



News

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Holiday Issue

A Message from Deborah

Dear IPPL Friends,

The past few months have been very busy for IPPL. We are truly grateful to our friends and donors who have made it possible for us to aid our Global partners in Peru and Thailand in their efforts of primate rescues. Each was a unique crisis situation which you will read about in two of the articles in this newsletter. Sam Shanee has written an article describing the crisis situation in Peru and the efforts to protect red howler monkeys. The second rescue, in Thailand, by Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand is an ongoing project involving as many as 70 primates of varied species. Our newsletter article describes the circumstances of this rescue and the aid and support IPPL has given to date, but this rescue will be long and involved. This rescue requires our ongoing support, and we have established a fundraising campaign for this particular rescue as it involves a sanctuary we have supported in the past known as Highland Farms.

We have also included an interesting article by two young primatologists, Gal Badihi and Dr. Catherine Hobaiter from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, describing the gestural communication of chimpanzees. There are several young scientists working on this, and we hope to have one as a speaker at our next biennial meeting.

We have also been working on our plans for the next Biennial Meeting taking place in April of 2024. Our last meeting was in 2018, but the next two scheduled meetings were canceled due to COVID-19 and its lingering effects. We have been fortunate to engage several speakers already. Edwin Wiek of WFFT will be coming to update us on the rescues of the Highland Farms sanctuary in Thailand. Ofir Drori, whom some of you will recall spoke at the 2012 meeting, will be speaking on the current status of African Wildlife Trafficking. This newsletter includes an interview done with Ofir by Mongabay. We have also received confirmation that Carolyn Thompson will be joining us to introduce us to her discovery of the newest recognized gibbon species, the Skywalker Gibbon, and the challenges of maintaining this unique species. There will be many other speakers joining us at the meeting as well. Our meeting will be a three-day event as usual, and a preview of our plan is included in this issue on page 6. We hope you will share in our excitement and join us in Summerville in April of 2024!

Best Wishes,



Deborah Misotti
Chairperson, Board of Directors



IPPL News

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About the Cover



The handsome red howler monkey on the cover is Luis. They are known for their deep, guttural “howl” and long dexterous prehensile tail. But unfortunately for them, the same qualities that make them so captivating to view in the wild also make them vulnerable. They are heavily hunted for bushmeat and the illegal wildlife trade. Luis was lucky as he was rescued by the Peruvian wildlife authorities and had a second chance at life. After he arrived at Amazon Shelter and finished his quarantine period he was successfully paired with a young female howler monkey named Luna. Read their wonderful story and the amazing work of Amazon Shelter on page [11](#).

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. Here, 27 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.



Urgent Rescue for Gibbons and Macaques at Highland Farm in Thailand

Information & photos provided by Edwin Wiek, founder, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand

The board of IPPL would like to share an urgent situation that has arisen in the northwest of Thailand. A previously funded IPPL sanctuary, Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary (previously known as William Deters Foundation), lost its director Pharanee Deters, who passed away in 2022. Since then, Highland Farm has closed, leaving over 70 gibbons and macaques, many of whom were originally rescued from illegal wildlife trade facing a very uncertain future.

Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) wanted to ensure these primates ended up in the best possible place so there was an urgent need to rehome these primates to their rescue center.

Edwin Wiek, founder and director of WFFT, had serious concerns for the future of these animals knowing they were living in extremely substandard conditions. As one of our Global Partners, IPPL was nimble in their response to financially assist Edwin with his heroic efforts to relocate these primates to WFFT.

The following information was drawn from communications with Edwin, the WFFT website, live updates provided by Edwin as well as Facebook posts. The photos show how desperately these primates needed rescue and the difference in their lives once at WFFT.

The sad story behind the rescue

Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary was founded in 1991 by William and Pharanee Deters. It started as a rescue sanctuary for gibbons, but over the years other species were housed at the beautiful hillside sanctuary in Mae Sot.

Sadly, Bill Deters died in 2002 during a tragic incident at the sanctuary. Edwin, who had known the Deters for years, went to Highland Farm to assist after this terrible event. For the next two decades, Pharanee worked tirelessly to look after the animals until her passing in August 2022. Unfortunately, there was no will to hand over the land to the foundation or anyone else who could feasibly continue the work for the animals left behind. The future of these primates was of great concern.

Many months ago WFFT expressed their willingness to accept these primates with a supporting appeal submitted to Thai authorities that was signed by numerous animal welfare organizations around the world but the decision remained with the authorities.

What WFFT found

Last summer Edwin went to Highland Farm to meet with the Thai authorities from the Department of National



Max at Highland Farm and at his new home at WFFT

Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) to discuss bringing the primates to WFFT. Edwin observed: “It was sad to see a once bustling sanctuary with eager volunteers and a dedicated staff, stripped back to basics – with very few individuals around to care for the animals.” Funds had dried up and little more could be done to provide for these primates. Furthermore, some primates were showing signs of malnutrition, which indicated they were receiving an inadequate diet. Many enclosures were rusted and in need of repairs, and the once beautiful grounds were overgrown. “We’re not sure if the primates in need of intensive vet care, such as Max, the white-handed gibbon with kidney disease, are receiving the vet care needed.”

Many of these primates have very traumatic stories including those who had previously been rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Numerous primates have chronic conditions and/or physical and behavioral issues and consequently need the care of specialists. It was clear that these primates needed to be rehomed.

For several months, talks with the Thai authorities continued. Finally, it was announced that WFFT had received a list of the first 30 primates that could be released to them. We expected this list to grow substantially as more primates were approved to go to WFFT. Edwin acknowledged his thanks for the financial support of WFFT’s new partner Asia Wild, Jim Cronin Memorial Fund, and long-term partner IPPL, who have allowed them to construct many new enclosures for the incoming gibbons and macaques. They have since built or refurbished enough enclosures to rescue at least the first 30 primates.

The first rescue

The first rescue took place on the 12th of September. The following is a summary of comments that were live streamed by Edwin as he set off from WFFT with a team of 11 volunteers and employees. He gave updates along the 10-hour drive with a convoy that consisted of a mobile animal clinic, two cars and a large truck. On this trip, the team rescued 15 primates (8 gibbons and 7 macaque monkeys). Especially rewarding was the rescue of Johnny, a gibbon that Edwin had personally



Johnny

rescued sometime before he established WFFT and who recognized him – much to Edwin’s joy!

The team was very careful to use anesthesia sparingly because several of the primates were very old, but securing the gibbons and monkeys in transport cages went smoothly. The team departed to return to WFFT with most of the primates loaded securely in a truck and one macaque in the mobile clinic because of concerns about his health. Edwin gave live updates on the return journey. They reached WFFT around midnight and it took another hour or so to release the primates into their new homes. All in all, this trip took 36 hours!

On the morning of September 13th, Edwin introduced Facebook viewers to the gibbons and macaques, including two who had each lost an arm during their time at Highland Farm. He added that it is much better to rescue the gibbons in small groups. That is precisely the way this rescue is proceeding and the gibbons and macaques all seemed to be acclimating to their new environment very well.

On October 6, WFFT made another 36-hour journey to Highland Farm and returned with 16 gibbons and macaques. Numerous primates have chronic conditions and/or physical and behavioral issues and require the care of specialists. So as rescue efforts continue WFFT is faced with many more mouths to feed, caretakers to hire, enclosures to maintain, and numerous animals that will require intensive veterinary care and medical needs.

On October 6, WFFT made another long trip to Highland Farm and returned with 16 more primates. So 31 primates are now in their new home - but that's just the beginning for WFFT. A third rescue is still anticipated.



Before rescue – a macaque at Highland Farm



A rescued macaque at WFFT



As a financial sponsor of this heroic life-saving mission, IPPL hopes you will consider a donation to assist in the life-long care of these primates.

Checks can be mailed using the form on page 20 or online at <https://ippl.org/donate/> – see the special designation box marked WFFT Primate Rescue.

For more information on this vital rescue mission, please see:

Website: <https://www.wfft.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeFriendsFoundation>

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 Maynard 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

www.ippl.org

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

Only \$60.00 (includes shipping)

www.nuts.com/gifts/nutsforbirds/ippl.html



Maynard goes nuts for peanuts!



2024 IPPL Biennial Meeting

Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14



In early 1990 IPPL announced that its first international meeting would be held March 23–25. At that time Shirley wrote: “with no clue as to whether any members would show up! We had a lovely surprise! Over 50 supporters came to Summerville from several countries and many states. Some made presentations and others came to listen to our speakers.”

Looking back at the many meetings that have been held since then, it’s remarkable to note that these were truly international gatherings of primate experts with direct experience of protecting primates. They came from Bangladesh, Scotland, Colombia, Malawi, Indonesia, Germany, Peru, Thailand, Cameroon, Vietnam, and more. A complete history of IPPL’s meetings can be found on our website https://ippl.org/newsletter/2010s/IPPL_August2017.pdf#page=5

Since that first meeting 33 years ago, IPPL has held these unique meetings every other year until 2020 when COVID-19 shut the world down. We had planned to resume in 2022, but that was so soon after the loss of our founder, Shirley McGreal, that we elected to wait until 2024.

Two confirmed speakers are Edwin Wick, (see article on page 3) and Ofir Drori, (see article on page 7). Ofir is involved with law enforcement in Africa and Edwin has a large rescue center in Thailand. Both lead organizations that were recognized by IPPL from their inception as important for us to financially support.



Carolyn Thompson

We have also confirmed that Carolyn Thompson, a British-Swiss primatologist who studies three of the rarest gibbon species including the newly described Skywalker Hoolock gibbon found on the China/Myanmar border, will also be making a presentation. Carolyn is one example of IPPL’s direct involvement with other organizations protecting primates.

This year’s theme (Safety, Sanctuary and Swinging into the Future) has an emphasis on the future and especially the role of educating IPPL members (and the wider public) on the reasons for the serious global threat to the future of primates as humans continue to plunder our planet. There will be more time for discussion after the presentations, and the speaker presentations will be interspersed with award-winning short documentaries.

This new agenda is intended to provide an expanded educational experience (or component) for our attendees. Invitations with more information will be mailed out in January 2024.

We are also pleased to announce some exciting news – a new Shirley McGreal Scholarship program is being initiated by IPPL. Details will be provided at the 2024 meeting in April.



Edwin (left) and Ofir at IPPL in 2012

After a long absence – we can’t wait to see you next year! In the meantime, we want to thank you for your continued support this year and wish you and your family a Joyful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

IPPL Board of Directors

How the EAGLE Network is Confronting the Corruption at the Heart of Africa's Illegal Wildlife Trade

*An interview with Ofir Drori, Founder of
Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) and EAGLE Network*



Ofir Drori (center) with confiscated tusks.

Photo: EAGLE

LAGA was formed in 2003 and received a grant from IPPL in 2004 after they successfully prosecuted their first trafficker; there have been many more since then. Ofir outlined the success of their organization at IPPL's biennial meeting in 2012. He described how his organization combats corruption and saves species endangered by the illegal wildlife trade in Africa.

Following several awards and recommendations from the international community to replicate the model in other countries, LAGA has started working with other NGOs transferring the LAGA experience and model throughout the sub-region. EAGLE is a replication of the LAGA model that started in Cameroon and is now present in eight countries. This network has shifted countries from zero in wildlife prosecutions to a rate of one major trafficker arrested, prosecuted and imprisoned per week.

Globally, wildlife poaching and organized criminal trade in wildlife have escalated over the past 10 years, decimating populations of large mammals. Criminal syndicates increasingly control these activities and have become better-armed and

organized as the illegal trade. Estimated in 2015 at over US \$18 billion per year, it has become more profitable. These violent, organized criminal groups use their illegal revenue to strengthen their organizations: employing more local poachers, buying impunity, bribing corrupt officials and broadening their distribution networks.

To tackle a problem of this scale and gravity, Ofir suggests that "the best approach to protecting species is to ensure the perpetrators involved in wildlife trafficking are prosecuted," a solution he says is long overdue and for which he founded EAGLE in 2003.

In order to better acquaint you with the success of EAGLE, we are excerpting from an interview with Ofir that was published in Mongabay in 2015 titled "Hidden cameras, prosecutions, and passion: confronting the corruption at the heart of Africa's illegal wildlife trade" by Nadia de Souza. (Mongabay is an independent, nonprofit media organization reporting on nature and planetary challenges with a global network of local journalists.)

The following are excerpts from that interview. It can be read in its entirety on the following link once this issue of the newsletter is on our website. <https://news.mongabay.com/2015/10/hidden-cameras-prosecutions-and-passion-confronting-the-corruption-at-the-heart-of-africas-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

What does EAGLE do?

EAGLE tackles wildlife crime through innovative approaches that will catalyze a change in the existing systems of law enforcement. This requires shifting the focus from targeting small-time poachers to the prosecution of major dealers and tackling head-on key obstacles, such as corruption and the application of wildlife laws in Africa.

Describe the EAGLE model in very basic terms.

The overarching objective of the EAGLE Network is to develop civic activism and collaboration with governments and civil society to ensure that national and international environmental legislation is applied. This is achieved through a program of activities: investigations, arrests, prosecutions and publicity. Through this program, EAGLE aims to generate a strong deterrent against the illegal trade in wildlife and related criminal activities, including corruption.

The EAGLE Network consists of agreements between EAGLE and national NGOs that are suitable to implement the project's law enforcement model. It is a basic social franchise system, where the program's model and operational procedures and systems are replicated in eight different countries. The EAGLE Network fights to trigger a paradigm shift in the international conservation system and aims to address illegal trade through:

- Shifting the focus from poachers to traffickers. If there's anything that poaching has taught us, it is that if poachers go to jail, they'll be replaced. Those who are less replaceable are higher up the chain.
- Setting a national measurable indicator for enforcement. We ensure that a major trafficker is arrested, convicted, and imprisoned at a rate of one per week.
- Fighting corruption to get the law applied. The obstacle

to wildlife law enforcement is NOT lack of capacity, but corruption. We track the entire law enforcement process from investigations to jail visits to confirm the execution of sentences.

How do you integrate technology into a covert world where evidence, timing and communication are critical for making successful arrests and prosecutions?

We use simple and durable equipment, including hidden cameras and recorders during our undercover operations. We also use smartphones a lot, especially for recording, sharing locations, videos and photos in real time. All our data is stored on computerized Internal Control Systems in each of the four departments (investigations, arrest operations, legal follow-up, and media exposure), which enables us to monitor and push each department to achieve its monthly target and makes supervision easier.

This technology, in conjunction with the EAGLE team's dedication, fighting spirit, and activism, enables us to effectively carry out our work.

How effective has your approach been in reducing corruption and wildlife crimes?

At EAGLE, we work on a shoestring budget and have still been able to achieve success. We have been able to put more than 1,000 major traffickers behind bars, many of them kingpins. Compare this to the zero prosecutions achieved across central and western Africa before we set up EAGLE.

A recent EAGLE achievement against high-level corruption and complicity was the successful arrest of the former head of CITES in Guinea, Ansoumane Doumbouya, for his role in assisting and collaborating with wildlife traffickers to illegally export several hundred apes and many other protected species, for more than five years. Although he was fired from CITES after suspicions arose regarding his role in illegal exports, he still held his position with the Ministry of Environment as Commander of National Wildlife and Forestry Mobile Enforcement Brigade and continued to issue falsified CITES permits for wildlife traffickers.



Ivory Operation Doula – Sept. 2009



High-value ivory carvings connected to Chinese traders, from a 2004 raid in Cameroon

A year-long meticulous undercover investigation enabled the EAGLE branch in Guinea – GALF– to arrest Doumbouya on August 21st, 2015, as he delivered falsified CITES permits to a known international wildlife trafficker, Thierno Barry.

How has wildlife trade shifted from the days EAGLE was first set up to the present day?

It has gotten worse. The problems that existed previously are still bad, and we have changed very little of our global strategy. Things continue to get worse over time, and the majority of countries around the world have not been able to make a single prosecution of wildlife traffickers.

Conservation has to change from talking to action and revert back to activism and root values to make the fight work.

EAGLE's analysis shows that governance is by far a bigger problem than lack of capacity. Many times, increasing capacity of a corrupt system is not only ineffective but counter-productive. We need to shift away from focusing on building capacity to building governance and ensuring that these systems are transparent.

What are the biggest challenges of your work?

Most would think it is the direct danger that we face on a daily basis, but one calibrates danger according to the devotion you have. When it comes to something you love, you don't think about the risks involved. If your best friend was on fire you would jump to her rescue without even thinking, you just do it. This is how we feel about the work we do at EAGLE.

One challenge we face in our day-to-day work is maintaining good relations with government to ensure they listen, while still ensuring that the big players are put behind bars – it is a tricky balance. We have had cases where a minister was put behind bars, or the mayor was himself involved in trafficking; obviously, these things must be handled sensitively. (End of interview with Mongabay).

While the arrest and imprisonment of Doumbouya was well known by all, including CITES, Drori gave an explosive presentation at a side event at CITES (CoP19 in Panama) that revealed the kind of “virgin” (blank/unspecified) CITES permits that were issued and signed by Doumbouya still persists in Africa today. Drori revealed that there are two major crime families behind the trafficking of animals in Africa and these families regularly exchanged CITES permits that may have been issued in other countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and Togo. It is easy to obtain these CITES permits and so a system that launders their illegal business and protects the traffickers remains prevalent in Africa today. The existence of these CITES permits has created huge problems for wildlife and there is a desperate need to fight corruption within CITES. Ofir predicted there were delegates walking the halls of the convention center in Panama that were behind this corruption and that the illegal wildlife trade in apes must return to CITES as an agenda item. CITES facilitates the problem of the illegal trade in great apes.



Photo: EAGLE

Three wildlife traffickers arrested in Benin in June 2015, with 4 elephant feet, 2 leopard skins and scales of 2 pangolins, as well as 50 chameleons, heads and skins of crocodiles, skins of antelopes and civets and baboon heads.



Photo: Nadia de Souza

The black rhino, one of the species that is increasingly threatened by wildlife poaching and organised criminal trade in Africa.

LAGA started as a result of Ofir's rescue of a baby chimpanzee during a visit to Cameroon as a journalist in 2003. The orphaned chimpanzee had to live with Ofir for a few months before he could join an ape family in a proper shelter. "That special day I saved Future was the day I decided to stay and pioneer The Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA), the first wildlife law enforcement non-governmental organization in Cameroon, dedicated to the fight to save the last great apes of Africa from extinction."

IPPL wishes to thank Mongabay for graciously allowing us to reprint a portion of this article with Ofir Drori.

In the 2023 summer issue of IPPL News, Ian Redmond and Siân Evans had articles that alerted readers to the extent of this problem in Africa today. This issue is posted on our website https://ippl.org/newsletter/2020s/IPPL_News_Spring2023.pdf



Photo: EAGLE

Ofir and baby Future



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



See more images from the sanctuary and IPPL activities.
 Follow us on Instagram!
www.instagram.com/ippl_summerville

Emergency in the Peruvian Amazon

*Dr. Sam Shanee, Cofounder Neotropical Primate Conservation and IPPL Board of Directors
and Samantha Kany, Freelance Writer*



Young Luis at Amazon Shelter

Red howler monkeys are native to the Peruvian Amazon and are among the largest primates in the Americas. They are known for their deep, guttural “howl” and long dexterous prehensile tail. But unfortunately for them, the same qualities that make them so captivating to view in the wild also make them vulnerable. They are heavily hunted for bushmeat and the illegal wildlife trade.

Every day, deep in the Peruvian Amazon, young howler monkeys are captured from their groups in the forest and sold into the pet trade. This usually involves shooting and killing the mother and then taking the young monkey from her lifeless body. Howler monkey mothers carry their young babies clinging to their stomachs as they swing through the trees. Most of these young monkeys don’t survive long, either dying during capture either hit by a shot or when their mother falls to the forest floor, or soon afterwards due to stress and poor treatment.

But sometimes these monkeys can tell a different story.

Luis, as he would be named, is a young male howler monkey who was given a second chance at life. After his fortuitous rescue by the Peruvian wildlife authorities, he was placed in

the care of a small NGO (non-governmental organization) called Neotropical Primate Conservation or NPC for short (<https://neoprimate.org/>). NPC works closely with the Peruvian authorities in fighting the illegal wildlife trade, identifying, and caring for trafficked wildlife.

When Luis was rescued, NPC took charge of his immediate care and began the search for a suitable rescue centre for him. His needs were great, including medical care, enrichment, food, and endless attention. NPC’s anti-trafficking work has largely been made possible by our ongoing relationship with IPPL. IPPL has been supporting us since 2007. In fact, it was thanks to a small grant from IPPL that NPC was able to begin our first-ever project.

Wildlife trafficking is a major problem in Peru with the number of animals trafficked nationally in the hundreds of thousands per year, many of which are primates. Peru also happens to be one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, with over 50 native species of primates, many of which are now threatened with extinction due to habitat loss and hunting.

Peru provides the perfect environment for a whole host of species, but its troubled democracy leads to lawlessness and danger for these animals. This political instability has been mounting for decades but became most clear in late 2021 when Congress removed the elected president, sparking nationwide protests that led to the deaths of dozens of protesters. This effectively paralyzed the south of the country for months; with



Red Howler family at Amazon Shelter



Amazon Shelter founder Magali Salinas monitoring Luis, Luna and baby

roads closed, basic supplies such as food, medicine and gas became scarce, and what little was available became wildly expensive.

The effects were felt by many, including at Amazon Shelter (<https://amazonshelter.org/>), a wildlife rescue centre operating near Puerto Maldonado, in the Madre de Dios department. Amazon Shelter is home to many animals rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, including primates such as woolly monkeys, squirrel monkeys, capuchins, owl monkeys and of course, howler monkeys. All these animals need daily feeding, cleaning and medical care as part of the rehabilitation process. Due to road closures, Amazon Shelter had run out of much of its supplies, and locally-sourced fruit and vegetables were scarce and expensive. Thanks to the quick response of IPPL, we were able to provide an emergency grant to Amazon Shelter, allowing them to buy and airlift desperately needed supplies from the Peruvian capital Lima and continue

caring for their charges during the troubles.

Amazon Shelter has received many animals rescued with the help of NPC, including Luis. They guided him through the trauma of being taken from his mother too young and taught him how to behave and think again like a monkey, knowing this was crucial if he were ever to be released back into the wild.

Amazon Shelter is committed to reintroducing animals back to the wild whenever possible, but this process takes time, money, and resources, as well as a nuanced and deep understanding of how these animals behave when not disturbed by humans. The process of readying an animal for release involves re-socializing them with others of their own species and teaching them how to survive in the forest again.

After his arrival and quarantine, Luis was successfully paired with a young female howler monkey named Luna. After a period of rehabilitation, it was decided that the pair was ready to return to the wild in a nearby protected forest. Amazon Shelter continued to monitor the pair's progress after release, finding that within a year they had been able to integrate into a wild howler monkey troop, and soon after Luna gave birth to their first baby!

Luis was definitely one of the lucky ones, and thanks to the coordinated actions and dedication of local wildlife authorities, NGOs like NPC, and rescue centres like Amazon Shelter, he was given a second opportunity to live the life he deserved – the life all monkeys deserve.

As an IPPL board member, Sam Shanee added: "IPPL has always prided itself on supporting and protecting primates in rescue and in the wild, and it is thanks to our supporters we are able to continue to do so."



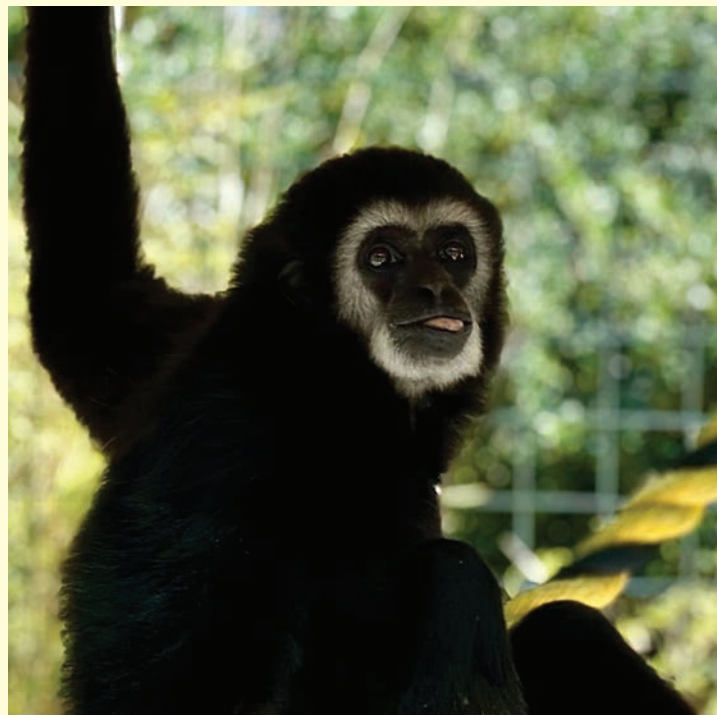
Amazon Shelter's Kim Cruz monitoring released howler monkeys in the forest

Farewell Michael

We were heartbroken when Michael left us on August 15, 2023. He was born at IPPL in 1990 to parents Shanti and Arun Rangsi. In the spring of 2012, Michael was introduced to Cathy and they remained loving companions until Cathy passed suddenly in 2020. Michael loved sunbathing in his runways, drinking from the hose and having his back scratched.

Michael was 33 years old. He had diabetes and was on a restricted diet and oral medication. Unfortunately, he suddenly became very sick, and given the severity of his symptoms our veterinary team recommended euthanasia. He now lies next to his mate Cathy in IPPL's cemetery.

Michael was special. Gibbons are often choosy about the humans they let into their lives, but not Michael. He was one of the first gibbons that new



animal caregivers were introduced to because he was so trusting – even with strangers. All the caregivers had a soft spot for Michael. These are some of the things about him we'll miss most:

- How he would run over with his arms waving when he heard his name called.
- His disappointment when he realized butternut squash was not sweet potato.
- How you could have something really good for him to eat but he'd almost always prefer a good grooming session.
- He was a sweet gentle gibbon with the kindest eyes and he had the best poses that always made us laugh.
- How he always wanted you around for snacks or love.
- Even though he could be sassy like his mom Shanti, he was always a good boy!

We miss this sweet gibbon, but Michael has left us with some very special memories.

You say “Potayto”, I say “Potaato”: Chimpanzee communities have local gestural dialects

By Gal Badihi and Dr. Catherine Hobaiter

Gal Badihi is a post-graduate student and Dr. Hobaiter a professor at the School of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

Gestural communication is an integral part of chimpanzee life, from tiny infants to powerful dominant males and well-respected grandmothers and fathers. Between family, friends, political allies, and rivals, chimpanzees use their gestures to navigate the day-to-day needs of social life in the forests and woodlands of Africa. Gesture is used primarily in short-range communication for a wide variety of reasons: to request high-value food, initiate joint interactions, such as play and grooming, and to make up after fights. Some gestures are performed using only the hands, some include the full body, and others involve touching another individual or include the manipulation of objects such as sticks, branches, and leaves.

All chimpanzees seem to inherit a rich repertoire of gestural signals, but within this, individuals can choose which gestures to use in different situations. They can also modify some physical characteristics of the gesture shape. For example, gestures that use leaves can include tearing or ripping them with a distinctive sound or pulling them quietly off the stem – a sort of “she loves me, she loves me not” plucking motion. These leaf-modifying gestures are used in

almost all the communities of chimpanzees studied in the wild, from East to West Africa. But a new study found that

two neighbouring chimpanzee communities in the Budongo forest, Uganda, seem to prefer to use two different styles, and these preferences cannot be explained by differences in their genetics or in their forest environment. These gestures’ different styles seem to have the same meaning and are used in the same contexts. A bit like the song “You say

Potayto, I say Potaato,” they represent something like the same word, with the same meaning, but with a different pronunciation.

In the Budongo forest, leaf-modifying gestures are used for several reasons but the most common one seems to be a kind of pick-up line: the chimpanzee equivalent of “flirting.” (The English word flirting comes from the French *fleurette* – a small flower, so perhaps the chimpanzees are the original flower – or leaf-based romantics!). Male (and sometimes female) chimpanzees use these gestures as an invitation to a prospective partner. But it appears that once an individual has decided to “go for it,” he must also do so in the local “style.” Interestingly, females who moved between communities seem to be able to understand the dialect of the community they moved into, showing chimpanzees can learn to understand new dialects throughout their lives, even as adults.

Within human and non-human animal societies, dialects are considered a fundamentally cultural component of communication. While chimpanzees are very good at learning from each other, scientists have rarely found evidence for social learning in their communication. This new finding suggests that, like other prolific animal communicators, chimpanzees also learn aspects of their gestural communication from their group mates. Other groups outside of the Budongo forest could also have their own styles of leaf-modifying gestures or might prefer to use them for different reasons. Although this was just a first step, it could be just the tip of the iceberg since chimpanzee repertoires contain over 100 different gesture



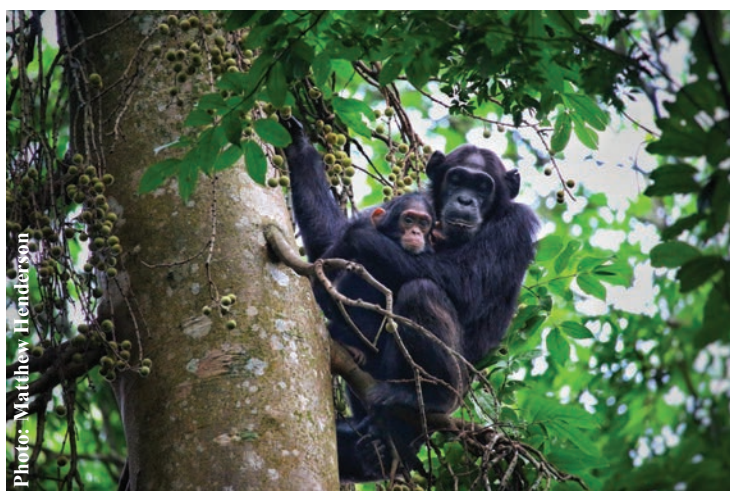
Photo: Matthew Henderson



Photo: Matthew Henderson

types, and they may learn community-specific styles of other gestures or have different uses for the same gesture.

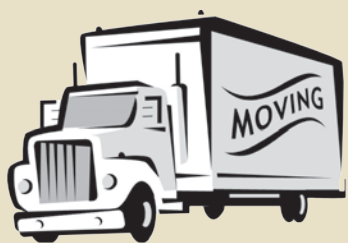
Chimpanzees live in communities of between 30 and 200 individuals with whom they share a range of social relationships – in some cases seeing each other every day, in others sometimes going days, weeks, or even months apart. Their ability to flexibly adapt the shape of their gestures and the way they use gestures from their species repertoire could help add nuance to their communication – perhaps adapting their style or tone to specific interactions and social situations. They could use more “polite” gestural styles with less familiar individuals or important social partners and use more casual styles with family and friends. Moreover, community-wide differences in gestural communication could tell us about the social dynamics of the group. In communities with high social tension, we might expect to see more “formal” gestural styles, whereas in those with low social tension – where everyone is friendly – we might see more casual or informal gestural styles.



As well as a fascinating research area, understanding how chimpanzees modify their gestures to specific social relationships and environments is a valuable tool for conservation and welfare. While we often think about conservation in terms of population size, protecting local cultures, including community-specific dialects, is also key; even if we can increase chimpanzee population numbers, once gone, a local culture or dialect can never be replaced. Our ability to study and understand the true diversity of a species' behaviour can also improve our knowledge of the species, allowing us to create more ethical and practical conservation practices.



Observing how two individuals in a group gesture to each other could tell us a lot about the state of their relationship. We could, for example, track how well a new individual is integrating into a new group, or identify and tackle social issues quickly before they develop into more serious problems. Veterinary and conservation staff monitoring wild unhabituated populations might be able to track when and whether it is appropriate to intervene based on understanding their social position in a group from the way in which others communicate with them. Finally, understanding the ways in which chimpanzees communicate with each other can also help us understand them better when they try to communicate with us! We can use our understanding of their dialect to better understand any signals they direct to us – allowing us to react more efficiently and respect their boundaries and desires, ultimately improving our relationship with our ape cousins.



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) 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*!)

IPPL meets Dr. Jane Goodall in Charleston, SC

By Alison Harvey, IPPL Board of Directors

Dr. Jane Goodall is full of hope. And she wants us to be hopeful, too. Hope has been her life's journey and hope was her message to an audience that packed the Gaillard Auditorium

in Charleston, S.C. on Tuesday evening, September 19th. The eighty-nine-year-old stood at the podium for ninety minutes while eloquently recounting her life. The timeline



Back row, left to right: Alison Harvey, Jocelyn Harvey, Annemarie Ferrie, Dr. Jane Goodall, Jessica Whatley, and Brooke Jewett.
Front row, left to right: Dee Frasier and Amanda Kelley

was a neatly woven love story. Dr. Goodall gave thanks to her mother for the precious gift of life and for teaching her to have compassion in her formative years for the smallest creatures that inhabit our fragile planet, like earthworms. She talked about her beloved childhood dog Rusty, and the unconditional love they felt for each other. Rusty taught Jane that animals indeed have feelings, personalities and intelligent minds, something scientists cannot deny. Jane's study of chimpanzees in the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania, made possible by Dr. Louis Leakey and a Wilke Foundation grant, paved the way for decades of activism with the establishment of the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977, and in 1991, *Roots and Shoots*.

Seven IPPL representatives attended the event. At the private pre-lecture reception Jane shared stories from her childhood and her days in Tanzania observing chimpanzees.

Each narrative, told with grace and humor, conveyed what a wonder life is. We were drawn into her world by her contagious, positive energy.

I first met Jane a decade ago when Shirley invited a group of us to accompany her to Greenville, N.C. where Jane was scheduled to speak. I certainly never expected to see her again in person.

"I wish I'd gotten out there (to IPPL)," she said, backstage in her dressing room at the Gaillard. Jane travels 300 days a year and was only in Charleston overnight. Amanda Kelly, IPPL's animal care team leader presented Jane with a photo of Gibby and his footprint. Jane was the centerpiece of our group photo and agreed that Shirley was with us in spirit. IPPL's Board Chairwoman, Deborah Misotti, who met Jane in 1997 but was unable to travel to the event had a message for Jane: "IPPL is continuing Shirley's work."



Gibby's handprint

"Meeting one of the strongest influences in conservation was such a thrill! I have looked up to Dr. Jane Goodall since childhood, but never thought I would get the chance to speak to her." –Jocelyn Harvey

"Meeting Jane Goodall is an experience I'll never forget. She has been a big influence in my life since I was a little kid, and it was great to hear her speak." –Brooke Jewett

"It was fascinating to glimpse the person behind the icon. As a trailblazing woman in the fields of biology and animal behaviour, Jane Goodall has likely had more impact on my career than any other living scientist." –Amanda Kelley

Dr. S. M. Mohnot Passes Away in Jodhpur

Taken from The Statesman, New Delhi, India



Dr. S. M. Mohnot, a world-renowned Primatologist and Environmentalist Professor passed away September 12, 2023 after a prolonged illness. He was also the founder and director of the School of Desert Sciences (SDS) and Head of Zoology Department of Jai Narayan Vyas University from 1964 to 2001.

Dr. Mohnot, made substantial contributions to research. He authored books and participated in discussions at global forums on Jodhpur's Hanuman Langurs. These works are now popular worldwide. His three main books – *Current Primate Researches*, *Primates of South Asia*, and *Environmental Degradation in Western Rajasthan* – received world acclaim.

Dr. Mohnot was a friend of IPPL's and one of our original overseas representatives beginning in the 1970s. We are grateful for having had his council for so many years.

Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- **Anonymous** dedicated to Paen, we share the same birthdate (not the year)!
- **Anonymous** in memory of Michael (the gibbon)
- **Anita Clemmensen** dedicated to Aaron and Cameron
- **Ilona Jappinen** in memory of Bela, Gervaise Corvaise, Grimmy, and Whitsun
- **Diana Kaye** in memory of Mary Ellen Clinton
- **Betsy Lewin** in memory of Ted Lewin
- **Jenny Popatia** in memory of Dr. Tajdin R. Popatia
- **Pat and Judi Randall** in loving memory of Shirley McGreal and Blue, the Newfoundland
- **Amy Salisbury** in honor of Shiloh and Roscoe
- **Connor T** dedicated to C & C

Gifts made in memory of Shirley McGreal are posted on our website

<https://ippl.org/about-us/dr-shirley-mcgreal-founder/shirley-memorial/>

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.



Gary, retired from a tourist venue

IPPL Special Donation Form



As this issue of IPPL News is being written, WFFT still has at least one more rescue to go. We hope after reading about the critical rescue of gibbons and macaques that many of you will consider a donation to help with the lifelong care of these innocent primates. You may also donate on IPPL's secure website at <https://ippl.org/donate/>. Thank you!

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

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other amount: \$ _____

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

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

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

Card number: _____ Exp. date: _____ CVV#: _____

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Name: _____

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donation with my credit card:

\$ _____
amount / month

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

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Primate Paraphernalia!



T-shirts with Swinging Gibbons 100% cotton available in a variety of color combinations and **IPPL Swinging Gibbon Roomy Totes** with a side pocket and an inside pocket



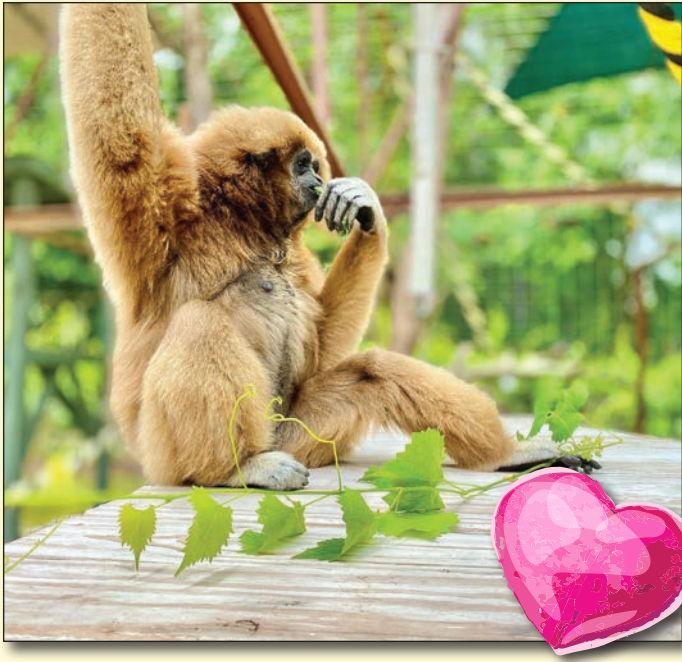
Two-sided Gibbon T-shirt: 100% cotton T-shirt with gibbon design front and back.



Shop our online store for more colors and sizes

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Meet the Gibbons Available for Adoption



Courtney loves to cheat when playing tag with the staff. She would also love you to adopt her!

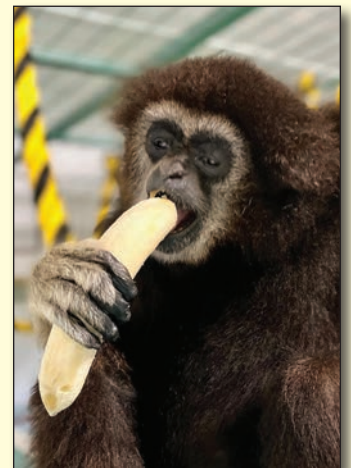
Courtney was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving this tiny infant with a terribly mangled leg. Since she could not be returned to her mother, she was hand-raised by IPPL staff, special night-nannies, and volunteers 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!



Peppy loves his bedtime banana. If you adopt him – he will love you too!

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?



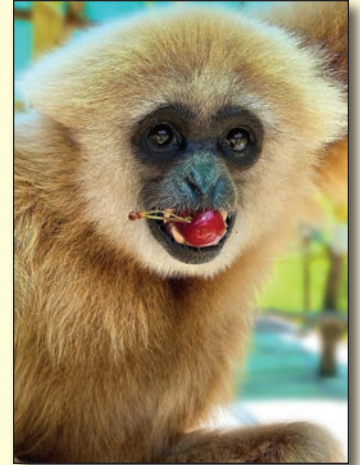
Visit IPPL.org for more information



Val gets excited to see the fruit bucket. He would also be excited to see an adoption application from you!

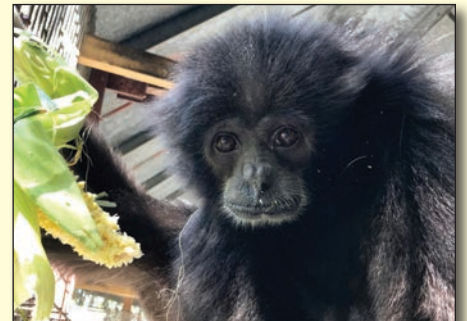
Val was born at a wildlife park in southern Florida where he lived with his parents and a few siblings. In the fall of 2017, the facility suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Irma and fell on hard times. We got a call in October of 2017 asking if we could take in two of their gibbons and after some quick preparations two staff members drove down to Florida, picked Val up, and brought him to his new home in November. Val's father, Snowy, followed a month later. After the long drive back to IPPL, Val quickly bonded with the animal care staff. We got him settled into his night house and he even presented his back for grooming.

Today, Val is one of the most engaging and entertaining gibbons out on the grounds. He loves interacting with the staff and demands that they play tag with him! He spends his mornings swinging through his enclosure and, when a staff member approaches, he drops down in front of them to get their attention. Once he has them focused on him, he'll hop and roll around on the ground, swing upside down from his ropes and reach out for them, then the chase is on! His enthusiasm for the game quickly wears out the staff and he doesn't seem to understand why we need to take breaks to catch our breath! Wouldn't you love to bring some more excitement to Val's life by adopting him?



Shanti is a fan of backrubs. Adopt her and she will be your fan too!

Shanti, whose name means "Peace" in Sanskrit, was born on June 24, 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!



Adoptions make wonderful and unique gifts – all year long!



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Scrappy – a personable little gibbon!



run over when he sees his favorite people. However, he still sneaks in a pinch now and then when Paen's not watching! When he's not socializing with Paen or caregivers, you can often find Scrappy watching cartoons. He is particularly attentive when Sesame Street comes on, which is fitting since he looks like a Muppet himself! Scrappy has a refined palate and can sometimes be a picky eater, but he enjoys rambutan, rice cakes, and peanuts.

Scrappy arrived at IPPL in 2007 with his mate Uma. The pair had previously lived at a zoo and another sanctuary before finding their final home with us. After Uma died in 2018, Scrappy was paired with Paen, a gentle female who had never had a companion. Scrappy and Paen make for an odd couple: Scrappy likes to surprise caregivers with a tug or pinch, whereas Paen prefers calm and quiet. Paen will often give a warning hoo to Scrappy as soon as he gets a mischievous twinkle in his eye. We call her the Fun Police! Despite Paen's scolding, the two spend a lot of time grooming each other, singing, and lounging together in the sun.

At 49 years old, Scrappy is the second oldest gibbon at the sanctuary (Gibby is 64). Scrappy has recently begun to slow down and more closely follow Paen's instructions for a peaceful life. He now often chooses caregiver grooming over troublemaking and will





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