



Venus

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Photo © Takeshi Furuichi

A Note from Shirley

Dear IPPL Friend,

The year started off eventfully here in Summerville. We had a horrible ice storm last winter that caused major damage to our property. Branches crashed to the ground from our tall trees. A huge branch fell on our ancient pickup truck and destroyed it. Falling branches pierced holes in the roof of Jade and Palu-Palu's enclosure on the edge of the woods.

It reminded me of Hurricane Hugo, which hit the South Carolina Lowcountry in September 1989. Like 25 years ago, the trees on our property were suddenly a liability instead of an asset. Our grounds and animal care staff, led by Hardy, worked for weeks to clean things up. Thanks to our wonderful supporters, we eventually raised the funds we needed to repair the damage.

Fortunately, the rest of 2014 was much less dramatic. I don't take many vacations myself, but this year I went to the High Pyrenees on the French side of this mountain range (the other part belongs to Spain). It was a spectacularly beautiful area, and the ancient culture was impressive, as was the food, especially the desserts. We drove up several of the steepest climbs encountered by the Tour de France bicycle racers and saw cyclists practicing for next year's Tour. Of course, we also saw lots of Great Pyrenees dogs, like our own Snow who patrols the IPPL sanctuary grounds.

We at IPPL hope every one of you will have a happy holiday season, and we would appreciate your generous support of our work in future years. Thank you!

Best wishes,



Shirley McGreal

IPPL Founder and Executive Director



This fall I enjoyed some éclairs at a charming pâtisserie in Mirepoix, a lovely French town in the High Pyrenees.

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IPPL News

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About the Cover

Sako, a bonobo mother, nurses her infant son, Sato, at the Wamba field research station in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At this site, bonobos are protected by governmental decree as well as by traditional taboos that forbid the killing of these apes (see page 3).

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, 36 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.

Challenges for Bonobo Conservation



Photo © Takeshi Furuichi

Takeshi Furuichi, Wamba Committee for Bonobo Research (WCBR) Chairman, Kyoto University, Japan

A loving bonobo mother, Otomi, plays with her six-month-old infant Otoko in the DRC's Luo Scientific Reserve. A large number of births in recent years have boosted the population of bonobos in the main study group at Wamba, the world's longest-running bonobo field research project.

In 1973, the Japanese primatologist Takayoshi Kano travelled through a vast area of the Congo Basin on a bicycle to find a suitable site to start ecological and behavioral studies on bonobos. It was a difficult journey because, in those days, people were afraid of strangers, and they did not want him to stay in their villages.

However, when he arrived at a small village called Wamba, people welcomed him and offered him great hospitality. He could easily observe bonobos in the forest around the village during his short stay. The people of Wamba traditionally believed that modern-day humans and bonobos are both descendants of a family of bonobos living in the forest, and therefore they respected bonobos as their distant relations. He decided to start

a long-term study at Wamba, and our research into wild bonobos has continued at that site for more than 40 years. It is the longest-running field site of these apes in existence.

The taboo against killing or eating bonobos was strictly observed during the first 10 years of our studies there. However, as economic and political conditions deteriorated in what was then known as Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), bonobos at our field site came under threat. A hunter from outside of Wamba killed a young adult male in 1984, and a military detachment was sent to capture two or three baby bonobos in 1987, reportedly to present them to some guest of national importance. Prompted

by these incidents, the conservation research group that is now known as the Wamba Committee for Bonobo Research submitted a proposal to the Congolese Center for Research on Ecology and Forestry, and the area was officially designated as the Luo Scientific Reserve in 1992.

The goal of this reserve was to promote bonobo conservation by supporting the traditional coexistence between humans and apes, not by expelling the people. As a result, six settlements remained in the protected area, and traditional activities for subsistence (such as the hunting of animals other than primates using arrows or non-metal snares and rotational slash-and-burn cultivation for cassava and other crops) were permitted.

This arrangement was initially successful, but reconciling the conservation of animals and their forest environment with the well-being of the local people became increasingly difficult, particularly when the political and economic conditions in the country worsened. To compensate the residents for the disadvantages brought about by the regulations of the reserve, we have made great efforts over the years to support the local communities, including providing scholarships for children to attend secondary schools and universities, helping maintain roads and bridges, and constructing a health center. Research activities also contribute to the local economy by making employment opportunities available.

Even though we can provide jobs for only a limited number of people, their salaries are eventually distributed throughout their village, and everyone benefits from our continued support for education, infrastructure, and health care. Still, people who are not employed directly tend to be discontented. Some

individuals, therefore, continue to engage in illegal hunting activities in the forest, such as using shotguns or snares made of wire.

One day in July 2014, a newly immigrant young female was found caught in a snare that someone had set for capturing bush pigs or duikers. Though we helped her escape from the snare by cutting the stick to which the wire was attached (the bonobos usually manage to do so themselves even if we don't help), we found her early the next morning with the wire still tied tightly around her fingers. One older female was trying to remove the snare while the other females gathered around, peering intently at the proceedings. Either her fingers or the snare will drop off at some point in the future. Although this is a sad event, it highlights a very bonobo-like behavior: unrelated adult females associating with and helping one another.

The number of bonobos in our study group gradually decreased during the region's political upheaval that began to

escalate in the late 20th century, and three of the six groups inhabiting the northern section of the Luo Reserve disappeared during the war in the DRC that occurred from 1996 to 2003. However, after the war the number of bonobos in the main study group, E1, began to increase steadily, and the population is now larger than it was at its former peak of over 30 individuals in 1987.

At Wamba, we view the increase or decrease in frequency of such illegal activities as the use of shotguns and wire snares as an indicator of our success in keeping the balance between human welfare and bonobo conservation. We plan to continue our longstanding collaboration with Congolese researchers to support the communities in the region while honoring the proud traditions of the local people who rightfully see their bonobo neighbors as distant cousins who are worthy of protection. If—as I hope—the bonobos of the Luo Reserve survive into the next century, it will be because we have all managed to create a model of peaceful human-ape coexistence.

A group of female bonobos gather intently around a companion whose fingers have been caught in an illegal wire snare. Even though the bonobos live in a protected area, such snares are nonetheless occasionally set to capture bush pigs or duikers (small forest antelopes). Sadly, these snares sometimes trap bonobos, as well, and may result in permanent injury.



Photo © Takeshi Furuichi

Thank You from Three Sanctuaries

Sharon Strong, IPPL Program Coordinator

This fall, IPPL sent out a direct mail appeal on behalf of three struggling overseas primate sanctuaries: the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone, Wildlife at Risk in Vietnam, and C.A.R.E., the baboon rehabilitation center in South Africa. In the following pages, you can read updates and more about the larger context of the important work these three groups do on behalf of primates around the world. To date we have raised almost \$20,000 for these wonderful organizations. But the most important message to IPPL's loyal donors from them all is this:

Thank you for being there for us!

Words of thanks from Sierra Leone:

Today we are sending a big chimp smile to our friends at the International Primate Protection League. We cannot thank you enough.

The funds will help us to be able to take care of the chimpanzees during the Ebola crisis. Thank you so much IPPL and thanks to all of you who donated. We really appreciate your support in this difficult time.

With sincere appreciation,

Bala and team

Bala Amarasekaran

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary Founder/Director



Words of thanks from Vietnam:

On behalf of WAR and our Trustee Dominic Scriven OBE, I would like to express our thanks to you and IPPL.

Your support of WAR for rescued primates will enforce our capability to save more wildlife. Our primates all send their big thanks to all our supporters.

Yours sincerely,

Nguyen Vu Khoi

Nguyen Vu Khoi

Wildlife At Risk CEO



Words of thanks from South Africa:

All the funds raised are going to good use for improving C.A.R.E., releasing baboons, and building for a better future.

Thank you all so much for believing in us to give these amazing animals back their life and freedom. They all deserve it. I just wish you could all be with us to see these guys out here, because it would change your life as much as it does theirs.

Best wishes,

Samantha

Samantha Dewhirst

C.A.R.E. Assisting Manager



From the Ebola Zone: IPPL's Donors to the Rescue!

Sharon Strong, IPPL Program Coordinator

When IPPL realized last August that Sierra Leone's Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary was in the path of a terrifying Ebola outbreak, we immediately sprang into action. We contacted our ever-growing list of online friends via social media. We even got our campaign into the local paper. We not only promised to send our supporters' donations to Tacugama right away, for three months we also matched all contributions one-for-one from our emergency fund. The first two installments we sent totaled over \$22,000. We are so grateful for everyone who contributed to this effort!

We then launched a direct mail appeal that we sent to IPPL donors across the United States and overseas, and we also initiated a GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign, which remains active (<http://www.gofundme.com/g3e7q0>).

Tacugama is a sanctuary for chimpanzees who have been orphaned by the trade in bush meat. Sadly, when a chimpanzee group is targeted by poachers, often the adults are killed for meat directly and the infants taken to be sold as pets on the black market. Tacugama has been working since 1995 to help confiscate and rehabilitate these orphaned apes.

The current Ebola crisis is the worst in history. By the end of November 2014, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported that the disease has caused the deaths of over 5,400 people in the West African nations of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and



The Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary is located in Sierra Leone, in the midst of the current Ebola outbreak. The sanctuary is home to nearly 100 rescued chimp orphans like Fina here.

Photo © Tacugama

Guinea and sickened over 15,000. Sierra Leone—a country that can't seem to catch a break—was already suffering from the lingering effects of a civil war and had seemed to take up permanent residence at or near the bottom of the United Nations Human Development Index.

The staff and caregivers at the sanctuary were already working under challenging conditions before the epidemic struck.

But as soon as the virus started grabbing headlines, Tacugama began to feel the pinch: a dramatic drop-off in volunteers, a halt to paying visitors staying at the sanctuary's eco-lodges, and a shrinking ability to access affordable fresh food and supplies for the chimps.

In the midst of so much human suffering, sometimes the plight of the animals can be forgotten. But IPPL's donors never forget.

Thank you to everyone who is helping in a time of crisis!

Tacugama's founder, Bala Amarasekaran, recently told us:

We hear the sirens from the ambulances taking the dying and the dead throughout the day and night. It's hard not to feel the hopelessness, anger and sadness, but we are doing our best to stay focused.... If you go by the experts, it is going to get worse, but they have a plan and are hoping to turn the tide by the beginning of the New Year! Meaning, thousands more will die before this gets fixed.

The Ebola outbreak is far from over—but IPPL will continue trying to help Tacugama as long as it continues.

Please Help our Friends at Tacugama

Please donate generously to help Tacugama and its staff and chimps survive this nightmare. Please send your gift (check or credit card) to IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, or donate via IPPL's Web site (www.ippl.org).

Thanks from the Field: A Baboon Troop Release

Samantha Dewhirst, C.A.R.E. Assisting Manager



Photo © C.A.R.E.

Photo © Amanda Harwood

C.A.R.E.'s KC Troop of rescued and rehabilitated baboons is currently being released into this magnificent South African landscape. Inset, South Africa's native chacma baboons have long been mistreated at human hands.

We are sending our thanks from over 4,500 feet above sea level, the only point we have found so far at our baboons' new release site with cell-phone reception. I've just trekked an hour up the slopes of what we've nicknamed 3G Mountain to send a message back to everyone who has helped the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education (C.A.R.E.) get to this point: the release of a troop of rehabilitated baboons back to the wilds of South Africa.

It's very remote here, which is perfect for these monkeys. We even had to purchase a satellite phone for the safety of the release team. Down the mountain, C.A.R.E.'s Managing Director Stephen Munro and the 19 baboons who make up the KC Troop are just a few specks in this vast landscape. But being out here with these primates and helping them get their first taste of freedom is a perfect reminder of the reason C.A.R.E. was founded.

Step by step

The first weeks of a release are always the most challenging, as we establish

ground rules, boundaries, routine, and orientation. We hold our breath and look on anxiously while our newly-released baboons run about so carefree, and then sigh with relief as they remember their wits and make their way back to the safety of their troop-mates who are still in the cages back at the camp.

Initially, we only allow one or two troop members a day to roam in freedom; if we released them all at once, their excitement and adrenaline would escalate, sending them too far afield. It would take only one surprise (maybe a glimpse of a predator?) to spook them, causing them to bolt and become lost in an unfamiliar wilderness. This is why we release each troop member slowly but surely, keeping balance, maintaining calm, and exercising control. The entire release process takes anywhere from four to six months from the time the cages are first opened.

It took us a year of research, planning, proposals, and meetings even to get to this point. Of course, the rehabilitation process itself was even longer than that: years of bonding, stabilizing a social hierarchy, and ensuring that the core members would be mature enough to lead the troop when living in the wild. Stephen has had the pleasure of

hand-raising members of this troop from their infancy as orphans: helping them work through the trauma of losing their mothers, watching them form friendships and grow in confidence, supervising their play sessions, and hearing them proudly practice their first "wahoo"s.

We've come a long way

Since the tragic fire that took the life of C.A.R.E.'s founder Rita Miljo in 2012, we have come so far, it's incredible. But we still have plans and projects in view. Once the KC Troop is established and Stephen is happy to leave his young trainees (South Africans Phillip and RJ) to finish this troop's release journey, we have a permit to release a second troop of 20 baboons in a different part of this 45,000-acre paradise.

Back at our main facility, a new clinic and baboon kitchen have been constructed, and the semi-wild enclosure is now home to the Tiny Dancers Troop. We still need to build the orphan baboon nursery enclosure, indoor sleeping area, sanctuary baboon enclosure (for some of our unreleasable geriatric baboons), and the Education Centre itself.

It's a lot of work, but all the effort is worth it!

Thank you to everyone who believed in us!

Watching Dexter "wahoo" and strut in the mountain air, or seeing the KC Troop baboons line up in a row as they drink from a fresh mountain stream—that is what it's all about. Thanks to all the help we have received from IPPL and many other supporters in recent years, we are finally achieving our goals and making new ones. It's an indescribable feeling of elation, relief, and gratitude.

WAR Stories: Wildlife Rehabilitation in Vietnam

Nguyen Vu Khoi, Wildlife At Risk CEO

Every year, Wildlife At Risk (WAR) rescues and releases back into the wilds of Vietnam up to 700 individual native animals: everything from monkeys to leopard cats to geckos to pythons. That, on average, is more than one animal a day. Sometimes, after an especially large confiscation by the environmental police, hundreds of animals may be freed at once, as occurred earlier this year with the release of over 300 red collared doves.

Many of the species WAR works with have been designated as endangered to some degree. In addition, many of the individual animals who come to our two wildlife rescue stations arrive in terrible condition, having been injured by illegal

traps or extremely stressed as a result of being trafficked over long distances. At WAR, these rescues are nursed back to health and, as soon as possible, released into protected areas.

WAR (a non-governmental organization based in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon) is able to accomplish this important work thanks to the dedication of 26 permanent staff members and about 30 international volunteers. The mission of WAR is threefold: 1) wildlife law enforcement, 2) public awareness, and 3) conservation. Our organization's daily activities include wildlife rescue/rehabilitation/release, and our rescue

stations offer the authorities a practical solution to the question of where to place confiscated animals. WAR also educates students (the country's future wildlife advocates and conservationists), community leaders, and decision makers about the importance of preserving Vietnam's native wild animals. Finally, WAR engages in biodiversity surveys of Vietnam's forests, the better to assess suitable release sites for our myriad rescues and to promote Vietnam's natural heritage.

There are many stories that WAR can share: every rescued animal is unique, and every successful release leaves behind a lovely memory. Here are two of them.

Story #1: A stump-tailed macaque family

In 2011, a confiscated male stump-tailed macaque (*Macaca arctoides*) was sent to WAR's Hon Me Rescue Station in Kien Giang Province, which is located in the Mekong delta region. He had been living in chains for years. After providing him with an appropriate diet complete with plenty of fruit, the poor macaque quickly recovered his health. After providing him with a little peace and quiet—and access to a female stump-tailed macaque—he quickly recovered

everything else he needed to be a happy male monkey.

They had a baby a year later—which was followed by yet another baby in early 2014. The Hon Me rescue center staff began to consider the possibility of releasing them all back to the forest, where they could reproduce freely and help replenish their species.

All four macaques were tested for infectious diseases and were passed with flying colors. In September of this year,

our macaques made a one-and-a-half-day trip from the Mekong delta to the forested central highlands of southern Vietnam. The female and her babies quickly jumped into a nearby tree as soon as the travel crates were opened. The adult male emerged more slowly.

But before following his family back into the wild, he turned and gently nipped one of our staff members. We think it was his way of saying “thank you and good-bye!”



The last day in captivity for this stump-tailed macaque family at WAR's Hon Me Rescue Station.

Photo © WAR



The WAR team gets ready to release the monkeys.

Photo © WAR

Story #2: A gibbon's first song

One day late last June, our Cu Chi Rescue Station received a phone call from the environmental police department in Tay Ninh Province. The purpose of the call was to request that the rescue center accept a nine-year-old male pileated gibbon who was in poor health.

Once our staff had a chance to see him, it was clear that something was very wrong. Instead of the long, lean arms and legs of a normal adult gibbon, this animal's limbs were weak and stunted. His limb bones were malformed and fragile. We soon realized that his condition was due to poor nutrition: he had been fed an inadequate diet ever since he was purchased as an infant.

This gibbon species (*Hylobates pileatus*) is only found in eastern Thailand, western Cambodia, and southwestern Laos. When we interviewed his former owner, she revealed that this little ape had been brought in illegally from Cambodia.

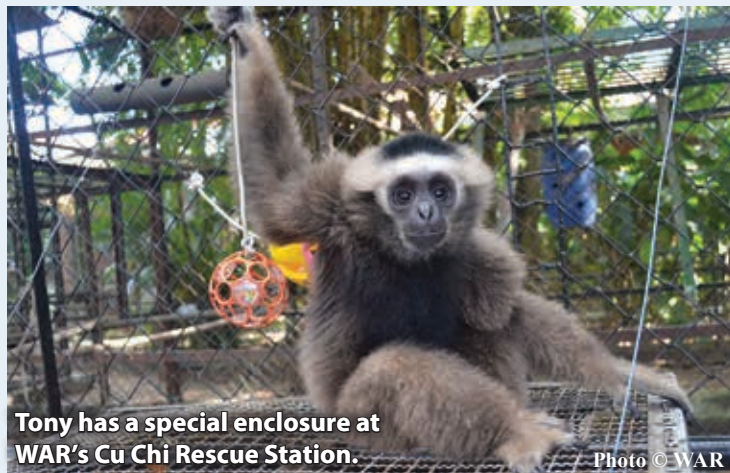
After two months of high-quality care by the veterinarian and animal keepers at Cu Chi, our pileated gibbon's health had improved. He could swing easily on the bars in his special enclosure and seemed much happier. Most important of all, he began to sing, making the most incredible wheezy squeak-toy sounds every day. It is easy to distinguish his call from the trills made by the native Vietnamese gibbons (yellow-cheeked crested gibbons, *Nomascus gabriellae*) we already had at the center.

Even though pileated gibbons are not native to Vietnam, we decided to give this little ape a permanent home at the Cu Chi Rescue Station for educational purposes. We named him Tony, and he is a living example of everything that is wrong with the international wildlife trade. In a better world, he would be singing to a mate in the forests of Cambodia—but perhaps his song will convince his human audience in Vietnam to prevent future crimes against wildlife.



Tony is an adult pileated gibbon who was kept as a pet; his limbs are stunted because of poor nutrition.

Photo © WAR



Tony has a special enclosure at WAR's Cu Chi Rescue Station.

Photo © WAR

Thank you to all our Wildlife WARriors!

All of us at WAR would like to take this opportunity to send a huge "Thank You!" to the **International Primate Protection League**, the **Douc Langur Foundation**, and **all our supporters and volunteers** who enable us to rescue our country's amazing and beautiful wildlife. Thanks especially to IPPL's donors for your financial support of WAR: you are all "wildlife warriors" for Vietnam's future.



The monkeys are about to be released into a protected area.

Photo © WAR



The monkey family disappears into the wild.

Photo © WAR



Farewell to Igor Gibbon

*Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder
and Executive Director*

After 27 years living with IPPL, our wonderful senior gibbon Igor passed away peacefully on October 13, 2014. He had reached the amazing age of around 56 to 58. He was caught in the wild on an unknown date by the shooting of his mother in the forests of Thailand.

Igor came to us from the now-defunct Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP), which was based in Sterling Forest, New York. LEMSIP had already sent six gibbons to IPPL to start their post-research lives.

I still remember the call I received from LEMSIP's chief veterinarian Dr. James Mahoney, telling me about a special gibbon in need of a home. The little ape had a problem in that he would need a special housing unit out of sight of the other IPPL gibbons because he had developed a habit of self-mutilating whenever he saw another gibbon. He would tear savagely at both his arms and bleed heavily. As a result, he had to be housed for years behind black Plexiglas with no view of the world or the other gibbons in his room.

Igor had lived at LEMSIP for 21 years and prior to that he had lived with a pharmaceutical company in the northeast for five years. Of course, we agreed to bring him to Summerville. Unfortunately, at that time we did not have the funds to build him a house on a remote area of the

property, so we asked Dr. Mahoney for a photo we could send to our members. He sent along one of Igor peering out of his lab cage. Our supporters responded generously, and soon construction of new housing was under way.

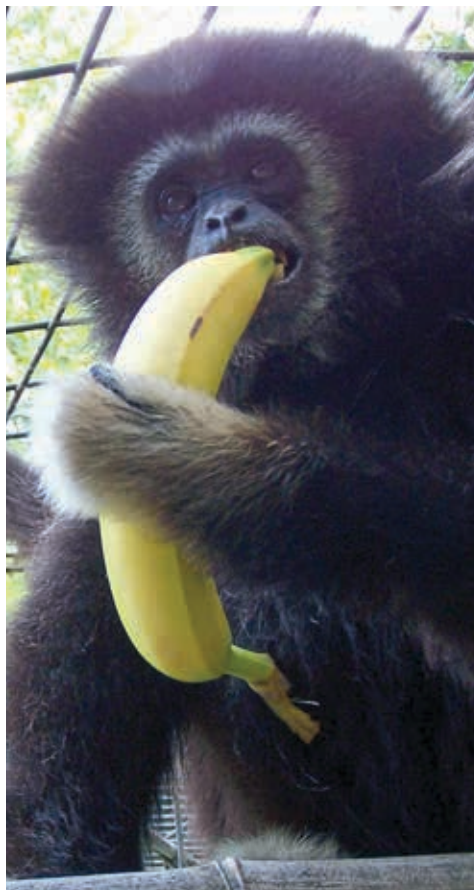
In June 1987, Igor was ready for his big adventure! John McGreal drove to Sterling

Forest to collect him. Soon they were on the road home. According to John, Igor paid careful attention to all the new sights and sounds he experienced on the trip and was not at all upset. Our little ape even started singing.

On arrival in Summerville, Igor was released into his spacious new indoor house. The next morning, our local vet came to check him out. Dr. Ohlandt found several open wounds on Igor's arms but did not recommend any immediate treatment. Luckily, the wounds were not too large and cleared up on their own—and never again did Igor self-mutilate. Soon he was singing along with the other IPPL gibbons.

In the lab Igor had eaten mainly monkey chow. At IPPL he loved the greens, vegetables, and fruits offered to him. He was always a good eater, but apples were his perennial favorite.

In 1989, IPPL was visited by a Category 4 hurricane named Hugo. We had all the gibbons locked in their indoor houses. The houses had been fortified by hurricane tie-downs and roof clips. The storm made a colossal noise, with falling trees and flying debris. We were really scared that Igor might be terrified and self-mutilate. We don't know how he reacted during the worst of the storm, but we do know that the next day he came up for his breakfast, just as usual.



In the year 2002, we had a surprise when our gibbon Michelle produced a daughter despite her mate's vasectomy. Sadly, Michelle severely injured her infant at 12 days, and as a result young Courtney had to be hand-raised. Courtney was born with almost no hair, so we took her to visit Igor to see how he would react. Oddly, he liked the little ape's presence, and we often took her to visit him—until Courtney reached six years of age and became too hard for us to handle!

Igor was also very friendly. In the early days, I used to go into his unit with him, and he enjoyed my visits. We also set up a TV for him, and he liked watching programs like *Sesame Street*. If I went into his house and placed myself between Igor and his TV, he would move to an unobstructed position. One year the Mormon Tabernacle Choir was singing holiday songs with Renée Fleming, and Igor joined in.

Besides the love he got from all the IPPL staff, he had his own volunteers.

Igor was part of our adoption program and was the most popular gibbon there. He even had his own volunteers who enjoyed sitting with him and brushing him. Two of his favorites were Sophie and Cynthia. Sophie would buy him DVDs, and Cynthia once got a nice brush and comb set just for him.

We are really going to miss this special gibbon. When I announced his death on Facebook, 376 tributes came in from all around the world, as well as 1,500 "Likes" in sympathy.

A Fond Farewell from our Facebook Friends

- That is so sad! Igor was such a beautiful gibbon, who had such an unfortunate life. My condolences to you, Shirley, and all of the staff at this terrible loss. The bright glow of the sanctuary is a little dimmer today. **Brian Giovannini, Texas, U.S.A.**
- I am so sad to read this. I remember Igor from my visit in 1988—a beautiful boy who touched my heart. I am sure that the security, love, and happiness he experienced in the second half of his life went a long way toward making up for the horrors he experienced in the first half. **Alice Raffer Schick, California, U.S.A.**
- I know it is sad Igor died, but I really felt better when I read about the contrast between his awful early life and his wonderful later life with you guys. IPPL is truly a beacon of hope that shows humanity is capable of compassion. It is wonderful he got to experience what a happy life was like with you guys and the other gibbons. **Quellcrist Falconer, Florida, U.S.A.**
- Such sadness to hear of the loss of Igor. For me, he was always the iconic image not only of IPPL but of what a gibbon should be. Igor's rescue was also about justice and making reparations to him for the cruelty he suffered for so long. The fact that he stopped self-mutilating after he came to IPPL gave witness to the healing that this sanctuary gave to him. As someone once said of a great loss like Igor, "I breathe but I cannot catch my breath." **Toni Rapone, Montana, U.S.A.**
- I am so grateful that I was able to be part of Igor's life and be there to say goodbye. It was amazing to watch the staff gathered around Igor showering him with love and it was evident that he felt it, as he gazed into everyone's eyes and even joined the other gibbons singing one last time. It was a peaceful loving Goodbye to a very special gibbon. RIP Igor, you will be missed. **Tina McCoy, South Carolina, U.S.A.**
- Cried quite a bit when I heard this news. I have a photo of Igor on my desk at work and I look at it every day. Such a sweet gibbon... thank you IPPL for giving him a life of peace and comfort. Rest in peace, dear Igor. **Jen Feuerstein, Florida, U.S.A.**
- Our condolences to all of IPPL. We consider ourselves to be quite special for having met and spent a little time with Igor. He was a most fortunate gibbon to be saved and cared for by Shirley and everyone at IPPL. HUGS! **Elaine Hendrix and Salvator Xuereb, California, U.S.A.**
- Shirley and staff... we all send our sincerest condolences from CGA as we know how difficult it is to lose any of your residents, especially someone so dear. Igor arrived in heaven long before this weekend. He found heaven in his life when he arrived at IPPL. Love and thoughts with you all. **Patti Ragan, Florida, U.S.A.**
- We feel close to our adopted gibbons, don't we, even if we have never met them? I got to know Igor because he was one of the gibbons featured on the IPPL notecards, and loved him anyway because of his beauty, and his tragic start in life. I can only begin to imagine how IPPL staff and volunteers must feel when they lose a member of their family. People all over the world are shedding tears for Igor today. That has to mean something, and is a hopeful sign for gibbons, and ALL animals who are held captive and subject to cruelty or exploitation. **Jane Goodfellow, Dunblane, Perthshire, Scotland**
- Thinking of you all; goodnight Igor, we have loved following your life at IPPL. **Frank Lomas, Manchester, England**
- Oh dear, once again my tears are welling up. I am just so glad that this sweet darling was able to find contentment at his IPPL home. He deserved every ounce of love and happiness that was showered on him. Such a darling. It truly is the end of an era. Good-night sweet Igor. You are very loved. **Yvonne Martin, Calgary, Canada**

Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- **The Abernethy Family**, in memory of Meriam Abernethy
- **Susan Andersen**, in honor of those working so hard to help animals and plants survive and thrive
- **Louis Bortnick**, in memory of Karen Ruth Bortnick
- **Betty Brescia**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Dr. and Mrs. Roger Breslau**, in memory of Scarlett
- **June Carter**, in honor of Sophie and Stellie Higby
- **Dominique Cheyns**, in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Brien Comerford**, in honor of all God's creatures
- **Mary Davies**, in memory of Melody
- **Mrs. J.B. Dawson**, in memory of Mai-Ling
- **Claudia Dizon Wondra**, in memory of Donna and Peter Delaney
- **Jane E. Edsall**, in memory of Smoky Joe and Rocky
- **Sara Beth Gann**, in memory of Rita Miljo
- **Pete and Liz Hennrikus**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Roberta Herman**, in memory of sweet Grub, a chimp at the Center for Great Apes
- **Katherine Iosif**, in memory of Nancy Sue Groby Benedict
- **Sylvia Kaloustian**, in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Barbara Kirman**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Jeffrey Kline**, in memory of Josh Kline and in honor of the chimps at Tacugama, Sierra Leone
- **Diane Koosed and Scott Lake**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Diane H. Lamb**, in memory of Alice Lamb
- **Carol Leenstra**, in honor of the innocents
- **Ted and Betsy Lewin**, in memory of Dorothy
- **Carol Linville**, in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Dr. James Mahoney**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Mayumi Matson**, in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Gerri Matthews**, in honor of Dorothy
- **Lee McGlashan**, in honor of Joel Stevens
- **Shirley McGreal**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Amy Murphy**, in honor of Hans Ruesch
- **Brenda Parks**, in honor of sister Liz Bills
- **Marsha Rabe and Thomas Brown**, in memory of Seabiscuit
- **Joanne J. Rongo**, in memory of Lesley C. Doonan
- **Philip Rubin**, in memory of Amy
- **Vickie Ruiz**, in memory of James and Dorothy Lee and in honor of Herbert A. Ruiz
- **Alan and Nancy Sacerdote**, in memory of Lizzie
- **Sherry and Philip Schulman**, in memory of Pal
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- **Dianne Taylor-Snow**, in memory of Pepper Snow
- **Donna Tichenor**, in memory of IPPL's gibbon Igor
- **Anne Warner**, in honor of Bala Amarasekaran
- **Grace Wegman**, in memory of Journey

IPPL's Founder Receives Lifetime Award

Sharon Strong, IPPL Program Coordinator

The North American Primate Sanctuary Association awarded IPPL Founder and Executive Director Shirley McGreal its Lifetime Achievement Award at a ceremony on October 3, 2014. The event was part of the third annual NAPS Workshop, which was held this year in San Antonio, Texas. The award recognizes Shirley's "many years of service to wild and captive primates worldwide."

IPPL first offered a home to rescued gibbons not long after its founding in Thailand, in 1973, by accepting four former pets for permanent care. IPPL's current Headquarters Sanctuary in Summerville, SC, has been welcoming gibbons since 1977.

Shirley was appreciative of the recognition and glad for the opportunity to exchange ideas with other primate sanctuary directors. "The conference had an excellent roster of speakers," she added, "and visits to the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation and Primarily Primates sanctuaries were included in the program." NAPS's mission is to "advance the welfare of captive primates through exceptional sanctuary care, collaboration, and outreach."

IPPL's own Shirley McGreal (third from left) receives a Lifetime Achievement from NAPS, with (left to right) Noelle Almrud (Director of Animal Care at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas), April Truitt (Executive Director at the Primate Rescue Center in Kentucky), and Sarah Baeckler (former Executive Director for the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest in Washington State).



Cambodia's Monkey Dealings



On August 28, 2014, the *Cambodian Daily* ran a story about Cambodia's monkey trade. Reporters Holly Robertson and Khy Sovuthy went to the province of Kompong Chan to check out a huge primate breeding facility called the Tian Hu Animal Breeding Research Center, which houses thousands of long-tailed macaques, most of whom will be eventually exported to the United States for experimentation.

According to information provided to the reporters by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), 91,000 long-tailed macaques were exported from Cambodia between 2004 and 2012. A security guard who worked three years at the Tian Hu facility told the investigators that around 10,000 monkeys had been kept in the facility on a 10-hectare (25-acre) piece of land.

In 2010, Cambodia exported 2,400 monkeys to the United States. In 2004, it was zero. It is likely that Cambodian monkeys were shipped to many other countries, including Japan, South Korea, and Europe. Many more may have been shipped to China and on to the West.

The Cambodian Minister of Agriculture reported that five monkey facilities are registered with his office. The reporters were refused permission to enter any of them. These monkey collecting centers are highly secretive, which suggests they have much to hide.

The origin of the monkeys is unclear. The U.S. import declarations claim that most are captive-bred, but it is suspected that many were caught from the wild and shipped on false "captive-born" papers. There are wild monkeys in the area, many in the Tonle Sap, a UNESCO Biosphere Nature Reserve lying close to the largest lake in Cambodia.

Sadly, all this trafficking could bring Cambodia's monkeys close to extinction—not to mention the suffering and death in store for most of the exported monkeys stolen from their families and forest homes.

Help Save Cambodia's monkeys!

IPPL would like to see Cambodia ban monkey exports and allow the animals to live wild and free. Please make this request to the following government representatives.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia
Royal Embassy of Cambodia
4530 16th St NW
Washington, DC 20011
USA
E-mail: camemb@mfa.gov.kh

His Excellency the Ambassador of Cambodia
Royal Embassy of Cambodia
64 Brondesbury Park
Willesden Green
London NW6 7AT
United Kingdom
Phone: (44) 208 4517850
E-mail: camemb.eng@mfa.gov.kh
cambodianembassy@btconnect.com

Cambodian embassies in many countries are listed online (http://www.embassyofcambodia.org/other_embassies.html). Cambodia has been a party to CITES since 1997. Its senior wildlife officials are:

H.E. Dr. Ty Sokhun
Secretary of State
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
200 Preah Norodom Boulevard
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh
CAMBODIA
E-mail: tysokhun@gmail.com

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
242 Preah Norodom Boulevard
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E-mail: citescambodia@gmail.com

Postage from the United States to Cambodia costs \$1.45 per ounce.

An IPPL-Sponsored Gibbon Release in Thailand

*Edwin Wiek, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand
Founder and Director*

It's easy to find gibbons in need of rescue in Thailand. In 2009, the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) had over 100 rescued gibbons at our primary facility in the central part of the country, with six more on our waiting list.

For years I had dreamt of creating a release site somewhere in the Thai jungles, where at least some of these gibbons could be returned to the wild—but that is a much more difficult project. Not only are suitable release sites hard to find, I knew it would be even harder to find the funds to set up such a field station. But, as I have said many times, the difference between a dream and reality is the existence of a plan.

Actually, it didn't take long at all to find a proper release site: Mahidol University had already identified an excellent location, but due to lack of funds their project had been put on hold for several years. However, after only two meetings with the dean of the biology faculty and the head of the Lum Nam Pai Wildlife Sanctuary, we all agreed to join forces and work towards the establishment of the Gibbon Rehabilitation and Release Centre, to be built in Maehongson Province, in northern Thailand.

By the end of 2009, WFFT's Jansaeng ("Noi") Sangnanork and I had gone to Lum Nam Pai and started to oversee the initial stages—with minimum funding but maximum motivation. Noi ended up staying in the Maehongson jungle for over two months with the construction staff to set up the large acclimation enclosures. Bit by bit, WFFT generated financial support via online fundraising and even got a nice grant from the International Primate Protection League, enough to finish the construction phase of the project.

By March 2010, at the end of the dry season, we were finally able to get the

first four gibbons ready by quarantining them at WFFT's wildlife rescue center. We had selected for release a group of four. Kookoo the father and Bank the mother were rescued in 2003 and 2005 from Bangkok's floating markets. Their daughter Plai and son Dollar were five and seven years old at the time of release.

During the quarantine period we checked the gibbons multiple times for contagious diseases and any other physical problems. Eight weeks later, all four were determined to be healthy and fit to travel, so the WFFT mobile rescue team, headed by our chief veterinarian, took the gibbons on an overnight 570-mile trip back to the wild.

Their arrival early the next morning in the forest at the foot of the mountain seemed inauspicious at first. It was chilly (about 57° F) and very quiet. But something the WFFT staff and Mahidol University researchers had never expected sounded from across the mountains: a gibbon call!

We knew that gibbons had been abundant in this area in the past, but no research had indicated that there were any left near the release site. Now we were hearing one only a few miles away! The stillness of the jungle didn't last long: our gibbons started to answer back to the call from the wild within a week.

Our little family gradually adapted to their surroundings. First, we allowed the adult female to get out of the acclimation enclosure on her own. She went high up into the trees, foraged about, and explored the nearby forest, but she never went out of sight of her family.

Slowly the project team began to change the daily food that was being provided to the gibbons: instead of bananas, mangos, watermelon, and other "human" fruits, we started giving the gibbons berries, figs, and young leaves harvested from the wild. This change

Photo © WFFT



Left, one of WFFT's released gibbons. His rehabilitation process included spending time on one of the island habitats at WFFT's primary wildlife facility in central Thailand. This page top, WFFT's Gibbon Rehabilitation and Release Centre in Thailand's Maehongson Province. Below, part of the rehabilitation process includes introducing the gibbons to wild foods.

of menu upset their stomachs for a while, but in 2012—once they had gotten used to their new diet and new environment and had even begun to lose interest in their human caregivers—it was time to release the entire family.

The release initially went well, but after a few days Bank, the mother, stopped using her left arm. No one could find an explanation for this behavior, so she had to be captured and taken to the WFFT wildlife hospital. There, to the shock of all involved, she was diagnosed a few days later with bone cancer. This was a major setback.

The family of released gibbons fell apart without the mother. We put all of them back into their acclimation enclosure to await the mother's hoped-for return. Fortunately, the cancer had not spread, but her arm had to be amputated. After a month, she was returned to her family, who happily welcomed her back. But would she ever be able to survive in the wild?

It is sometimes unbelievable how adaptive these non-human primates can be. Within days she was swinging around in the enclosure as if nothing had happened! We decided to try the release again—and this time everything went well. They

traveled together as a group, and we saw that the mother was able to move just as quickly and easily as the others.

Now, as of November 2014, Kookoo, Bank, Plai, and Dollar have been living two years in the wild and are doing very well. Bank swings from branch to branch with just the one arm and still spends most of her time near Kookoo (the largest of the four). Dollar and Plai also remain close by, as they probably feel safer in the company of more eyes and ears.

We released a second family of three gibbons (mother Mae Na, father Talay, and their son Pa Mai) last year, and they chose the other side of the mountain as their new home. Their calls are heard daily, but (although researchers from Mahidol University were monitoring them until August of this year) they have seldom been seen.

WFFT is currently hoping to continue this project, since the release site can accommodate more gibbon families, but in recent years it has been hard to find the necessary funding. At least, with the help of IPPL, we have been able to do much-needed research on the release of gibbons—and seven gibbons have found their way back home.



Photo © WFFT



Photo © WFFT

Remember the World's Primates – In Your Will

Ever since I founded the International Primate Protection League in 1973, IPPL has benefited from many caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills.

You, too, can help us ensure that future generations of apes and monkeys will live in a world where primates will have IPPL working tirelessly on their behalf—working to ensure that primates in the wild are free from fear of human abuse and that those in captivity have access to loving care.

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

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

By including IPPL in your estate plans, you will ensure that primates in need will have our hard-working and experienced organization to stand by them in the future.

If you would like to discuss providing enduring help for primates around the globe through IPPL, please contact us:

IPPL
P.O. Box 766
Summerville, SC 29484
USA

Phone: 843-871-2280

IPPL's tax ID
number is:
51-0194013



Thank you for caring,

Dr. Shirley McGreal
IPPL Founder and Executive Director

IPPL Supporter's Donation Form



If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL supporter, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world's primates by making a financial 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). 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) |
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☐ I will be paying via credit card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

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until the end date of

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(month / year)

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

Primate Paraphernalia!



Primate Connections 2015 Calendar
Cost: US\$20 (US)/US\$27 (overseas)



Gibbon Notecards: 12 cards and envelopes, 2 each of 6 IPPL gibbons (Arun Rangsi, Courtney, Glenda, Igor, Maynard, and Tong)
Cost: US\$10 (US)/US\$14 (overseas)



Two-sided Tote Bag:
 Roomy bag with gibbon design front and back
Cost: US\$30 (US)/US\$40 (overseas)

Shop online for more gibbon goodies including baseball caps and DVDs at www.ippl.org!



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)



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

Method of payment:

- ☐ **Check/money order**, payable to **IPPL**.
 (Overseas checks to be drawn on US banks.)
- ☐ **Credit Card** (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

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

Adopt an IPPL Gibbon!

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

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

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

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

Yes, I want to adopt an IPPL gibbon!

Your name: _____ Phone number: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

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

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

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

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

OR

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

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

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

Recipient's name: _____ Phone number: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

Name (on card): _____

Credit card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Credit card billing address (for verification purposes): _____

For information about adopting your gibbon through a monthly automatic checking account withdrawal,

or if you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail (info@ippl.org).

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

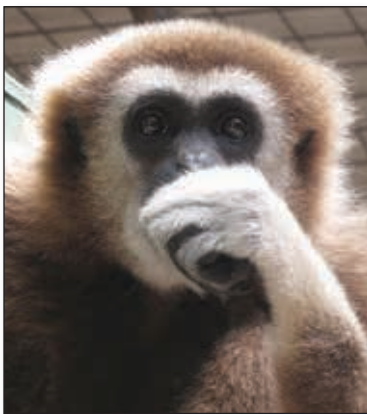
Please mail your application to: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA; or fax it to 843-871-7988.

IPPL Gibbons Currently Available for Adoption

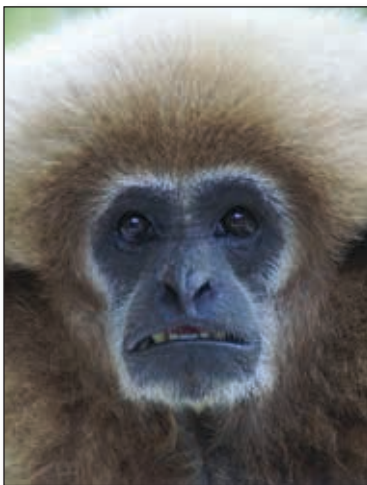
Tong belongs to a different species from most of IPPL's gibbons. She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and was wild-born in her native Vietnam probably around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold as a pet to an American serviceman stationed in Vietnam; her mother may have been one of that nation's many wild animals that succumbed to Agent Orange or other hazards of war. When Tong's owner left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, the servants did not know much about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Eventually 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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PRINTED MATTER

Meet IPPL's Speedy

Well, in point of fact all gibbons are speedy. These natural acrobats can reportedly brachiate through the treetops at up to 35 miles per hour. But our own Speedy was actually named after one of our favorite primate veterinarians, Sheri Speede, who runs the Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Center in Cameroon. Speedy-the-gibbon was born at IPPL from a pair of rescued lab apes, Arun Rangsi and his mate Shanti.

She is a robust-looking gibbon and she is, indeed, a good eater: she clearly enjoys mangos whenever we present them to her, but she'll eat just about anything. She likes to smack her lunch bucket around, scattering fruit everywhere, so she can pick over the menu at her leisure. She is reluctant to tackle treats presented within novel enrichment devices, however. In that case, she'll let her companion Maui investigate first and will only engage in the hunt for tasty snacks once she has decided that it's safe.

She gets along well with Maui, and they play tag, chase each other, and wrestle together often. However, if one of our staff members comes into view in the middle of a rowdy play session, Speedy and Maui will suddenly put a stop to the proceedings and look especially innocent. (Maybe their relationship is supposed to be a secret!)

