



# *Venus*

ISSN-1040-3027, Vol. 46, No. 3

December 2019





# A Note from Shirley & Siân



Dear IPPL Friends,

IPPL's 46<sup>th</sup> year is coming to an end.

Another year of hard work at Headquarters and round the world.

In late October, we had the great pleasure of welcoming a male gibbon from a Midwestern zoo. Since his brother died, Gideon Gibbon, now aged 23, had been living alone. He needed a new home and the zoo offered him to IPPL. He travelled safely from Nebraska. John McGreal and Shala Sheidler (*see article on Page 3*) drove to Atlanta Airport to meet him and bring him home to IPPL. According to John, Gideon munched on grapes and bananas all the way home! Our gibbon head count remains at 34. They all receive good care from our dedicated Animal Care team.

This year we lost one gibbon: Blackie, a retired laboratory gibbon, who left us in September at around 60 years of age. He came to us in 1984 with his mate Penny and their baby E.T. (*see article on Page 17*). All the IPPL gibbons receive such good care that they live really long lives. Three have reached 60 years of age. Senior gibbons do not look old like we humans do! We love our senior gibbons like Gibby, Shanti, and Scrappy.

Overseas, IPPL remains active on all continents with resident primates (Africa, Asia, and the Americas). Our small grants program is very popular with both recipients and supporters. These overseas rescue centers and activist groups function on small budgets and IPPL's help is much appreciated.

We would like to thank all our wonderful supporters and friends for their help. Some have been with us since our very early days.

Siân and I both wish you a happy holiday season!



*Shirley McGreal*

Dr. Shirley McGreal  
IPPL Founder



*Siân Evans*

Dr. Siân Evans  
IPPL Chairwoman

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## IPPL News

**SENIOR EDITOR** . . . . . Shirley McGreal

**MANAGING EDITOR** . . . . . Joan Brooks

## About the Cover



IPPL's Donny was born October 15, 1989 at a Michigan zoo. He then lived at zoos in Ohio, Indiana (where he was attacked mercilessly by other gibbons) and Wisconsin. In 2001 he came to IPPL. Donny loves to spend time gazing at his reflection in a mirror and seeing as he is such a handsome gibbon, we can't blame him!

## 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, 34 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.



# Gideon Gibbon Arrives at IPPL!

*By Shala Sheidler and John McGreal*

*IPPL's new Sanctuary Manager, Shala Sheidler, and John McGreal, co-founder of the International Primate Protection League, drove to Atlanta Airport to meet our newest Gibbon on 26 October 2019. This is their account of this special trip.*

The Delta Airlines plane flew from Omaha, Nebraska, carrying Gideon, who had lived at a zoo in Lincoln, Nebraska for 26 years. For most of these years he lived with his brother, who had sadly passed on. Attempts were made to integrate him with two females, but neither couple got along. Gibbons are very picky!

It had taken several months to get all Gideon's paperwork together. The weather had been fine in Nebraska. The day after he reached sunny Summerville where it was 82 degrees, things got really bad out in Nebraska and it is likely it won't warm up till next spring! Poor Gideon could have had a very long wait before coming to IPPL!

Gideon's Nebraska caregiver, Randy Scheer, told them on the Sunday after he reached Summerville, "It's 28 degrees (-2 Centigrade) with snow here!" Randy plans to come and visit Gideon sometime next year.

The flight from Omaha arrived right on time, just as they arrived at the Delta Cargo terminal. In short order, his shipping container was off-loaded safely and in a no time Shala had sorted out all the Air Waybill papers with the Cargo Manager who immediately released him to us. He was loaded into our van to complete the last stage of his journey – from Atlanta to Summerville.

Gideon made friends with his chauffeurs immediately and was hungry; he had quite an appetite right away. John, who had been involved in many gibbon pickups over the years, fed him all sorts of fresh fruits and bananas that Shala had packed beforehand for him. The long ride back to Summerville went smoothly despite several rain showers that required us to drive slowly.

The rain did not bother Gideon at all. After stuffing himself with Shala's treats, he curled up in the corner of his

container and slept soundly until they got home. When they were 33 miles from IPPL, John telephoned Shirley giving her our estimated time of arrival.



Photo: Wesley Laney

Several IPPL caregivers were already waiting for them at the newly re-conditioned Gibbon-House 3, Gideon's new home. They arrived shortly after 9:00 pm. The caregivers swiftly and expertly transferred Gideon safely and uneventfully from his shipping container to his new digs in South Carolina without him being tranquilized. He settled into his new indoor heated/cooled building immediately. It had fresh water available round the clock – and he even

has a TV!

Gideon is friendly with everyone he meets and seems to be adjusting quite well to his new home. The next day (Sunday) was an exciting one for Gideon and all the staff too as he was able to hear all 33 other gibbons at the sanctuary singing, as if welcoming him to his new home.

Getting to know Gideon has been a wonderful experience. He seems to love all people, and he enjoys singing with the other gibbons and watching Maynard and Spanky from his outdoor enclosure.

On his second day here, he received some special songs from Shanti Gibbon living in an adjacent housing area, who was excited to talk with the new guy on the block. He has a few quirks we have been noticing, like bouncing his food in his hand while eating, or dropping his food deliberately so that a caregiver has to pick it up and hand it back to him! He really knows how to be the center of attention!

*All of us look forward to spending many years with sweet Gideon at his new digs at IPPL!*



# Shala Sheidler Joins IPPL as Sanctuary Manager of Animal Care and Grounds

In a newly created position, IPPL welcomed Shala Sheidler as the Sanctuary Manager of Animal Care and Grounds. Shala has an extensive background working with primates in several distinguished facilities including the following.

At **Zoo Knoxville** in Knoxville, Tennessee, Shala was the Supervisor/Lead Keeper of Great Apes where her responsibilities included training chimpanzees, blue monkeys, and western lowland gorillas. She also introduced new chimpanzees to an established group.

She was the Staff Supervisor at **Save the Chimps, Inc.** in Ft. Pierce, Florida. While there she supervised all safety and security protocols for staff and chimpanzees, and coordinated diets, veterinary care, and group introductions. Shala also cared for large groups of chimpanzees retired from medical research, entertainment, and the pet trade.

At the **Oklahoma City Zoo** in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Shala held the position of Senior Caretaker-Great EscApe. Here she trained chimpanzees, Sumatran orangutans,



Shala and her new friend, Spanky

western lowland gorillas, golden lion tamarins, Hoffman's two-toed sloth and Goeldi's monkeys. She also captured and prepared primates for shipping and maintained quarantine protocols.

In addition to her professional history, Shala's extensive travels and studies have taken her to:

**Borneo:** Tanjung Puting National Forest with Dr. Birute Galdikas; Camp Leakey; Orangutan Foundation International Orphanage and Care Center

**Uganda:** Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary; Mountain Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

**Thailand:** Anthropology Field Course

When asked how she became interested in IPPL and her thoughts now that she is here, Shala replied, *"I have always been a follower of IPPL and the important work they do on behalf of primates around the world. It is a dream come true to be around these amazing animals every day. It has been great getting to know our newest gibbon Gideon, playing with Val, and interacting with sweet Spanky. Every day is a joy at the sanctuary!"*

## Go Nuts for Gibbons!

Our friends at Nuts.com have put together a special care package that gibbon fans can purchase for our sanctuary residents. This goody box includes the following healthy snacks, which are favorites that Spanky and all our gibbons love:

- ◆ 5 lbs. jumbo roasted unsalted peanuts (in shell),
- ◆ 1 lb. raw unsalted cashews (shelled),
- ◆ 1 lb. dried mango (unsulfured, low sugar),
- ◆ 1 lb. dried Turkish figs, and
- ◆ 1 lb. dried diced Turkish apricots.

**Nuts.com**

9 lbs. of specially selected treats for the IPPL gibbons!

Only \$49.70 (includes shipping)

[www.nuts.com/gifts/nutsforbirds/ippl.html](http://www.nuts.com/gifts/nutsforbirds/ippl.html)



Spanky goes nuts for peanuts!



# Highlights of CITES CoP18

Geneva, Switzerland, 17th – 28th August 2019

*By Ian Redmond, Head of IPPL delegation to CITES*

A fortnight in Switzerland sounds like a delightful way to spend half of August, but perhaps less so when it is spent arguing in a vast air-conditioned conference centre the size of an aircraft hangar! When I say arguing, I should say engaging in diplomatic debates with people who have a very different attitude to animals and plants, who see them more as a commodity to be traded rather than the living components of the Earth's many and varied ecosystems, on which we all depend.

The illegal trade in wildlife ranks alongside drugs, guns and people-trafficking among the world's most profitable organised crimes. It is estimated to be worth \$8-10 billion (and that is not counting fish and timber).

The legal trade is regulated by the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which every three years holds a Conference of the Parties (or CoP). This year, Sri Lanka was due to host CITES CoP18 in Colombo in May, and many delegates had already bought tickets and made hotel reservations when tragedy struck. Terrorist atrocities were carried out on Easter Sunday in three churches and four hotels across Colombo; suicide bombs were detonated killing 359 people and injuring hundreds more.

The world grieved with Sri Lanka and the UN had no choice but to postpone and relocate CoP18, which is how thousands of delegates found themselves in Geneva three months later. The horror of the attack permeated the whole conference. Every opening speech was prefaced by an expression of sympathy for those who had suffered in the attacks, and appreciation for the Swiss Government and the CITES Secretariat that had struggled to move such a massive meeting so quickly.

At UN meetings, it is the government



**Ian makes an intervention on apes, photo by Dr Shirley McGreal**

representatives who make the decisions, but expert opinion and scientific evidence is often provided by observers from non-governmental organisations (NGOs). It is important to note that NGOs range from animal welfare and conservation groups to associations of hunters and traders who deal in birds, ivory, ornamental fish, etc. Seating is arranged alphabetically, so IPPL was nestled between the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the International Professional Hunters' Association!

Species that are or may be endangered by trade are either listed on Appendix I, which prohibits all commercial international trade, or Appendix II, which allows trade provided it is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

One of the functions of the Conference of the Parties is to discuss whether changes need to be made to the appendices in response to worsening (or rarely, improving) conservation status of animals or plants in trade. There were no listing proposals for primates this time, but IPPL is a member of the Species Survival Network, which works for better protection across all taxa.

There was a resolution concerning a Working Group on Great Apes which we felt needed some amendments. In fact, all primates (apart from humans) are

listed on Appendix II except for those listed on Appendix I, which includes all apes. In other words, there should be no imports and exports of apes 'for primarily commercial purposes', and yet CITES statistics show that hundreds of chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas, and gibbons have been shipped openly, sometimes with dubious 'captive bred' permits and sometimes to facilities which advertise blatantly commercial uses.

This was the gist of an intervention I made on behalf of IPPL in the debate, pointing

out that while there was widespread support expressed for stronger law enforcement, action on the ground is often weak. A quick search online for pet primates will reveal infant chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons for sale in classified ad sites giving the vendors' contact details. Why are enforcement officers not beating a path to their door?

In China, Thailand, and other parts of South-east Asia, zoos and wildlife parks openly advertise shows and photo-opportunities with young apes (and other cute animals) doing tricks or being dressed in clothes. One particular case involves a bonobo in the Pata Zoo, on the top floor of a Bangkok department store.

Given that there are no records for a legal transfer of a bonobo to Thailand from zoos, and the species is found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which has banned exports, it is self-evidently illegal. Yet even a delegation from the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums last year, accompanied by Dr Jane Goodall, was unable to trigger the animal's confiscation and repatriation to DRC.

In law, there is often a 'statute of limitations' after which it is deemed too late to prosecute for a crime. For apes smuggled into a lifetime in cruel captivity, there is no statute of limitations – their



suffering may go on for decades, and so it is never too late to push for repatriation and rehabilitation into natural habitat enclosures or, where possible, a life in the wild.

Among the most significant animal welfare gains at CoP18 was the decision to limit export of young, wild-caught African elephants to countries within the species' historical range. Elephants are intelligent social beings whose complex multi-tiered society we are only just beginning to comprehend. When kept singly or in small herds in captivity, they live lives of social and sensory deprivation, often dying at an earlier age than in the wild.

Moreover, the IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group has stated that keeping elephants in captivity brings no conservation benefit to the species. The proposal to end exports to zoos was opposed by many in the zoo world because the ageing captive elephant population is not self-sustaining and in some people's eyes, "a zoo isn't a zoo without an elephant".



Mocha and Olive, two of IPPL's Asian otters



A proposal to allow some trade in elephants was voted down by CITES nations

In recent years there has been an international outcry against the export of elephants from Zimbabwe, Namibia and Swaziland to zoos in the USA, China and elsewhere. There was jubilation among animal welfare groups when in Committee 1, there was the requisite two-thirds majority in support of an end to such exports.

The vote was unusual though because the 28 European Union countries, which had spoken against the ban, had not voted. The EU has a rule that, if all member nations are not accredited and present in the room, they can't vote. Decisions taken in committees have

to be approved in Plenary, and when the item came up in the plenary session the EU reopened the debate.

Fortunately there had been discussion between the dissenting parties and a compromise – which would allow an export in exceptional circumstances to save the life of an animal and with oversight by the

CITES Animals Committee and the AfESG – and with this amendment the resolution was passed with 75 per cent in favour (including the EU).

Other species that benefited from increased protection under CITES at CoP18 included two species of Asian otters raised to Appendix I, including the Asian short-clawed otters, six of which reside at IPPL. Giraffes, black-crowned cranes and several species of reptiles, fish and plants received increased protection.

Proposals to re-open trade in ivory and rhino horn were rejected, but a compromise was reached allowing finished musical instruments containing rosewood to be exempt from CITES permits, making it simpler for musicians on tour.

One of the most important ways that NGOs assist the decision-making process at such meetings is by organising side events where experts can present the latest research to inform the delegates. For this reason, IPPL partnered with Ericka Ceballos, President of CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society (based in Canada) to host a side event on the illegal trade in primates early in the conference.

The three speakers present in the room gave powerful accounts of their investigations into this cruel business in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East



and China. Our fourth speaker, Adams Cassinga of ConservCongo (recipient of an IPPL Small Grant in 2018) was unable to get a visa in time to join us in Switzerland so gave his talk over Skype from Kinshasa in the DRC.

Frustrating though it was not to have Adams sharing his experience throughout the conference, in one way it had a more immediate impact to have him describe his work in the DRC speaking from the DRC where, with IPPL's help, he secured the arrest and successful prosecution of ape traffickers earlier this year. This was the first such case in DRC since independence, and a milestone in efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

To understand CITES, it is important



to be clear on what it is NOT; many people erroneously think it is an global wildlife police force to stop people doing bad things to animals, but the CITES Secretariat has no powers of arrest and can only encourage national agencies in each member country to implement the agreements made in the CoPs (though in some cases sanctions

can be and are applied to countries that repeatedly fail to do so).

Thus, the effectiveness of CITES depends on the diligence of the customs officers, police and rangers in each country, and this varies dramatically! Another important role of NGOs, therefore, is to collect evidence and assist in prosecuting the wildlife criminals, especially in places where the police and judiciary lack the training and motivation to do so.

The decisions taken at CoP18 come into force 90 days after the meeting. Their success in reducing the threat wild animals and plants face from trade depends on every one of us playing a part by reporting suspicious activity and making sure action is taken.

## Read more about it!

Readers who view Ian's article in this issue of *IPPL News* on our website can find a detailed report of the conference here:

<http://enb.iisd.org/cites/cop18/>

as well as a list of decisions here:

[https://cites.org/eng/updates\\_decisions\\_cop18\\_species\\_proposals](https://cites.org/eng/updates_decisions_cop18_species_proposals)

## Ways to Help IPPL

### Volunteer

We are always looking for dependable, animal-loving individuals to work in the office, help prepare the gibbon and otter meals, work with animal care staff to clean indoor and outdoor habitats, and anyone with a green thumb would be a great help too!

Visit our website or e-mail [info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org) to find out how to get involved.

### Matching Gifts

Many employers will match gifts made by their employees to 501(c)(3) organizations, thereby doubling or sometimes even tripling your donation and impact!

Find out today if your company offers matching gifts!

### Donate Your Car

We offer a free, convenient service for converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax-deductible donation benefitting IPPL.

Visit our website or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.





## Holiday Wishes with Our Gratitude

It was 1973 when Shirley McGreal started helping primates in Thailand and founded IPPL. Since then, IPPL has been able to assist organizations and countless primates around the world. We have shared many of these stories with you. Some had urgent needs, some were even life-saving. Each time we reached out and asked for your help, you responded. When we built and expanded a gibbon sanctuary in South Carolina that is currently home to 34 gibbons – it was because of **your** generosity.

We are proud that we have been able to respond to the urgent needs of so many and we are most grateful to you, our supporters. Because the truth is none of what we have done, or will continue to do, would be possible without your support.

So every time you read a story about an organization or primates in need somewhere around the globe that has been helped by IPPL – know that it was you who made it possible!

**Our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a  
Happy Holiday and a Joyful New Year**

*IPPL Board of Directors*

*Shirley McGreal, Sian Evans, James Barrier, and Ian Redmond*



# Agricultural Fires Devastate Wildlife in Bolivia

*Provided by Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi*

Man-made forest fires tore across Bolivia's Amazon jungle this year, causing unprecedented destruction of its unique ecosystem. Countless wild animals perished in the fires, as millions of hectares of national forest and savannah turned to ash. Even swift-moving howler monkeys could not outpace the onslaught of flames.

Every year, from June to November, farmers deliberately light fires – 'chaqueos' – to prepare land for planting. Every year they grow out of control, but this slash-and-burn method is an entrenched custom that continues to occur without governmental regulation. Conservation laws restricting burns are routinely unenforced in Bolivia (much like its anti-poaching and trafficking laws). On the contrary, in July the Bolivian president issued a decree to promote the expansion of the agricultural

frontier and allow 'controlled burns' of forested areas, triggering the worst fire season Bolivia has seen.

Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi (CIWY) operates three wildlife sanctuaries on the edge of the Amazon jungle. Dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife, CIWY currently cares for over 500 animals, most of which were rescued from illegal trafficking. In past years, CIWY has lost hundreds of hectares of sanctuary land to forest fires, and has therefore invested in water towers, fire breaks, and fire-fighting equipment, such as backpack sprayers.

This year the fires reached the perimeters of CIWY's Ambue Ari and Jacj Cuisi Sanctuaries, where teams of volunteers worked tirelessly day in and day out to keep the flames from entering the sanctuaries.

Ambue Ari is located in the Chiquitano forest, between the cities of Santa Cruz and Trinidad, an area hit especially hard by the fires. More than a refuge for animals under

CIWY's direct care, Ambue Ari's 900 hectares (2224 acres) of mostly undisturbed forest provide a safe home to an incalculable number of wild animals and has become one of the most important biodiversity shelters in the wider area.

Fortunately, the efforts were successful and all resident animals, people, and habitat of all three sanctuaries were unaffected.

Throughout Bolivia, however, forest fires consumed 5.3 million hectares (13 million acres) of forest, grasslands and farmland this year. Nearly half of the burned area is officially "protected area."

In solidarity with the national emergency, CIWY sent specialized wildlife veterinarians into the disaster area to assist with the search and rescue of affected animals and the construction of temporary refuges. CIWY also prepared the sanctuaries to receive wild animals in need of shelter and medical care. Unfortunately, the destruction was so extreme that they hardly even found bodies, as nearly everything in sight was turned to ash.

Ambue Ari Sanctuary received an armadillo (*Euphractus sexcinctus*) and







a possum (*Didelphis albiventris*). Both animals are receiving the necessary attention to recover from their wounds, dehydration and starvation. Their recovery is positive and CIWY hopes to release both animals soon.

During last year's fire season, Ambue Ari received a baby giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) found on the fire trail. He was only days old, with his umbilical cord still hanging, and suffered from severe dehydration in addition to blisters and infected sores on his feet. He cried incessantly for his mother, who was nowhere to be found, and most likely died in the fires. The vet team removed dozens of worms from the sores on his paws, and nursed him back to health. His prognosis was bleak, but thanks to the intensive care



of veterinarians and volunteers over the past year, Bryan – the name given to him – is now in full health and set to be released soon into the wild.

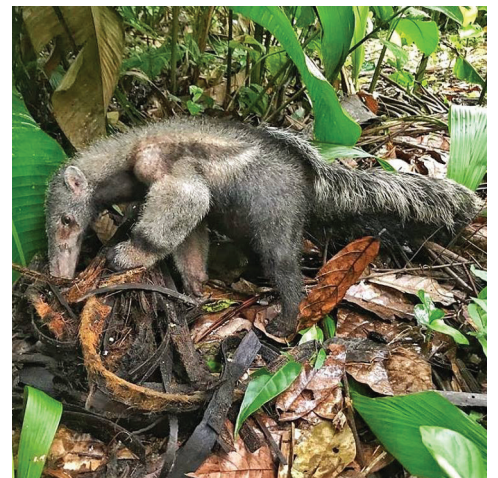
Unfortunately, these three cases are unusual, even miraculous. Most animals and plants in the burnt zone did not stand a chance against the magnitude of the fires.

Beyond the immediate devastation inflicted on flora and fauna, the fires also result in the contamination of



air, water and soil, and exacerbate the deforestation and extinction of species already plaguing the vulnerable ecosystem of the Amazon rainforest. Experts from the Forest Engineers College of Santa Cruz state that it would take 200 years of rehabilitation work to repair the damage done.

CIWY works to educate the public about wildlife conservation and responsible land management, in addition to rescuing and caring for



The possum (left), the armadillo (top), and giant anteater, Bryan, (above) all recovered thanks to CIWY's care



wildlife. Our vision is a world in which wildlife lives freely in its natural habitat; free from the dangers of indiscriminate hunting, senseless capture and the destruction of their ecosystem.

As always, CIWY is grateful to IPPL for their long-standing support. Ambue Ari Sanctuary recently completed construction on a much-needed night monkey enclosure, funded by IPPL. CIWY currently cares for 265 rescued primates of 6 different species.

If you are interested in joining CIWY's international team of conservationists, veterinarians, and activists, or if you would like to learn more about their important work, please visit [www.ciwyo.org](http://www.ciwyo.org).



IPPL recently funded a new enclosure for the night monkeys (*Aotus azarae*) at CIWY's Ambue Ari Sanctuary in Bolivia.

## Plan to Attend IPPL's 2020 Conference!

Save the dates and plan to attend IPPL's 2020 Conference! It will be held at our beautiful Gibbon Sanctuary and Headquarters in Summerville, SC. The dates are 27-29 March 2020. An invitation will be sent to all supporters in early February with information about Summerville hotels and the speakers who will be joining us. Our speakers, who come from all over the world, always captivate the attendees with their stories. Previous attendees always remark about the wonderful presentations and the opportunity to get to meet the speakers and other interesting guests. Then there are the enchanting gibbons, playful otters, and our great dogs. We hope you will join us!



*Speakers at the 2018 Conference, from left to right: Hélène Collongues de Palomino Medina, Emmanuelle Grundmann, Michael Budkie, Shirley McGreal, Edwin Wiek, Peter Jenkins, Liza Gadsby, Archie the Elephant, Ian Redmond, Pam Mendosa, and Butet Sitohang*



# Adams Cassinga – A Powerful and Effective Voice for the DRC

Adams Cassinga is the founder and coordinator of Conserv Congo, a conservation organization based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that has received support from IPPL (see *Ian Redmond's article, page 5*). While Adams could not attend the CITES meeting in Geneva, he was able to make a trip to the US in September and October of this year. During his time in the US he visited with both IPPL Founder, Dr. Shirley McGreal in South Carolina, and Dr. Sian Evans, Board Chair of IPPL, in Miami.

His visit to South Carolina in late September coincided with an IPPL board meeting, so board members had an opportunity to learn directly how a grass roots organization in Africa successfully used an IPPL award to rescue an infant bonobo. Adams was hosted by IPPL and John and Shirley McGreal gave Adams a tour of the low country and the historic city of Charleston. In return, Adams presented Shirley with a bolt of brightly colored fabric from DRC.

In mid-October Adams traveled to Miami where he was the guest of Drs. Siân Evans and Robert Cooper. Sian kept Adams very busy with two class presentations (Primate Studies and Ape



Adam Cassinga with Siân and Dr. Mireya Mayor and FIU's Dean of Collage Arts and Sciences

Conservation) to the undergraduate students she teaches. Adams also gave a very well attended public seminar at Florida International University (FIU). Adams' compelling account of the desperate need for conservation in the Congo moved everyone who had the opportunity to hear him speak.

Word of a transformational speaker spread through the university. As a consequence Adams was interviewed for a radio program by National Geographic Explorer, Dr. Mireya Mayor, and he also received a request from the Dean of the College of Arts and Science, Dr. Mike Heithaus, for a private meeting to discuss ways in which FIU could support his work. Siân reports that the feedback she received from students that Adams changed the way they perceived the plight of tropical rainforests and primates; and that they were now inspired to play an active role in protecting wildlife.





# Temple, Macaques and Douc Langur Foundation at Son Tra Nature Reserve

*By Lois Lippold and Vu Ngoc Thanh, Douc Langur Foundation*

Linh Temple is situated within Son Tra Nature Reserve. It attracts a large number of daily visitors. Food vendors sell food to the visitors which they then share with the macaques even though NO Feeding signs are everywhere. To make matters worse, the temple decided not to employ the local garbage haulers to remove mountains of trash dumped behind the temple. The trash began to build and it attracted not only the temple's resident macaques but it acted like a magnet and drew macaques from all over the reserve. The temple was teeming with hungry, opportunistic macaques begging for food and rummaging through the garbage dump.

One of local people alerted the Douc Langur Foundation (DLF) to this situation because she was worried that this mix of tourists feeding macaques and macaques rummaging through the temple dump would cause problems for both the tourists and the macaques. DLF convened a group of local people, including the head monk, to discuss the potential for macaque attacks on tourists. Macaques were becoming more and more daring by stealing backpacks, grabbing

food items out of tourist's hands and snatching cameras. DLF offered to pay for the temple's garbage collection to discourage the macaques and even offered to pay for surveillance of tourists monitored by the Forest Protection Department. Not wanting Forest Protection Rangers on the temple grounds, the monk

decided to pay for the garbage collection.

In the meantime, local trappers observed the temple's macaques growing population and took immediate advantage by placing snares around the garbage dump and behind the temple. The first macaque with missing hands, feet and legs appeared before the garbage was removed. Some of the snared macaques had lost their hands and feet getting out of the snares.

DLF was contacted again by local



**Linh temple macaque without hands and only one foot as a result of snaring**

people to do something about the snaring. At first we suspected that one of the temple staff was the trapper. The Monk assured us that was not the case and he agreed to have temple security step up their surveillance of the area. DLF thought that as soon as the garbage dump was removed the problem would decrease. This was not the case however because other macaques with missing limbs appeared. One lost her entire left foot and part of her leg.

**Linh temple macaque with missing foot and part of lower leg (below left), and with leg treated in holding cage at Veterinary hospital in Danang (below right)**







#### Back in Son Tra Nature Reserve

DLF tried to convince the Forest Protection Department (FPD) to capture the macaque and take her for medical treatment. We even offered to pay for experienced animal handlers to capture her for treatment. FPD had never done anything like this before. They considered the macaques “unimportant”. Nothing happened. DLF then contacted

Shirley McGreal of IPPL and also put the situation on our Facebook page asking for letters directed to Forest Protection Department and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Danang. Hundreds, maybe thousands, of letters were received by FPD and DARD asking that they capture and treat this macaque. FPD and DARD responded but had no idea what to do. So DLF’s

Vu Ngoc Thanh bought nets, provided expertise and encouragement and after three attempts over that many days the macaque was captured. She was transported in a local pet veterinarian’s van to their pet hospital and treated for several days.

This is the first time in Danang that an injured macaque has been captured and transported to a hospital for care.

While DLF provided the encouragement and financial support, Danang people stepped up and captured, transported, and provided hospital care for the macaque. Supporters of DLF and IPPL also helped save this macaque’s life by responding to our appeal to pressure FPD and DARD to act.

After a week of intensive care and supplemental feeding she was returned to the Temple grounds where she is cared for by the same local people who first alerted DLF to her plight.

DLF is supporting an intensive snare and trap campaign focusing on the grounds around the temple. So far our teams have removed more than 58 snares in the area around the temple and so far no more hand-less or leg-less macaques have been found. The best outcome of all has been the cooperation between DLF, FPD, DARD and local people working together to save the animals of Son Tra Nature Reserve.

## Trident United Way Day of Caring



Friday 15 November was the Trident United Way Day of Caring! IPPL hosted a team from the University School of the Lowcountry, they have been coming here for years. Because it was cold and wet, the youngsters, and their chaperones stayed indoors and prepared enrichment for the gibbons by wrapping treats in banana leaves. No surprise, the gibbons really enjoyed them and we enjoyed these volunteers. Thanks, University School of the Lowcountry!



# IPPL GOES TO COURT FOR THE MONKEYS

By Shirley McGreal

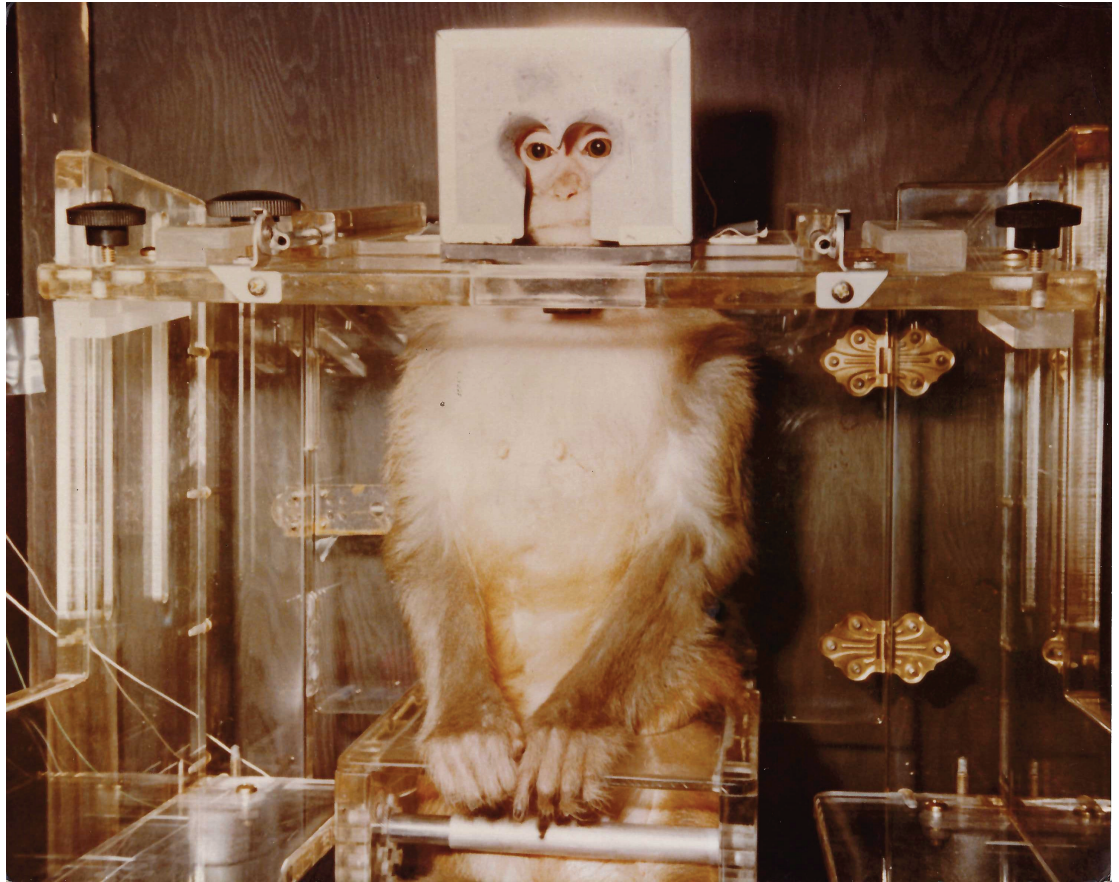
IPPL has fought for the protection of monkeys since we were established in 1973. We have done this through seeking and securing export bans and fighting for the lives of captive primates.

IPPL has joined with the Harvard Law School's Animal Law and Policy Clinic, the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, in a lawsuit against the US Department of Agriculture to set higher standards for care of laboratory monkeys, of whom there are over 100,000 in the United States.

The suit was filed with the U.S. District Court in Massachusetts on 6 November 2019.

As founder of IPPL, I was quoted in an article about the lawsuit in the 8 November issue of the Harvard Crimson,

*We've always had a terrific concern about these wretched monkeys. They're on the top of the animal world and they're so close to us. The kind of suffering that's inflicted on them is totally beyond belief.*



The Harvard Law School's Animal Law and Policy Clinic is directed by prominent attorney Katherine Meyer.

Further details of this lawsuit will be provided in future issues of IPPL News.

## STOP PRESS

On 13 November 2019, the *Charleston Post and Courier* ran a story written by reporter Bo Petersen about the lawsuit filed by the Harvard Law School's Animal Law and Policy Clinic on behalf of IPPL and other animal protection organizations against the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The story quotes IPPL founder Shirley McGreal,

*We are concerned for the well-being of research primates because nonhuman primates are so similar to human primates... It is hard for them to sit in small cages for days, months or years on end... The monkeys, who have done no harm to anyone, often have less space than humans incarcerated for abominable crimes... Their intelligent and inquiring minds need things to do. They need to have space to move around in.*

Petersen reports,

*The lawsuit alleges the Department has unreasonably delayed the group's petition for rules governing the animals' treatment. It further calls on the agency to respond to the petition, award attorneys' fees and potentially other damages... Only one facility operating in South Carolina is on the USDA list of active holders of research primates, Alpha Genesis Inc. which raises monkeys for labs... According to its latest filing, done in March of this year, the facility housed 390 animals.*



# *Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:*

- **Maria Balkan**, in memory of Bendito Mojado.
- **Denise Bossarte**, in honor of Fran Ippensen.
- **Penelope Boston**, in honor of IPPL's steadfast work on behalf of primates.
- **Gordon Burghardt**, in honor of Janis Carter.
- **Terrence Burke**, in honor of Helen Burke.
- **Diane Carrado Simmons**, in memory of Nick Carrado Jr. and Kokomo.
- **Douglas Cohn**, in memory of Jim Mahoney
- **Pamela Dauphin**, in memory of Blackie.
- **Veronica Ferguson**, in loving memory of my cat, Lexie.
- **Mary Fleisch**, in memory of my dogs, Leo and Ziggy.
- **Karen Imre-Suveg**, in memory of King and Kaiya.
- **Martin James**, in memory of Sam Martin.
- **Lanning Kay**, in memory of Heidi and in honor of Bonnie.
- **Carol Leenstra**, in honor of the Innocents.
- **Ruth McLaughlin**, in memory of Dian Fossey.
- **Lesa Miller**, in honor of Shirley McGreal, Liza Gatsby & Eleo Worth.
- **Katherine Nadolny**, in memory of Nancy J. Woods.
- **Carol Ohlendorf**, in honor of all my pets.
- **Elizabeth Orr**, in honor of Shirley McGreal.
- **Loren Ostler**, in honor of IPPL and Eagle Network.
- **Brenda Parks**, in honor of my sister, Liz Bills.
- **Marsha Rabe**, in honor of Shirley McGreal and in memory of Arun Rangsi.
- **Debra Randolph**, in memory of Arlene Randolph.
- **Josh Rogers**, in honor of Marium Vanamin.
- **Caleb Rogovin**, in memory of Earl Swanson.
- **Christine Saridakis**, in memory of Diane de Graffenreid.
- **Nancy Sarno**, in memory of all our furry family members who've gone over the rainbow bridge.
- **Shawn Snow**, in honor of Kara Sullivan.
- **A.J. Varner**, in honor of Roscoe, a brave little Corgi with the canine version of Lou Gehrig's disease
- **George and Linda Warriner**, in honor of Jake Gagnon.



## **Holiday Gifts Purchased on Amazon will also be Gifts for IPPL!**



Shopping on Amazon this holiday season? Well you can help IPPL at no additional cost to you. All you have to do is visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select International Primate Protection League as your charity. Amazon will then donate a portion of your purchase price to us!

And while you are shopping – please consider our gibbons because they like gifts too! There's a link to our Amazon Wish List at: [www.ippl.org/gibbon/howyoucanhelp](https://www.ippl.org/gibbon/howyoucanhelp). Purchases are tax-deductible!

***Thank You from Our Gibbons ~ and Happy Holidays!***



Read more updates about IPPL's activities on our Facebook page. "Like" us!  
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See more images from the sanctuary and IPPL activities.  
Follow us on Instagram!  
[www.instagram.com/ippl\\_summerville](https://www.instagram.com/ippl_summerville)



# *Farewell to Our Sweet Blackie*



Our hearts broke when we had to say good-bye to Sweet Blackie – our very special little gibbon.

Blackie was born in the jungles of Thailand. Wild caught, he ended up with an animal dealer who exported him to the US where he would be used in research for the next 20 years! In 1984 Blackie arrived at IPPL with his mate Penny and their daughter E.T. from the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP). They had all been used in research before coming to IPPL where they joined their daughter, Shanti, who was sent to us the previous year. Penny passed away in 2006 and in 2010 Blackie was introduced to Chloe. The two of them remained a very bonded pair.

Blackie was deaf, but you would never have known it because this “disability” never interfered with his quality of life. His vocalizations were deeper and less controlled than those of the other male gibbons, but he would still “whoop” along with the other gibbons when he saw them singing – as if he was reading their lips! In addition to singing, Blackie was an accomplished dancer. Sometimes, he’d do an excited quick-stomping dance routine and would move like a ballerina, twirling around with his arms flung in the air!

Blackie died on 15 September 2019. He was estimated to be over 60 – our oldest gibbon and possibly the oldest gibbon in the world. Despite his age, this engaging little gibbon continued to whoop when he saw the other gibbons singing. He continued to love raisin bread, and of course – dancing!

We shall always remember Blackie and are so grateful that we were able to rescue him from a life of horror to his wonderful life at IPPL.





# The Underappreciated Vulture

By Shirley McGreal

I attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in Geneva from 17 to 28 August 2019, along with IPPL Director Ian Redmond. As usual, the whole conference was very interesting and it was wonderful to see two Asian otter species elevated to Appendix I of the treaty and giraffes placed on Appendix II.

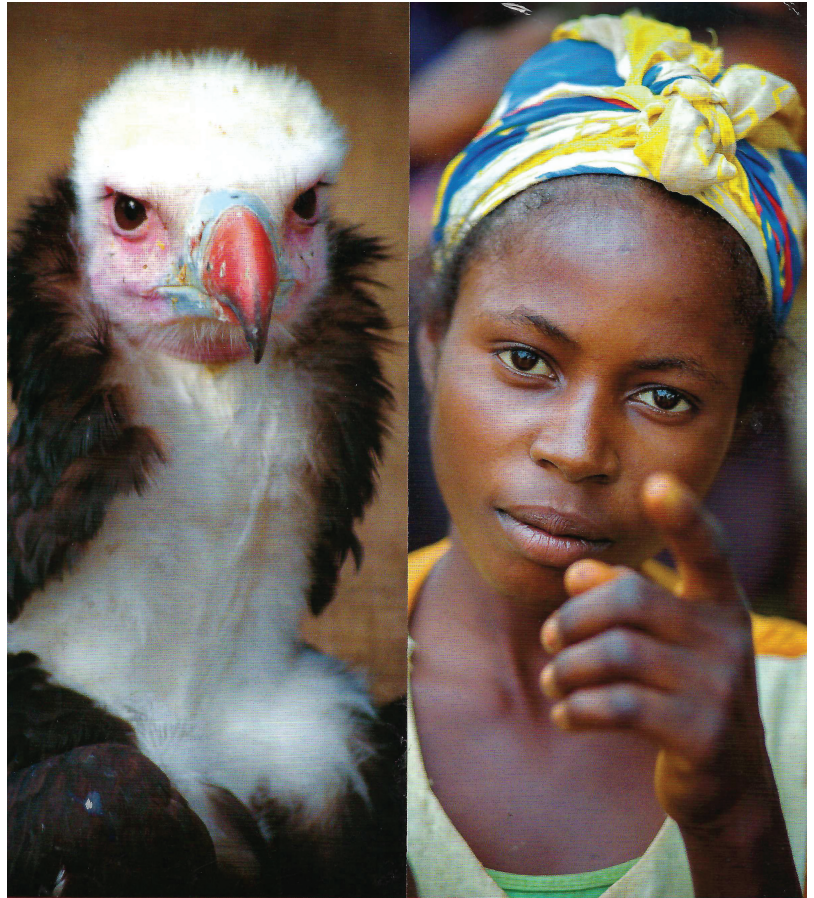
Some of the highlights of CITES conferences are “side-events.” These are organized by either non-governmental or governmental organizations. IPPL and CATCA jointly organized an event on ape trafficking.

I found a program organized by several African organizations especially fascinating. It was all about the decline of vulture populations all over Africa.

Vultures are large birds found in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America. They have a large wingspan and feed on dead animals (carrion). They flock to the bodies of the dead and eat them, helping clean up the world.

But vultures are in trouble. In June 2019, over 530 endangered vultures were killed in northern Botswana while feasting on a dead elephant after they ate poison left by elephant poachers.

Five vulture species were identified at the site, which lies near Botswana’s border with Zimbabwe. Conservationists said that poachers had poisoned the birds in an effort to evade detection. As scavengers, vultures are attracted to freshly killed animals. Their



## THE LAST AFRICAN VULTURE

THE CONSEQUENCES FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

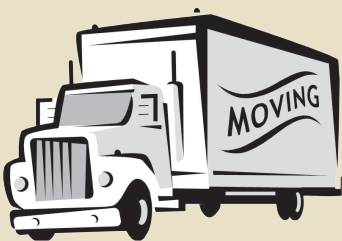
presence in the air can alert rangers to poachers’ positions, another service vultures perform.

The session was inspiring and utterly remarkable. A world without vultures would be a mess!

*Vultures are protected under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). You can find the text of the CMS at <https://www.cms.int/en/convention-text>.*



## Moving Soon? Let Us Know!



Millions of people around the world change their place of residence every year. That makes it hard to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. You can help us lower our postage costs by telling us of your new address in advance. Just send us an e-mail ([info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)) or postcard with your old and new addresses. That way we can spend less money on overhead and more money on primates! (And you won’t miss a single issue of *IPPL News*!)



## *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 45 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;
- ◆ provide support to dozens of primate sanctuaries and rescue organizations around the world, wherever primates are native.



**Ahimsa, son of Arun Rangsi and Shanti**

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

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

With gratitude,

Dr. Shirley McGreal  
IPPL Founder and President Emeritus



**Gary, retired from a tourist venue**



## 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 contribution. By sending in a donation, 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) |

**I wish to honor someone special with a Tribute Gift:**

This donation is ... ☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: We acknowledge tribute gifts in each issue of *IPPL News*

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☐ I would like to make a **monthly** donation with my credit card:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please mail form and payment to: IPPL ♦ P.O. Box 766 ♦ Summerville, SC 29484 ♦ USA. **Thank you!**

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# Primate Paraphernalia!



## Two-sided Gibbon Tote

Each unique bag was air-brushed by San Francisco artist Ken Holley  
Cost: US \$25 • Overseas: US \$35



## T-shirt with Black Swinging Gibbons

100% cotton. Also in yellow and pink  
Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL  
Cost: US \$15 • Overseas: US \$22



## T-shirt with Orange Swinging Gibbons

100% cotton. Also in green  
Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL  
Cost: US \$20 • Overseas: US \$30



## 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 • Overseas: US \$22  
Child US \$12 • Overseas: US \$26



**IPPL Swinging Gibbon Roomy Totes**  
with a side pocket and an inside pocket  
Cost: US \$25 • Overseas: US \$35

**Two-sided Gibbon T-shirt:** 100% cotton T-shirt with gibbon design front and back  
**Sizes:** Adult S, M, L, XL; Child S, M, L, XL  
**Cost:** Adult US \$20 • Overseas: US \$30  
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**Shop online for more gibbon apparel at [www.ippl.org/](http://www.ippl.org/)!**

You can also order IPPL merchandise using our secure server.  
Go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and select **How You Can Help > Shop at Our Store.**

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All prices include shipping and handling.

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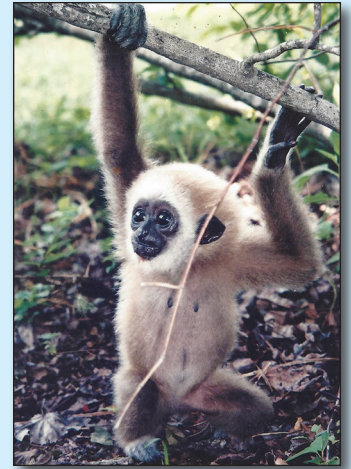
# Meet the Gibbons Available for Adoption



*Please adopt me at [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)!*  
*Courtney*

**Courtney** was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving this tiny infant with a terribly mangled leg. Since she could not be returned to her mother, she was hand-raised by IPPL staff, special night-nannies, and volunteers for over six years. Many caregivers took turns feeding her, playing with her, and taking her for walks around the sanctuary grounds. Always curious and energetic, she was a real handful! Courtney has made an amazing recovery since the difficult time of her early life. She now runs, swings, and climbs so well you would never guess how badly she had been injured.

Despite Courtney's high level of activity, she is the biggest gibbon in our sanctuary. If asked what her favorite food is, we would have to say "grapes, and well... everything!" Since May 2009, Courtney has been paired with a former lab gibbon by the name of Whoop-Whoop. His mild-mannered personality is a good match for her wild ways as he always lets her have first dibs at their lunch pail. We hope you will consider adopting this spunky and determined "not so little" ape!



*Adopt me  
too at  
[www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)!*  
*Peppy*

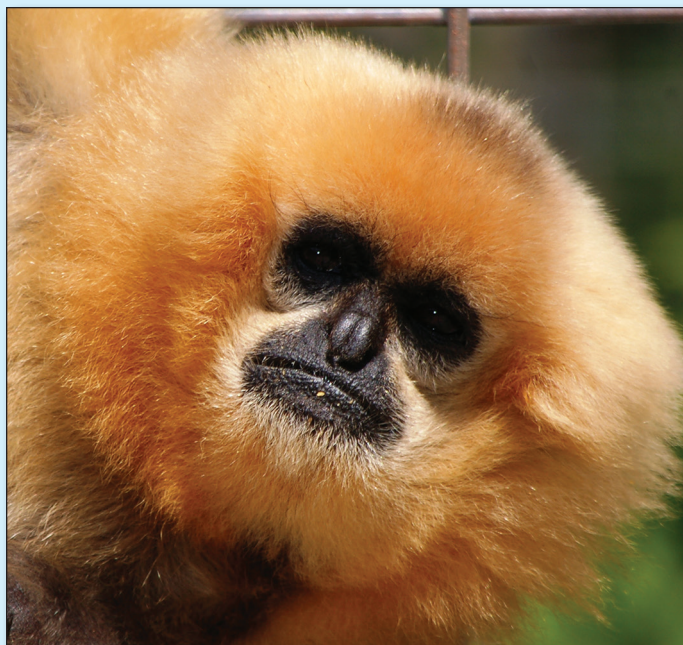
**Peppy** was born in 1979 at a cancer lab run by the University of California at Davis, where the gibbons were used in painful and usually fatal viral cancer experiments. When the lab closed, he was sent to another research facility, the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. Fortunately, LEMSIP closed in 1982 and he and his companion-for-life, Helen, came to IPPL. They lived together at our sanctuary for 35 years until Helen suddenly died of cancer. Peppy sucked his thumb the day he arrived and has never "kicked this habit."

Peppy is the only gibbon who favors veggies over fruit, and in the morning, in addition to looking forward to breakfast, Peppy has his own ritual. When let out of his night quarters, Peppy begins every single day by running from one end of his outdoor enclosure to the other—the whole length of it, arms flung up, out of sheer excitement: it's as though every day he's grateful not to be stuck in a lab! Wouldn't you like to adopt this grateful little guy?



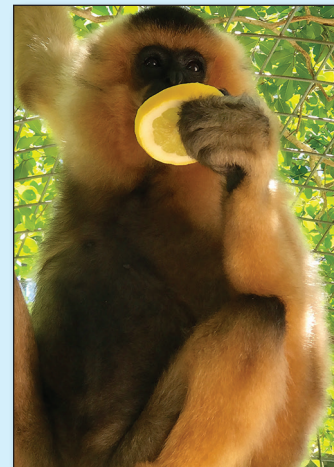
**Visit [IPPL.org](http://IPPL.org) for more information**





**Tong** travelled the farthest to get to IPPL—all the way from Thailand! She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon who was wild-born in her native Vietnam around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold to a US serviceman. When he left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, they knew very little about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Fortunately, Tong ultimately ended up in the care of newly formed IPPL in 1974. The only gibbon of her kind at IPPL, her coat color is reddish-gold, with a little patch of black on the top of her head. Her song is quite different from those of the other gibbons and ends with a lovely, bubbling trill. She is known for doing happy gibbon calls and somersaults whenever she sees special treats coming.

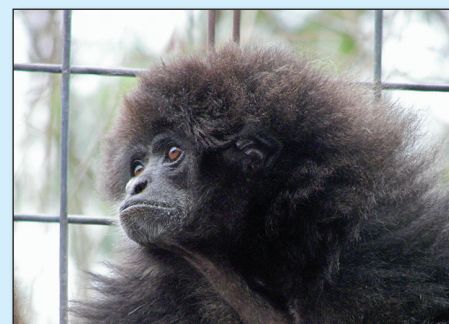
Tong's favorite foods are citrus fruit and all kind of beans. She loves her blue ball and is ready to play as soon as one of the animal care staff rolls it to her. She squeaks and dances around it—rolling it with her feet. She can get distracted, but as soon as it is rolled back to her, she starts dancing again! Would you like to adopt Tong? The only IPPL gibbon who came from Thailand and “wears” a stylish black hat—you would be helping care for this charming senior girl!



*Don't forget about me!  
Visit [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) now!  
Tong*



**Shanti**, whose name means “Peace” in Sanskrit, was born on 7 February 1978 at the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. IPPL was looking for a potential mate for IPPL's very first rescued lab gibbon, Arun Rangsi (Rui). In 1983, Shirley and a former animal caregiver drove to New York to bring Shanti back to IPPL to begin her new life at our sanctuary. They found her living alone in a small cage—what a change she was about to have! Once at IPPL, we observed that Shanti had a very laid-back disposition. Her favorite food became figs and her favorite pastime became picking fresh figs from trees next to her outdoor habitat. When she was introduced to Rui – it was love at first sight. For over three decades they rarely left each other's side and even shared food. Sadly, in December 2018 Rui became very sick and he was gently put to sleep. After all the years that he and Shanti spent together, we thought it was fitting to offer Shanti as our newest gibbon available for adoption. We have a feeling that Rui would approve and hope that many of you will want to make Shanti your new adopted gibbon!



*Share your love by adopting me  
at [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)! Shanti*

**Adoptions make wonderful and unique gifts – all year long!**





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PRINTED MATTER

# Meet Thai!



Thai arrived at IPPL in 2013 along with his parents Gary and Glenda and sister Kendra. They were living in a Florida tourist attraction that was closing. Thai came to us with the nickname of "Buddha Boy", no doubt bestowed on him because of his big Buddha belly. At 29 pounds, he weighed more than most gibbons and much more than his petite father who was half his size. Fortunately, he has slimmed down quite a bit and has taken a liking to the healthy diets we feed our gibbons.

Even though Thai was near a Kodiak bear at the tourist site,

he does not seem to approve of large mammals and Snow, our rescued Great Pyrenees, bears the brunt of his dislike. Thai regularly makes alarm calls at Snow to let everyone know she shouldn't be there. The exception is at mealtime when he is oblivious to Snow's presence.

Thai's favorite food is cantaloupe and his favorite pastime – you guessed it – alarm calling at Snow! Still a young bachelor at 18, perhaps if Thai was to find a mate he might have a new pastime!



Thai

DEC19

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helping our gibbons &  
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