorises are brutally poached from their jungle homes. They are placed in tiny cages in busy market places, where they are terribly stressed from exposure to the bright sunlight, noise, and rough handling. Their teeth, which are used for self-defense in the wild, are ripped out, sometimes with nail clippers. Most die of trauma even before being sold.

We need to keep spreading the word, throughout Australia and beyond: do not try to buy slow lorises. Be aware of the cruelty behind the cuteness.

IPPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

Enduring Help for Chimpanzees in the Congo: A Promise Kept





Perlette was rescued from the bushmeat trade in 1990, rehabilitated, and released in 2000 in the Triangle area (HELP Congo's main release site in the Conkouati-Douli National Park). She is now the mother of two. Here, she grooms her male child Ngongo, now 10 years old. Perlette also gave birth to a girl, Nguemba, two and a half years ago. Radio-collared to facilitate tracking by HELP staff, Perlette has been a great source of behavioral data over the years.

It was August 28, 1989. It was her first visit to the Pointe-Noire Zoo, in the Republic of Congo. Aliette Jamart, a French national, was heartbroken to see the chimpanzees there living behind bars in filthy cages, dying of hunger and thirst. She made a promise: to get them out and return them to a life of freedom in the forest—a promise she has been working to fulfill ever since.

That same year, Aliette began to carry out her great vision by rescuing

young, orphaned chimpanzees. These apes came to her in a variety of ways: some were confiscated in the markets from poachers who had killed the chimps' parents for bushmeat, some were obtained from private individuals who had purchased them as "pets," others were simply dropped off at her door by owners wanting to get rid of them. Soon Aliette was overwhelmed: two years later, 17 rambunctious young chimpanzees were living with her!

A great vision

Fortunately, in 1990 Aliette established HELP Congo, an organization with a mission to safeguard the Congo's chimpanzees and their habitat. The following year, her organization was also able to obtain an agreement with the Congolese government, which put at her disposal three protected islands situated in the lagoon of the Conkouati-Douli Natural Park. The orphaned chimps were transferred to the islands even before a camp for the humans could be constructed. But she always had grander plans in view. Her ultimate goal was to release these rescued chimps back to the wild.

For years, Aliette had to move heaven and earth to attain this objective. At the time, biologists, primatologists, and other scientists did not believe for one moment that the reintroduction of captive chimpanzees was possible. Nonetheless, she managed to surround herself with other specialists (veterinarians, botanists, and others) who helped her study the nearby forest in detail in order to establish a release protocol.

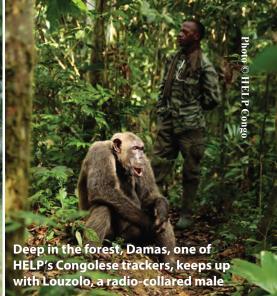
Thanks to their help, Aliette's long-term project was soon underway. It involved teaching the orphans to forage for wild foods, build sleeping nests, and rediscover how to live normal social lives with other rescued chimpanzees. The traumatized orphans had to learn to form a cohesive group before they could be safely returned to the forests of what (thanks to the presence of HELP Congo) became designated as a national park in 1999.

Orphans released back to the wild

To date, a total of 100 chimpanzees have been rescued by HELP Congo, all orphaned as a result of poaching and illegal trade. Many of them showed up in deplorable condition, sometimes dying only a few days after their arrival. Some of the apes have been so traumatized or are suffering from such great physical disabilities that they are not suitable for release and will need to continue to live on the sanctuary islands. But nearly 40 chimpanzees were eventually freed into the wilds of the Conkouati-Douli National Park.

10 PPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org





The first release of orphaned chimpanzees took place in 1996, and four more releases followed over the next five years. Many of the individual chimps were radio-collared and followed almost daily for years by teams of dedicated trackers, to observe how the former orphans were learning

"We will not be able to save the chimpanzees if the forest dies."

-Aliette Jamart, founder of HELP Congo



www.ippl.org | April 2015 | 11

to adjust to life back in nature. A major victory came when rehabilitated females began to mate and give birth in the wild: 2003 was a banner year, when four babies were born to mothers who had been rescued and released by HELP. Many more were to come.

Working on four fronts

Today, HELP Congo's activities take place at four different sites:

The Sanctuary: the camp where the three islands are located. Groups of chimpanzees continue to live there, either enjoying a safe and well-deserved retirement or awaiting their turn to be

released into the park. Since 2008, due to lack of space and to preserve the demographic balance of existing groups, HELP has no longer accepted young orphans. When a future release frees up one of the islands, HELP will again be able to welcome new residents.

The Bivouac: a nursery area located in the middle of the park. In order to avoid the stress of anesthesia needed when moving releasable chimpanzees from the islands to the forest, the current release candidates (five females) are being rehabilitated in the forest directly.

The Triangle: the main release site in the national park. Some of the original released chimpanzees are still being tracked by radio telemetry-19 years after the first release-in order to



IPPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org





eco-volunteers at HELP's field site in the park. Recently, HELP has been doing workshops on reforestation (using baobab seedlings) with high school students from Pointe-Noire, and more environmental awareness projects are planned in the national park to reverse the deforestation and erosion being caused by over-planting cassava.

IPPL's helping hand!

HELP Congo survives thanks in part to IPPL, which has helped support the organization's groundbreaking work since 2002. HELP needs funds to pay for food for the island chimpanzees, animal care, equipment for tracking the released chimps, maintenance of vehicles, wages for local workers and professional staff, building supplies, and more.

In the Congo, the poaching of chimpanzees continues—for bushmeat, for souvenir body parts, for zoo exhibits, and for pets. Their habitat is disappearing, too, falling prey to road building, logging, mining operations, and new oil palm plantations (which are arriving in Africa with a vengeance now that Malaysia and Indonesia have been despoiled). But HELP will continue its struggle for the sake of the chimps.

A promise has been made.



www.ippl.org | PPLNews | April 2015 | 13

Leave a Lasting Legacy...

... for the Primates You Love

Over the years, IPPL has benefitted greatly from bequests left to us by departed supporters. Their thoughtfulness has allowed IPPL to...

- ♦ build new gibbon houses and outdoor enclosures at our sanctuary;
- ♦ acquire new sanctuary land, now totaling 36 acres, which not only creates space for our gibbons but provides a buffer zone that shelters local wildlife;
- ♦ construct a much-in-demand guest cottage for our visitors, known as "Swan and Mary's Cottage" after the lovely couple who left IPPL the funds to build it; and

♦ provide support to dozens of primate sanctuaries and rescue organizations around the world, wherever primates are native.



Arun Rangsi, rescued from a lab

Some of our bequests have come from people who have only been able to make small donations during their lifetimes. Others honor friends. For some, there are tax advantages to making bequests to charities.

Your bequest to IPPL will ensure that our unique work can carry on long into the future. Our address to

include in your will is: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville SC

29484. Our U.S. federal tax ID number is 51-0194013.

If you are thinking about remembering IPPL in your will, know that your love for primates will continue to live on through your generosity.

With gratitude,

Shriley McGreal Dr. Shirley McGreal

IPPL Founder and Executive Director

Gary, retired from a tourist venue

Protest the Mauritius Monkey Trade!

Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director

Mauritius is a beautiful island in the Indian Ocean. It is a paradise for tourists—and it was a paradise for monkeys for many decades.

In the late 18th century, Dutch settlers introduced crab-eating macaques to the island. They brought monkeys with them as pets, but a few of the macaques got loose. These monkeys settled down well in their new habitat and bred. Eventually, there were tens of thousands of monkeys roaming the island. The mainly Hindu population tolerated their presence.

With the invention of jet aircraft, Mauritius became more accessible, and in the 1980s animal dealers set up companies to trap and export monkeys.

Monkeys from Mauritius do not have any of the unpleasant viruses (such as Herpes B) that are common in macaques from other locations. They eat a varied diet, which includes some birds' eggs, including eggs from the pink pigeon, a bird species found nowhere else in the world. Causing the most problems for the pigeons were feral cats and rats. However, some scapegoated the monkeys for the destruction of local fauna.

Dr. Linda Wolfe, an IPPL advisory board member since 1984 and one of the world's leading macaque experts, has commented. In studies in Africa and Asia that actually look at how much damage macaques do when they raid crops, the animals don't take nearly as much as local people think they do. Rats are more of a problem.

In 1985, Marianne Stanley, a Mauritian microbiologist, and Owen Griffith, an Australian zoologist, formed a company called "Bioculture Mauritius" to trap monkeys for local breeding and export. Their company has flourished. Since then, other companies

(such as Noveprim, Biodia, and Les Campeches) have also been formed to exploit the monkeys.

Our colleagues at the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection undertook an investigation of the conditions at the breeding facilities and found the conditions there deplorable. They were even able to video the

appalling cruelty occurring at the capture level. They publicized their findings in Mauritius and around the world, calling on the island to stop exporting its monkeys. One alternative that has been proposed is the sterilization of female macaques.

The worst result of the trade has been the abuse of monkeys in research laboratories. The United States currently uses macaques in cruel experiments into biological and chemical warfare agents. IPPL believes that this brutal trade should be stopped.



Help Make Mauritius a Monkey Paradise Again!

Please send letters to the following officials expressing your concern at the export of monkeys from Mauritius to countries where they will suffer horribly in experiments.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius
Port Louis
MAURITIUS

E-mail: primeminister@mail.gov.mu

H. E. S. Soborun, Ambassador Mauritius Embassy 1709 N St NW Washington, DC 20036

E-mail: mauritius.embassy@verizon.net

H.E. Mr. A. Kundasamy, High Commissioner of Mauritius Mauritius Embassy

32-33, Elvaston Place London S.W.7 - 5 NW UNITED KINGDOM

E-mail: londonmhc@btinternet.com

www.ippl.org | April 2015 | 15

THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE

2014 U.S. Primate Trade Statistics

Sharon Strong, IPPL Program Coordinator

Every year, IPPL tracks U.S. primate imports via statistics provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and obtained via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). These numbers do not reflect primates imported to the U.S. illegally or via classified military installations, but they do give an indication of general trends. The data is in for last year, and, unfortunately, it doesn't look very good at all.

The Good

The only good news, really, is that, once again, almost no apes were imported. Unlike what many people may think, apes constitute only a minuscule fraction of annual primate imports. Last year, only two apes were imported: one gorilla and one Sumatran orangutan, both destined for zoos (in Dallas and Indianapolis, respectively). Apart from three prosimian primates, the rest of the imports were all monkeys.

The Bad

Here's the bad news: for the second year in a row, primate imports into the United States have increased. And not just a little bit: imports were up by 20 percent. This means that the United States brought in about 4,000 more primates in 2014 than we did in 2013, for a total of 23,465 imported animals.

And the flip side of the low ape statistic is that monkeys are the ones who suffer overwhelmingly in trade. Again this year, long-tailed macaques were the species of choice, constituting 93 percent of all imported primates. Rhesus monkeys, at three percent, were a distant second.

The Ugly

Disturbingly, we know less about the primate trade this year than we did last



year. Due to changes at the USFWS, we are suddenly not being granted access to any information about the identities of foreign exporters when we request the import data.

In the past few years, we have been able to determine that businesses like the Guangxi Weimei Bio-Tech Co., Ltd., Huazheng Laboratory Animal Breeding Center, Guangzhou Blooming Spring Biological Technology Development, and Bioculture Mauritius, Ltd., have frequently been among the top five exporters of primates to the United States. Bioculture Mauritius operates (naturally) in Mauritius, but the other companies are Chinese.

Now the USFWS has suddenly determined that (because in the United States corporations are often legally treated as "people") this information must be kept confidential.

This lack of transparency does not bode well for the ability of anyone to access primate trade data in the future. In the past (at least prior to the early 2000s), it was also possible to obtain information on the "declared value" of the imported primates, a useful insight into the magnitude and profitability of the trade. This information has been barred from independent review for some time. Now, our access to import data has been tightened another notch.

According to a letter from the USFWS

that accompanied the (limited) information we received:

We are withholding the "Declared Value of Wildlife" and the "Foreign Importer/Exporter" columns in full.... The withheld information is commercial or financial information. The company that supplied this information... is considered a person, because the term "person," under the FOIA, includes a wide range of entities including corporations.

IPPL is currently appealing this abrupt decision. It seems contrary to the spirit of the FOIA process to suddenly withhold information that was previously available without restriction. We have submitted a letter of complaint and are awaiting a response.

The Weird

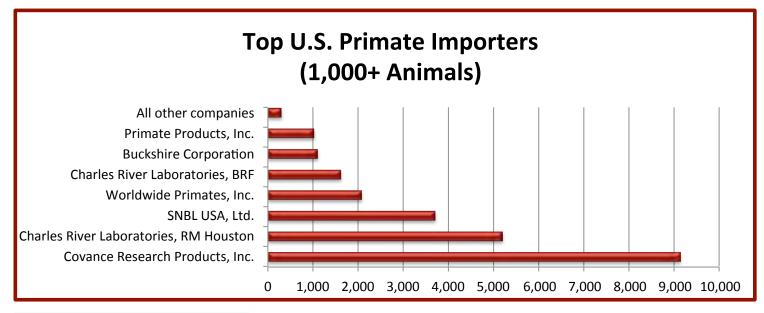
This year, IPPL also requested information about primate imports other than those of live animals. We found that in 2014 the U.S. imported 750 primate trophies—apparently, these were mostly stuffed baboons (specifically chacma baboons, 62 percent) and vervet monkeys (21 percent). All the imported trophies but one were sourced from the wild, mostly from South Africa (52 percent) and Zimbabwe (21 percent). The trophies do not include skulls, which have a separate import code, SKU; 183 primate skulls made it to the U.S. last year.

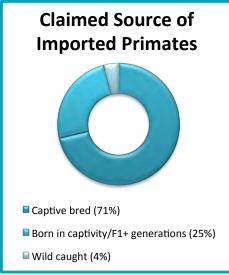
Again, in the past, when IPPL requested trophy information, we received data about both the U.S. importers and the foreign exporters. Now, the identities of all the foreign exporting companies have been withheld, as well as those of most of the U.S. importers.

The additional data requested by IPPL this year also includes some very weird and "icky" imports. Yes, there is

16 PPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

E UGLY, AND THE WEIRD...





Long-tailed macaques (92.8%)

Rhesus macaques (2.8%)

Stump-tailed macaques (2.3%)

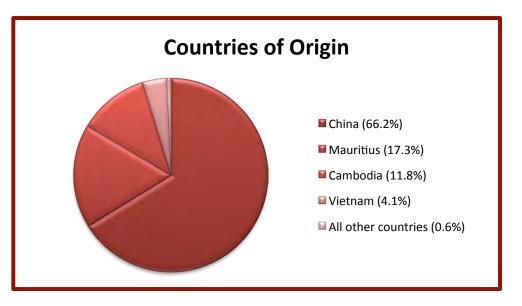
Japanese macaques (1.5%)

All other species (0.6%)

a code "ICK," which is defined as "Non-specific organic material (non-scientific or museum, including blood, tissue, scat and non-specific organs—e.g., gut pile)." Some 392 "icky" items, were imported, mostly consisting of 374 unspecified bits of capuchin monkeys.

There are some other strange codes to be found in the spreadsheet. Who on earth would want to import marmoset shoes? (Code SHO, 148 of them.) Or jewelry made from tamarins? (Code JWL, 70 items.) The mind boggles.

But the weirdest part about the 2014 USFWS spreadsheet is looking at the empty columns where previously available information used to be. Weird, and disturbing.



Imported Species

A Center for Primate Conservation in Vietnam

Tilo Nadler, Endangered Primate Rescue Center Director





"We are extremely grateful to IPPL for providing continuous and crucial funding for gibbon husbandry at the EPRC—for over a decade. This invaluable support has made possible the construction of holding facilities, staff training and development, and the costly but essential transportation of confiscated animals to our center."

-Tilo Nadler

Each year, at least 730 primates are poached from the wild in Vietnam: that's a minimum of two every day. This is the result of an analysis of the illegal primate trade, based on case reports from the Wildlife Crime Database of the Vietnamese conservation organization Education for Nature – Vietnam.

But the database records only those cases that have been detected. The real number is undoubtedly much higher.

The impact of this trafficking on wild primates is dramatic, resulting in the ongoing extermination of small and isolated populations. This is especially true for highly endangered species, which only exist in small numbers to begin with and so are particularly vulnerable.

Vietnam's unique, rare species

Vietnam—a country with remarkably high biodiversity—is home to 25 primate species, the most of any country on the Southeast Asian mainland. The tally includes 12 species of langurs, six gibbons, five macaques, and two lorises.

Two monkey species, the Cat Ba langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus*) and the Delacour's langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*), are native only to Vietnam.

The core populations of the critically endangered eastern black crested gibbon (*Nomascus nasutus*) and the Tonkin snubnosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*) occur in Vietnam, too; only negligible numbers of these animals remain in adjacent areas across the border in China.

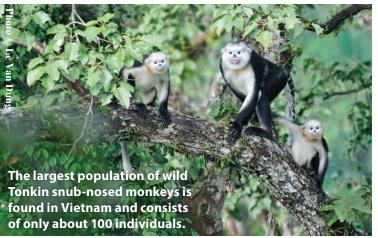
The largest population of the critically endangered grey-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix cinerea*) exists only in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. This species was only discovered in 1995, thanks to the activities of the Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC). Years of war and subsequent restricted access to the

www.ippl.org | April 2015 | 19



country had resulted in a very limited scientific understanding about Vietnam's wildlife in general and its primates in particular.

These species are some of the world's rarest primates. No more than 60 Cat Ba langurs, for example, currently exist in the wild. We estimate around that only 200 Delacour's langurs remain in their native habitat, with just one viable population of about 120 individuals. The core population of the eastern black crested gibbon is also estimated at about 120 animals.



The largest (and probably the only) viable population of Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys consists of about 100 individuals. The total number of grey-shanked douc langurs is estimated at around 1,000 monkeys, but the populations are highly fragmented: the largest contains no more than 200 individuals.

The EPRC

In 1993, the EPRC was established as a part of the Frankfurt Zoological Society's Vietnam Primate Conservation Program. The initiative essentially began with the first observations of living Delacour's langurs in Cuc Phuong National Park. These observations occurred more than 50 years after the initial scientific description of the species in 1932, which was based on just two skins purchased from local hunters on an expedition by the French zoologist Jean Delacour.

The Frankfurt Zoological Society was the project partner of the EPRC for twenty years before transferring that responsibility to another German organization, the Leipzig Zoo, in 2014. The Frankfurt Zoological Society will continue to support the protection of the Kon Ka Kinh National Park, which contains the largest population of grey-shanked douc langurs, another critically endangered primate species and described

20 PPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

as one of the world's rarest primates.

Not really protected

All primate species in Vietnam are protected by law. But law enforcement for violations is weak to nonexistent. The initial goal of the EPRC (as the first wildlife rescue center in all of Indochina) was to create a facility to house confiscated primates that were classified as members of endangered species. This would enable the forest protection authorities to uphold wildlife protection laws more strictly by giving officers a place where they could take trafficked animals.

Due to the direct involvement of the EPRC in locating and identifying poached wildlife, as well as in supporting confiscation activities, the number of primates at the EPRC quickly grew. As our knowledge increased

of the critical conservation status of several species (and of the dramatic degree of hunting pressure on them), we changed the mission of the EPRC: from the release of rehabilitated individuals to the establishment of small, captive populations for further reintroduction into areas where poaching had been eliminated.

It took us more than 15 years to start to realize this goal. The establishment of captive populations takes a long time—especially if one is using only confiscated animals, without any control over the sex or age of individuals entering the population, and with species that have a low reproduction rate of only one infant every two to three years.

But the most challenging aspect of achieving success is establishing a suitable habitat where one can release animals: eradicating poaching and gathering information about any existing wild populations in a proposed release area are critical. Very close contact with the human communities surrounding the potential reintroduction area is also essential. We work hard to cultivate a broad understanding of conservation issues among the public, to eliminate poaching, and (often despite a lack of resources to offer adequate alternative incomes) to finally get support for our reintroduction programs.

Left, this male grey-shanked douc langur lives at the EPRC, the sole facility that cares for this critically endangered species. Below, the EPRC provides Vietnam's wildlife authorities with a facility to place confiscated primates, like this endangered red-shanked douc langur.



www.ippl.org | April 2015 21



Left, the release of the first captive-bred Delacour's langurs into the Van Long Nature Reserve was a special moment for everyone at the EPRC. Right, the keeper team at the EPRC is proud of the Center's successes.

stakeholders showed a great interest in returning "their primate species" as a flagship animal to its homeland. The EPRC now cares for about 50 of these langurs at the Center, a good basis for the establishment of a new population in the area secured.

Tilo Nadle

Reintroducing primates

A properly managed reintroduction is rather costly. The animals are released with expensive satellite radio collars and monitored by Vietnamese and foreign biologists doing master's and Ph.D. studies for about one year. But these projects are also very rewarding.

The EPRC's first monkey reintroduction took place in 2011 with the release of three captive-bred Delacour's langurs into the Van Long Nature Reserve. It was a pilot project. Ever since the reserve was established in 2001 as the primary stronghold of the remaining wild Delacour's langurs, we have worked very closely with the Management Board of the reserve and the seven communes surrounding the area. The establishment of a community-based "ranger" group (with guards recruited from the communes, but trained and paid by our project) contributed not only to the protection of wildlife in the area, but also spread the idea of conservation among the villages and supported improved awareness and education. These positive results led to a second release of captive-bred individuals in 2012.

One of the highlights of the Van Long project has been to see the pride of the communes at being involved in the conservation of one of the world's rarest primates. For us, this public recognition is a real success, the result of many years of hard work.

Ongoing primate projects

The EPRC currently cares for about 180 primates belonging to 15 threatened species. Over the years, the facility has expanded to include 50 holding cages in total, covering an area of more than 3,000 square meters (three-quarters of an acre). In addition to this, we maintain two semiwild areas (one consisting of five acres and the other of twelve acres of primary forest), which are used for conditioning animals prior to release.

Our smallest primates, the noctural pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) and the slow loris (*Nycticebus bengalensis*), are also extremely threatened due to poaching for the pet trade and for use in traditional medicines. We have received more than 140 pygmy lorises and more than 30 slow lorises over the years. After an initial reintroduction project in 1998, we are now carrying out a second reintroduction with radio-collared animals, which we want to continue under the supervision of Professor Anna Nekaris, of Oxford Brooks University.

Currently we are working on a plan for the reintroduction of the endangered Hatinh langur (*Trachypithecus hatinhensis*) into the Ke Go Nature Reserve, in Hatinh Province. Although the province is named for these monkeys, the animals have most likely already been eradicated from the region. During our initial meetings in Hatinh Province, the provincial administration and

Special requirements

Each primate species or family has special requirements for reintroduction into the wild and their natural habitat. Langurs are leaf-eating monkeys and are fed at the EPRC with their natural food: leaves. Twenty-five keepers (locals from the communes surrounding the national park) take care of the primates at the center. Each day the workers provide about 350 kg (770 pounds) of leaves collected from forest areas outside the park. For the released animals, it's not a big challenge to find such food in the wild.

Wild gibbons, however, have a completely different nutritional profile, consuming fruits from the forest, small animals, bird eggs, and insects. A diet that duplicates the one consumed in nature is impossible to provide in captivity. Reintroduction of these little apes is a much longer process. For the more difficult work of gibbon reintroduction, in the future we plan to utilize experience we have gained from our successes with the langurs.

Several of our breeding programs, especially for endangered and critically endangered species, have been quite successful. The number of newborns, in addition to our confiscated animals, will contribute greatly to the continuation of our reintroduction programs—and to the preservation of Vietnam's wonderful primate diversity.

2 IPPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

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- Joan Brooks, in memory of IPPL's Northie and Igor
- Mary Calvert Brown, in memory of Harold Brookshire
- Debra Bruegge, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- Lynda Buermann, in honor of Brian Buermann
- Patrick Bufford, in honor of Tommy Wickwire's 7th birthday
- Celeste Coles, in memory of IPPL's Igor
- Brien Comerford, in honor of all God's creatures
- Kristy Crouch, in honor of Tommy Wickwire's 7th birthday
- John Cunningham, in memory of Dad and in honor of everyone at IPPL
- Pam Dauphin, in honor of Joanne Pierce's birthday
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- Fran and Christopher Dolins, in honor of Dr. Merelyn
- Laura Einstandig, in memory of Phyllis Einstandig
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- **Deanna Fappiano**, in honor of Tommy Wickwire's 7th birthday
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IPPL News | April 2015 23 www.ippl.org

Farewell to Charles Shuttleworth

John Spowart, IPPL Supporter

At the close of last year, we bade a sad farewell to our friend and colleague Charles Shuttleworth MBE. He was 91 years young when he passed on November 30, 2014.

Charles had represented IPPL in Taiwan almost from the beginning and had been instrumental in the campaign to end the rampant wildlife trade there, which resulted in Taiwan's Wildlife Protection Laws. He was a staunch advocate for animal rights and lent himself assiduously to helping the people and officials of his adopted home develop new attitudes towards Taiwan's extraordinary beauty and diversity.

His love for the tropical flora and fauna of Southeast Asia and its myriad peoples had been kindled during the Communist guerrilla war on the Malayan peninsula, where Charles commanded a remote jungle fort. His mission was to safeguard the aboriginal tribes, or Orang Asli, and over his years of duty Charles forged strong bonds of friendship with these ancient forest people—learning their languages, becoming familiar with their ways, and growing ever more fascinated by their knowledge of the natural world.

Badly wounded, he was released from the army, but his time among the forest tribes prompted him to write about them. Charles continued to spend long periods in his beloved rainforest, both as an independent naturalist and as a professional safari guide. As his intimate understanding of the wild grew, more books followed.

Born in northern England near the town of Chester, Charles fought in World War

II and received his battlefield commission in Italy. As a veteran of Dunkirk, El Alamein, and Monte Cassino, as well as a witness to the Nazi death camps in Bavaria, Major Shuttleworth had experienced the abominations of war, yet he managed to retain a love of life and a feeling of pure wonder for the world. He was a true gentleman, a warrior poet who had fallen head-over-heels in love with the wild. Sorely will he be missed.



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24 PPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

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IPPL Gibbon T-Shirt: 100% cotton; green shirt features 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 S, M, L, XL; Child S, M, L, XL Cost: Adult US\$15 (US)/US\$22 (overseas) Child US\$12 (US)/US\$16 (overseas)

Two-sided Gibbon T-Shirt: 100% cotton T-shirt with gibbon design front and back

Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL Cost: US\$20 (US)/US\$30 (overseas)



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- A signed Certificate of Gibbon Guardianship.
- A large glossy photograph of your gibbon.
- A biographical sketch of your gibbon.

- An IPPL sanctuary fact sheet.
- A gibbon fact sheet.
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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!

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26 IPPL News | April 2015 www.ippl.org

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 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.

Peppy was born in 1979 at a cancer lab run by the University of California at Davis. The laboratory used gibbons in painful and usually fatal viral cancer experiments. When the lab closed down, he was sent to yet another research facility, the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates in New York. Fortunately, before LEMSIP closed its doors as well, he and his companion-for-life, Helen, were sent to IPPL in the early 1980s. They have been together ever since—and you can always tell them apart because he will be the one sucking his thumb. Miraculously, he never became ill as a result of the research carried out on him, so we have always called him "The Gibbon Who Got Away."









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Our adorable Ziggy is a Millenial gibbon (birth date: August 30, 1986). He lives at IPPL in one of our newer enclosures along with his long-time mate Erin. He's very affectionate with her, and the two of them spend long sessions engaged in mutual grooming. Both of them were born in zoos. They came to IPPL in 2007 from another sanctuary, along with their shy daughter Cathy. Like her, Ziggy is more of a "gibbon person" than a "people person." When a new male is moved into a nearby housing unit, he asserts his presence with fine territorial displays, like any proper male gibbon should. Otherwise, he is a calm and tidy little fellow, and our staff appreciates the fact that he is not in the habit of throwing his food hither and yon (unlike some other gibbons we could name; we're looking at you, Speedy!).