



Venus

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Progress in Combating the Primate Extinction Crisis
- ◆ IPPL's 2026 Biennial Conference
- ◆ Building Hope in Gabon



A Message from Sam Shanee

Dear IPPL Friends,

In May, IPPL held its 18th Biennial Conference. As Chairperson of our board of directors, I was pleased to host an exciting lineup of presenters with a “new look” for this unique gathering of primate experts.

Held on the beautiful grounds of our sanctuary; we took advantage of Summerville’s great weather by having the event in a large open tent. Buffet meals were served outside by Eclectic Chef, and Saturday evening we were serenaded not only by our gibbons but a trio of local musicians that included our treasurer, Alison Harvey.

In addition to presenters, we were pleased to preview an exciting expansion at IPPL’s sanctuary. Details and images can be found on page 32.

The conference was a powerful reminder that conservation succeeds when science, compassion, education, storytelling, policy and community come together.

Presenters at the conference included inspiring global community of primatologists, conservationists, veterinarians, sanctuary professionals, researchers and advocates dedicated to protecting nonhuman primates.

Coverage of these presenters: Allison Carden Hanes, Andrew Halloran, Angela Maldonado, Caroline Griffis, Ian Redmond, Lana Bru, Lisa Jones-Engel, Liz Tyson, Patricia Mendoza, and Paul Garber. In addition Caroline and Paul provided articles, IPPL’s Animal Care team spoke and our director, Jennifer Buchanan, presented information about the sanctuary including the new expansion and the arrival of a new gibbon at IPPL.

As storytellers working at the intersection of human, animal and environmental health, we were especially inspired by the conference’s strong emphasis on the One Health approach —recognizing that the wellbeing of people, wildlife and ecosystems is deeply interconnected. The presentations, discussions and shared experiences highlighted the importance of collaboration across disciplines to address the complex challenges facing primates and the habitats they depend on.

A heartfelt thank you and congratulations to our director, Jennifer Buchanan, and the entire IPPL team for organizing such a meaningful and memorable gathering.

Although there has been much excitement at the sanctuary, we wanted to share the sad news of the passing of one of our special gibbons, Peppy. This extraordinary little gibbon’s tribute appears on page 31.

IPPL is excited about its unique expansion, a new gibbon and a new energetic plan for its future. We hope you will continue to follow us and consider attending our next Biennial Conference in 2028.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of IPPL’s continued mission to help primates.

Best wishes,



Sam Shanee

IPPL Board Chairperson



In This Issue:	Page
Progress in Combating Primate Extinction	3
IPPL’s 2026 Biennial Conference	5
Jennifer Buchanan	7
Allison Carden Hanes	8
Dr. Sam Shanee	10
Dr. Andrew R. Halloran	11
Dr. Patricia Mendoza	14
Ian Redmond, OBE	16
Dr. Paul A. Garber	18
IPPL’s Animal Care Team	20
Dr. Liz Tyson	22
Lana Bru	24
Caroline Griffis	25
Dr. Angela Maldonado	27
Dr. Lisa Jones-Engel	29
Farewell Dr. Burité Galdikas	30
Farewell Peppy	31
IPPL’s Exciting Expansion	32
The Pipeline that Polio Built	33
Employment at IPPL	34

IPPL News

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Joan Brooks

About the Cover



The stunning cover photo is of Critically Endangered white-headed langurs. Paul Garber’s article on primate extinction includes information about the on-going efforts in China to promote primate conservation and protect threatened primates. Chinese scientists have emerged as leaders in advancing insights into primate behavior as well as studying wildlife primate populations.

This includes, perhaps the rarest primate in the world, the Critically Endangered Hainan gibbon, which has a remaining wild population of only 47 individuals and the Critically Endangered white-headed langur, with a remaining wild population of approximately 1200 individuals. 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. Here, 25 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.

Progress in Combating the Primate Extinction Crisis

By Dr. Paul A. Garber

Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology and Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois USA and International Centre of Biodiversity and Primate Conservation, Dali University, Dali, Yunnan, China

Nonhuman primates (prosimians, tarsiers, monkeys, and apes), our closest living relatives, are facing an impending extinction crisis. There are currently 527 primate species, 69% of which are listed as threatened (Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered) and 94% have declining populations. We are at a moment in which if we continue business-as-usual, by the end of the century many primate populations and species will be lost or so severely reduced in size and genetic diversity, they will be effectively extinct. Therefore, if we are going to protect primate populations, the time for us to act is now!

There are many drivers of the primate extinction crisis. However, the good news is that we have the knowledge, and an ever-growing set of dedicated scientists, concerned citizens, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and environmentally conscious business leaders who are committed to protecting our natural environment and the world's biodiversity. Over the past several decades, primatologists and conservation biologists across the globe have worked closely with local communities to educate children, their parents, and government officials about the disastrous environmental consequences of deforestation and the unsustainable degradation of natural ecosystems, the dangers of zoonotic disease transmission associated with primate trafficking and the primate pet trade, and the important role that primates play as agents of seed dispersal, forest regeneration, in predator-prey relationships, and as contributors to carbon sequestration that serves to mitigate climate change.

In the case of the U.S., in 2025 bipartisan legislation was introduced into the House of Representatives to end the domestic primate pet trade. Currently, it is legal to own a pet primate in 25 states. If passed, this legislation would end the import, export, interstate transportation, possession, and breeding of all primate species for private use. The primate pet trade in the US and worldwide is cruel and contributes to the primate extinction crisis. As part of its mission to ensure the welfare and conservation of primates, and recognizing the psychological, emotional, and physical trauma that pet primates endure, the American Society of Primatologists has collaborated with several animal welfare organizations to educate the public about the dangers of the primate pet trade through their Keep 'Em Wild! informational campaign (Figure 1). I encourage supporters of the International Primate Protection League to contact their state and local legislators and let them know of your strong support of the Captive Primate Safety Act.

I also want to briefly discuss on-going efforts in China to promote primate conservation and protect their threatened primate populations. China has the second largest economy in the world and, over the last several decades, Chinese scientists have emerged as leaders in advancing new theoretical and empirical insights into primate behavior, conservation, evolution, genetics, ecology, and the use of AI technology to



Figure 2 - Hainan gibbon



Figure 1 - Keep 'Em Wild! informational campaign

monitor and study wild primate populations. China is home to seven genera and 26 species of lorises, macaques, langurs, snub-nosed monkeys, and gibbons. Given the country's long history of environmental conversion, its large agrarian human population, and its use of primates in traditional medicine, eighteen of these primate species are listed as threatened, with each having a remaining wild population of less than 4,000 individuals.

This includes, perhaps the rarest primate in the world, the Critically Endangered Hainan gibbon, which has a remain-

ing wild population of only 47 individuals (Figure 2) and the Critically Endangered white-headed langur, with a remaining wild population of approximately 1200 individuals (Figure 3). In response to its primate extinction crisis, China has invested heavily in training a new generation of primate scientists. For example, between 1979 to 2016, 109 PhDs and 370 MAs were awarded to Chinese primatologists. In addition, prior to the year 2000, only four institutes and universities in China offered a PhD in primate research. By 2016, that number had increased to 33. In 1997, the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) funded its first primate field project. Over the next two decades, the NSFC funded some 130 primate field research projects, investing over 10 million US dollars. Here, I want to briefly highlight a decades-long community-based conservation initiative in China designed to protect the Endangered black-and-white snub-nosed monkey (Figure 4).

This effort, which proceeded in phases, began with NGO and government collaboration, which was then followed by the creation of laws protecting snub-nosed monkeys, the establishment of protected areas for snub-nosed monkeys, and investment in scientific field studies and community-based programs to restore natural habitat. Through regional planning, educational initiatives, programs designed to alleviate poverty and employ local community members, and a commitment to building scientific capacity, the population of wild black-and-white

snub-nosed monkeys has increased from some 2000 individuals in 1985 to approximately 3,800 individuals in 2025.

This community-based conservation success story can serve as a model for wildlife conservation across other cultures and world areas, as it highlights that improving the health and living standards of communities living in regions of high biodiversity can result in a reduction in hunting, the use of forest resources, and significantly limit human pressures on local wildlife and their habitats. I end by encouraging citizens of consumer nations to commit to changing business-as-usual by reducing their unsustainable demands for food, energy, and other products that contribute to habitat and biodiversity loss and the primate extinction crisis. Only by working together can we restore the health of threatened ecosystems, and protect the animals, plants, and human populations that share those areas.

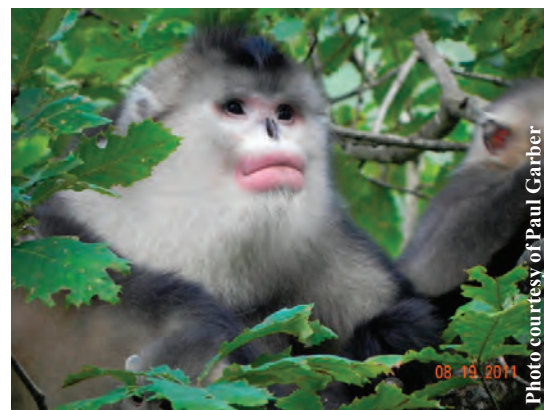


Figure 4 - Adult snub-nosed monkey



Figure 3 - White-headed langurs

IPPL's 2026 Biennial Conference



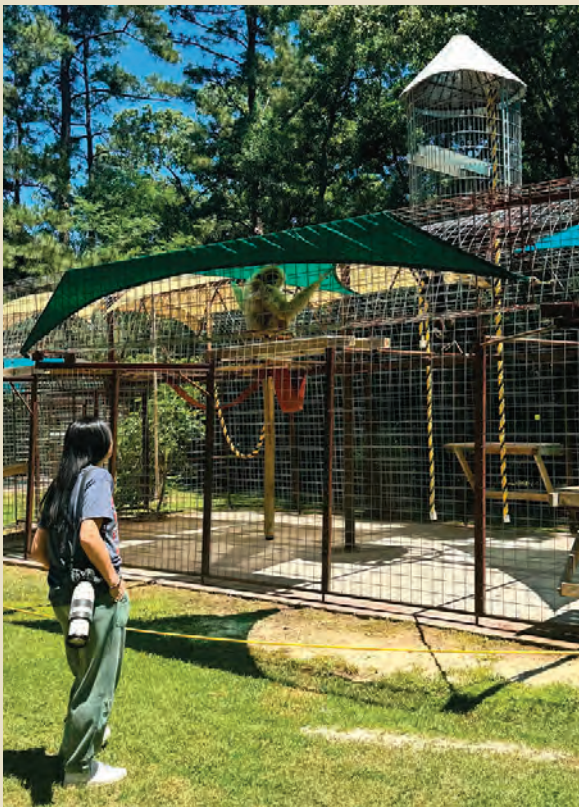
IPPL Animal Care Team



Left to Right: Lisa Stickel, Natalie Duffield, Krystal Lightell, Sophie Benson, Mirabella Wimburn, Kaela Kelly, Ashley Lloyd, Molly Hicks, and Sarah Gibbons

Presenters included (left to right): Andrew Halloran, Angela Maldonado, Paul Garber, Liz Tyson, Patricia Mendoza, Sam Shanee, Jennifer Cramer, Ian Redmond and Allison Hanes





Jennifer Buchanan joined IPPL as a volunteer in January 2016 and became an employee in August of the same year. Over the next 10 years she has served in many roles, but mostly on the Animal Care team. Earlier this year, Jennifer became IPPL's Director.

IPPL's Gibbons, Otters, and the Sanctuary

Jennifer began her presentation with the birth of IPPL and some of its history over the years.

When Shirley and John McGreal returned to the United States from Thailand, they didn't come alone. They brought four rescued pet gibbons — including Tong, who lived at IPPL for 44 years — and three otters. What began as a modest sanctuary on 2.7 acres in Summerville, South Carolina soon grew as more gibbons needed rescue. With more arrivals, the need to expand continued.

Over the years, gibbons have come from zoos, tourist attractions, private owners, and research laboratories. Arun Rangsi (Ruie) was the first lab gibbon, followed by Shanti. Together they raised eight children, four of whom still live at IPPL today. Ruie and Shanti remained devoted companions for 35 years until Ruie's passing in 2018.

IPPL's largest rescue came from a Texas facility — and were referred to as the "Texas Twelve." Many of these gibbons had originally been used in laboratories, including Whoop-Whoop, who now lives peacefully with Courtney, an IPPL-born gibbon.

By 2014, the sanctuary had grown from four gibbons on 2.7 acres to 36 gibbons on 36 acres. In total, IPPL has rescued around 60 gibbons and 50 otters.

IPPL's Progress

After the passing of IPPL's founder, Shirley McGreal, in 2021, the sanctuary entered a period of transition. Today, IPPL is moving forward with clarity and purpose.

Jennifer went on to say that with the guidance from Andrew Hollaran, director of the Elgin Centre, IPPL has made major strides toward long-term sustainability. They are now United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed, with a dedicated staff and a supportive board of directors.

The 21 gibbons and four otters currently living at IPPL enjoy the best welfare the sanctuary has ever provided. One major improvement: gibbons are no longer confined indoors every night. Instead, they have the freedom to choose between indoor and outdoor spaces, except during extreme weather. The result has been remarkable as they have noted calmer, more relaxed gibbons throughout the sanctuary.

Another innovative change involves social groupings. Snowy and his son Val, who had lived together at their previous facility, were reunited after arriving separately at IPPL. With no signs of aggression, they were reintroduced and now share an enclosure, often grooming, playing, and eating together.



Val behind his dad Snowy – together again!



IPPL also made an unconventional decision to introduce single male Gary to Robbie and Diane, a bonded pair. After months of watching the trio interact through the mesh — sitting close, grooming, and showing clear interest — the staff consulted Andrew and the veterinarian. The introduction was approved. As of July 2025, Gary, Diane, and Robbie live together as a harmonious trio, frequently seen hugging, grooming, and sharing enrichment.

Exciting Expansion at IPPL

After years of adjustment, IPPL's future is bright. Many gibbons and otters still need permanent sanctuary care, and IPPL is preparing to welcome them. The sanctuary is now designing and constructing a new generation of habitats — unlike anything previously built.

Describing this new expansion, Jennifer said that current enclosures have concrete pads, metal bars, and a maximum height of 15 feet. The new habitats will be more than twice the size, with natural earth floors and soaring heights up to 30 feet, allowing true brachiation. They will also be designed for multispecies use, enabling gibbons and otters to share space just as they do in the wild and at

accredited zoos and sanctuaries, including IPPL's longtime partner, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand.

While gibbons swing overhead on ropes and branches, otters will swim in filtered ponds and explore the ground below. The environments will mimic forests and streams, complete with native, non-toxic plants for natural foraging and shade from the South Carolina heat. IPPL hopes to break ground this summer.

These new habitats will allow IPPL to resume its rescue work by accepting gibbons from the pet trade, tourist attractions, roadside zoos, and retiring individuals from accredited zoos.

A New Arrival: Meika

Jennifer closed with some uplifting news: IPPL has identified a gibbon who will arrive this summer. Meika, age 16,

lives near San Diego, close to the Mexican border. Purchased from a Florida breeder in 2009, she has lived her entire life as a pet. Meika has not seen another gibbon since infancy.

Her life will be transformed when she arrives at IPPL. She will see other gibbons for the first time, explore natural habitats, enjoy an engaging assortment of enrichment and unique care. Eventually, IPPL hopes to pair her with one of their eligible bachelors.

Meika's arrival will end a seven-year pause in rescues, proving that Shirley McGreal's legacy not only lives on — it is growing stronger. IPPL's mission continues today and will continue into the future.

As IPPL looks forward, the sanctuary remains guided by the same spirit that began it all. With new habitats and Meika's arrival ending a seven-year pause in res-



cues, IPPL continues to honor Shirley's legacy for decades to come.

Allison Carden Hanes is a primatologist, wildlife conservationist, veterinary technician and filmmaker that has lived and worked in six continents. Her work and research specializes in one health conservation and human-wildlife conflict/coexistence. After receiving her MSc in Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University assessing disease transmission between humans and mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda. She has worked with many organizations throughout the tropics. Allison is also secretary on IPPL's board of directors.

From Fieldwork to Film: How Allison Carden Hanes Blends Science, Storytelling, and Conservation

Early Roots in Science and Wildlife Work

Allison has built a career that defies traditional boundaries. A biologist, vet tech, publicist, filmmaker, and primatologist, she has spent her life moving between disciplines, countries, and creative mediums — all in service of wildlife conservation. Her work demonstrates how science and storytelling can amplify one another, creating powerful tools for protecting species and inspiring public engagement.

Allison's connection to animals began early. In high school, she worked

on human-wildlife conflict issues in her hometown, posting signs to help residents coexist with local species. Her first formal experience with wild animals came at the Pinniped Schusterman Lab, where she studied acoustics and cognition in seals. The lab, perched directly on the water, shaped her understanding of animal communication and behavior — and introduced her to the challenges facing research institutions.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz with degrees in biology and environmental studies, Allison traveled extensively, living on six continents and working



throughout Latin America. She supported herself as a vet tech while immersing in fieldwork, often with primates. Those experiences sparked a lifelong fascination with great apes and the complex environments they inhabit.

Her path eventually led to New York, where she worked as an ICU and ER nurse at a specialty veterinary practice. It was there that she first encountered the concept of One Health — the idea that human, animal, and environmental health are deeply interconnected. The framework resonated immediately, prompting her to pursue a master's

degree at Oxford Brookes University. With no formal One Health program available at the time, Allison designed her own, focusing her research on disease transmission risks between mountain gorillas and tourists.

Turning Research Into Action Through Storytelling

Working under Dr. Catherine Hill and alongside Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Allison conducted fieldwork in Uganda and Rwanda, interviewing tourists, collecting samples, and documenting behaviors. Her research revealed that while tourists were generally well informed and willing to follow guidelines, many still trekked while sick — even when they knew the risks. Despite clear evidence supporting mask use, implementation stalled for years. The findings reinforced a lesson that would shape her future career: data alone doesn't change behavior. Stories do.

After completing her master's, Allison became CEO of Art of Conservation, an international nonprofit that used creative learning — film, art, tree planting, and hands on activities — to teach One Health principles to children and families. It was there she made her first film, documenting the organization's transition to local leadership. Film, she realized, could reach people in ways scientific papers could not. It could make someone “sing for ten seconds in a one hour film,” as she puts it —

and that emotional resonance could inspire action.

For eight years, Allison worked in the nonprofit sector, often pulled into development and fundraising roles. But her passion remained in storytelling. In 2016, she left the nonprofit world and committed fully to filmmaking. She worked on more than forty films across genres — documentaries, fiction, music videos, and science films — learning by doing. Her photography went viral, attracting attention from National Geographic and inspiring artists around the world. Her New York apartment is filled with paintings based on her images.

The Great Call: A Film That Unites Science, Culture, and Conservation

Allison's most ambitious project began in 2018: *The Great Call*, a film about gibbons, their songs, and the people whose lives intertwine with theirs. Filming in Borneo's peat swamps required extraordinary patience and physical endurance — walking on narrow boards above deep peat, carrying heavy gear, and waiting silently for a single call. She later traveled across the United States and the UK interviewing gibbon experts, building a foundation of scientific insight.



The project evolved over time. During the COVID 19 pandemic, travel halted, but public awareness of One Health surged. Allison used the moment to create an educational film based on her master's research — a gorilla trekking safety video that became required viewing for all tourists entering Uganda. It remains in use today, shown at briefing sites and headquarters.

When travel resumed, Allison returned to Indonesia and China, expanding *The Great Call* to include local protagonists and folklore. She filmed reforestation efforts, citizen science, traditional stories, and children performing gibbon forest claymation (clay animation) in the mountains of Yunnan. She documented Skywalker gibbons singing on the only two sunny days during her visit — reinforcing local beliefs that gibbons predict the weather. The film now blends science, culture, and soundscape ecology, reflecting the complexity of human-gibbon relationships.

Despite her success, Allison speaks candidly about the challenges of the film industry: shrinking budgets, reliance on philanthropy, pressure to self distribute, and expectations to build social media followings. She continues to receive requests to help produce films, often with limited funding. Yet her commitment to storytelling remains unwavering.

She describes herself as someone who “wears many hats,” not out of ambition but necessity. As a freelancer, she adapts constantly — from fieldwork to editing, from photography to fundraising, from scientific research to public communication. During COVID, she balanced film work with shifts at a veterinary clinic,



helping keep operations running when staff were limited.

Today, Allison continues working on *The Great Call* while exploring more stable career options, including the

possibility of veterinary school. But her passion for fieldwork, interviewing people, and capturing knowledge through images and sound remains at the center of her life.

Her story is one of curiosity, resilience, and creative problem solving — a reminder that conservation is not just about science, but about the people who dedicate their lives to telling its stories.

Dr. Sam Shanee was born and raised in London, UK, but has spent the last 25 years traveling and working in the tropics. It was during his travels that he decided to volunteer at a wildlife rescue center in Bolivia, fell in love with the work and decided to dedicate his life to conservation. Sam has since worked on various wildlife rescue and reintroduction projects in South America, Asia, and the Middle East, with species ranging from orangutans and gibbons, oryx and ostrich, to leopards, pumas, and jaguars. Sam co-founded Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC), focusing his work on primate conservation through community-based initiatives. Since 2007, he has permanently lived and worked in Peru, with regular visits to Ecuador and Colombia. He tries to bridge the gap between academia and activism. Sam is also a member of the IUCN primate specialist group, on the council of the Latin American Primatological Society, and a research associate of Oxford Brookes University. Since 2025 Sam has been the chairperson of IPPL's Board of Directors.

Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation in Peru

Peru's Primate Diversity and Environmental Pressures

Peru contains the second largest expanse of Amazonian forest in South America and is home to roughly 55 primate species and subspecies — a number that continues to shift as taxonomists revise classifications. The country ranks fourth globally in primate diversity, with eleven taxa found nowhere else on Earth. Eight species are currently listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered, and many more are considered Vulnerable.

Primates in Peru face numerous threats, beginning with deforestation. In many regions, local mayors hire tractors to carve roads into the forest without proper oversight or planning permission. Once roads appear, people follow, clearing land behind them. Illegal logging and mining are widespread, but legal extractive industries often cause even greater damage because they operate on a larger scale and are government approved.

Hunting, Trafficking, and Underestimated Threats

A major focus of NPC's work — and a central concern shared with IPPL — is

the hunting and trafficking of primates. In the mountainous forests where the team works, at about 2,000 meters above sea level, forest clearing has become increasingly common. In 2007, while searching for the Endangered yellow tailed woolly monkey, the first individual they found was tied up and kept as a pet. Behind it sat piles of illegal timber. Logging and wildlife trafficking are deeply intertwined: loggers who encounter wildlife they can sell quickly become traffickers. As animals move down the trafficking chain, they mix with drugs, timber, weapons, and even human trafficking — a mafia level network.

Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) data, hunting and trapping appear to threaten fewer Neotropical species compared to other regions. But Sam emphasized that this is severely underestimated in South and Central America. Recent spikes in spider monkeys entering the U.S. from Mexico highlight how widespread the problem has become.

Unlike regions with globally iconic trafficked species such as tigers, gorillas, or elephants, Amazonian trafficking is mostly local, regional, or national.



Exceptions include large parrots, which have international demand, and items like poison dart frogs. But most of the trade remains local.

Research by NPC and other organizations shows that at least 30 of Peru's primate species have appeared in trafficking. Some species are targeted more heavily than others. Endangered and endemic species are not spared; in fact, some rare species are more sought after, such as the emperor tamarin. Although some claim the trade is disorganized — someone sees a monkey for sale and buys it — the reality is far more structured. Moving animals from the Amazon to major coastal cities requires coordination and organized networks.

Primates are trafficked for a wide range of reasons: pets, trophies, tourist selfies, bushmeat, witchcraft, traditional medicine, and even construction rituals. One longstanding custom involves burying a llama fetus in the foundation of a new house for good luck.

Bushmeat and Live Trade: Hidden, Expansive Markets

A 1996 study estimated that 28,000 primates were consumed annually as bushmeat in Loreto, a single Peruvian state. A more recent study found that bushmeat consumption in Iquitos,

Loreto's capital, has increased by 6.44 tons every year for 45 years. Only 0.4% of wild animal meat reaches official markets, meaning the true number of animals hunted is staggering.

In live trade, primates are the most trafficked mammals. Patricia Mendoza, an NPC member, documented more than 2,000 monkeys sold annually in a single market in Pucallpa — now Peru's largest Amazonian city. And only 3% of these were confiscated.

Across Peru, 2,000 primates were officially recorded as confiscated during a similar period, but only half of the species NPC documented in markets appeared in official records. Many confiscations NPC assisted with never appeared in national statistics — only

about 10% were recorded. Authorities dramatically underestimate the scale of trafficking.

Interventions, Enforcement, and Systemic Challenges

NPC works to support understaffed and underfunded authorities through education programs, equipment donations, training and species identification guides. Many wildlife officials are forestry engineers — trained in trees, not animals — so simple guides help them correctly identify species and apply appropriate penalties.

NPC also organizes public mobilizations and marches. Transport cages used to move rescued animals to the jungle rarely return, leaving regional governments with hundreds of missing cages. NPC now hires local carpenters to build transport boxes for each rescue.

NPC encourages authorities to conduct roadblocks at major transport hubs. At the port of Yurimaguas, where the Amazon River meets the highway network, NPC and police shut down the road early in the morning. After the first few cars are stopped, no more arrive — drivers warn each other. Under Peruvian law, the owner of a vehicle is as guilty as the person transporting the animal, so they avoid checkpoints.

In Pucallpa, successful operations required large numbers of police because

smaller teams were easily overwhelmed. Sam once witnessed a busload of police chased out of a market by vendors. After years of pressure, the market was eventually demolished for public health violations. Trafficking continues in the new market, but it is more hidden, reducing impulse buys and lowering overall volume.

Recently, authorities shut down a major international trafficking network run by a Spanish man in Iquitos. Small private planes were used to fly endangered species out of the country. Other operations have seized bushmeat, illegal timber, and endangered tree species.

But consequences for traffickers remain rare. NPC collected information from the public — people afraid to report neighbors or criminal groups — and passed it to authorities. In 44% of cases, authorities did nothing. In 26%, reports were never processed. Out of several hundred cases involving thousands of animals, only 3% resulted in sentences, most of them suspended.

Early this year CBS News followed Sam and NPC for several days, documenting timber seizures and roadblocks. Weeks later, news broke that many of the officials who accompanied them were part of a corruption network laundering illegal products. This is a prime example of why corruption remains one of the primary reasons wildlife trafficking persists.



Dr. Andrew R. Halloran: *With over 25 years of experience, Andrew is a recognized animal care and welfare expert. His work has been transformational at both sanctuaries and zoos. He specializes in welfare assessments, creating individual and group care plans, enclosure design, and creating robust enrichment programs. Andrew is currently director of the Elgin Centre, a nonprofit in Florida that assists facilities with animal care and welfare and has been a consultant with IPPL since November 2023. In addition, Andrew operates a conservation project in central Sierra Leone for wild chimpanzees called 'The Tonkolili Chimpanzee Project'. This project seeks to mitigate conflict between wild chimpanzees and their human neighbors. He has authored philosophies and standards of care for various facilities, two popular science books as well as the just released 'Animal Curation: The science of care & welfare' (Cambridge University Press 2025).*

Sanctuaries' Critical Mission

Andrew began his presentation by sharing recent history regarding primate sanc-

tuaries — the challenges they've faced, the lessons learned, and where he believes

sanctuaries are headed as they continue fulfilling their critical mission.



His story began more than 10 years ago during his tenure at Save the Chimps, then the largest chimpanzee sanctuary in the world. He emphasized that Save the Chimps, like most primate sanctuaries, is a heroic place built on dedication. Staff members spend holidays, birthdays, and weekends caring for individuals who depend entirely on them. But chimpanzees — like all primates — are complex, unpredictable beings. Even the best facilities face challenges.

The Story of Tuffy and Tiffany

To illustrate how even strong sanctuaries can struggle without the right systems in place, Andrew shared the story of two chimpanzees: Tuffy and Tiffany.

Both were purchased as infants from the Missouri Primate Foundation, a breeding center responsible for producing most pet chimpanzees in America for decades. Tuffy was 19 and Tiffany was 13 when Save the Chimps learned of their situation. They had spent their entire lives in

an empty indoor swimming pool covered with mesh — never seeing the sky, never experiencing anything beyond the concrete walls around them.

Their care had been profoundly inadequate. They received no proper veterinary attention, and their diet consisted largely of McDonald's Happy Meals. They had no cognitive stimulation, no freedom of choice, and no meaningful social environment. Despite living together, they did not bond; Tuffy was terrified of Tiffany.

In 2017, their owner admitted he could no longer care for them. Save the Chimps, eager to remove them from a dire situation, accepted them immediately — without meeting them first, without a veterinary workup, and without a behavioral assessment.

When they arrived in early 2018, even their small Special Needs yard — with its view of the outdoors and simple climbing structures — was more than they had ever known. But their arrival was not the happy ending everyone hoped for.

The effects of their past became painfully clear. Neither chimp explored or engaged with their new environment. They showed no curiosity, no interest in enrichment, and no ability to adapt. Tuffy was terrified of everything, including Tiffany, and his anxiety severely compromised his quality of life.

Tiffany's condition was even more serious. She refused most food offered, even familiar items. Within months, she stopped eating entirely.

The sanctuary staff worked tirelessly — veterinary teams trying to get nutrients into Tiffany, caregivers trying to ease Tuffy's anxiety — but the situation exposed deeper issues. Staff disagreed on solutions. Infighting grew. Everyone cared deeply, but everyone had a different philosophy of care. The problem wasn't effort; it was a **lack of process**.

Save the Chimps had no unified philosophy of care, no written standards, no contingency plans, and no scientific framework guiding decisions. Their advi-



sory board consisted largely of celebrities rather than experts. Without structure, even a dedicated team could not meet the extreme needs of these two chimpanzees.

A few months after arrival, Tiffany had to be euthanized. Tuffy lived alone. Staff concerns were reported to oversight bodies, including The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which cited Save the Chimps with 12 violations. A local newspaper published a critical article that eventually reached USA Today, sparking national attention and social media backlash filled with wild, false accusations.

The central criticism was that after founder Carol Noon passed away in 2009, the sanctuary had lost its way. Carol had been a heroic figure who rescued nearly 300 chimpanzees in the sanctuary's first decade. She oversaw everything, knew every chimpanzee, and provided the leadership and protocols that held the sanctuary together. Her passing left a vacuum — one that made the challenges with Tuffy and Tiffany far harder to navigate.

The Larger Picture: How Sanctuaries Evolve

Zoos have been refining best practices for hundreds of years, but primate sanctuaries are relatively new. IPPL is one of the oldest primate sanctuaries in the world, but most sanctuaries are founder-driven organizations created by extraordinary individuals who built facilities from scratch with one mission: caring for rescued primates.

These founders were the experts, the leadership, and the operating procedure. When they left, many sanctuaries were left without clear direction.

Unlike federally funded laboratories or universities, sanctuaries rely on private foundation grants and supporters. Budgets are tight. Staff — including leadership — often have less formal training than those in major zoos or research institutions.

In 2023, the Elgin Centre conducted a study to identify the greatest challenges sanctuaries face. The biggest issues were:

- improper budgeting
- lack of cohesive direction

- leadership without sufficient knowledge

Stakeholders described a lack of unified guidance affecting everything from budget allocations to animal welfare decisions.

To address this, Save the Chimps standardized all protocols under two documents:

1. **A Written Philosophy of Care:**
Defines the sanctuary's care goals.
2. **Written Standards of Care:**
Outlines the essentials of care that can never be compromised.

These documents became the “constitution of care,” guiding all current and future protocols.

The sanctuary adopted evidence-based individualized care, recognizing that chimpanzees are individuals with unique needs, preferences, and challenges. They emphasized freedom of choice, cognitive stimulation, and rich social environments.

New written protocols were created, including contingency plans for foreseeable challenges. A volunteer chimpanzee well-being committee was formed, consisting of experts in operations, veterinary care, primate behavior, and human resources. The Elgin Centre also formed a sanctuary working group through the American Society of Primatologists, giving sanctuaries access to expertise and peer support.

The main beneficiaries were the chimpanzees — but the sanctuary also began receiving positive press, a welcome change after the earlier crisis.

Andrew noted that if such systems had existed earlier, the chaos surrounding Tuffy and Tiffany might have been avoided. Today, Tuffy is thriving in a small social group. Tiffany's outcome may not have changed, but the sanctuary could have approached her care with a measured, scientific plan.

He emphasized that **no sanctuary should accept new residents without meeting them first**, assessing their needs, and determining whether the sanctuary is the right fit. Sanctuaries must work together to place individuals where they can truly thrive.

A New Beginning: Meika

Andrew discussed the possibility (now confirmed) of a new gibbon arriving at IPPL. Meika is a perfect example of doing things the right way. He and Jennifer Buchanan traveled to meet her, conducted a full behavioral assessment, and arranged a veterinary workup. Their evaluation showed that IPPL can provide exactly what she needs.

In closing, Andrew reminded us that captivity is never an ideal state for any individual. Caring for primates in sanctuary settings means **compensating for everything they have missed** — socially, cognitively, emotionally, and environmentally. An environment, he emphasized, is far more than a physical habitat. It is the sum total of every external variable an animal experiences, combined with the internal variables that make up their individual health, history, and personality.

Caring for another species is inherently unpredictable and often risky. For that reason, **all care must be approached scientifically**. Evidence, assessment, and individualized planning are not luxuries — they are necessities.

Andrew believes primate sanctuaries are entering a renaissance. By embracing universal principles of care, sanctuaries are beginning to standardize their practices and build stronger foundations than ever before. This shift allows them to fulfill their mission more effectively and more sustainably.

And primates need sanctuaries now more than ever. Around the world, they languish in substandard conditions — in private homes, roadside zoos, breeding facilities, and laboratories. Sanctuaries must be more than places where primates simply survive. They must be places where primates can thrive.

By adopting these universal fundamentals — evidence-based individualized care, freedom of choice, cognitive stimulation, rich social environments, and scientifically grounded protocols — sanctuaries can elevate standards across all animal care facilities. In doing so, they not only protect the individuals in their care but also strengthen the future of primate welfare worldwide.

Dr. Patricia Mendoza is a wildlife veterinarian whose work includes the study of health risks emerging from wildlife trade and human-induced habitat modifications. Current research centers on the impact of fragmentation and habitat degradation on the population genetics and health of lemur populations in Madagascar. Additionally, she investigates disease transmission in the context of primate trafficking, rehabilitation, and reintroduction in Peru. Patricia also works in the assessment of the disease risk of primate reintroductions in the Peruvian Amazon, with the dual goal of contributing to primate conservation while ensuring the welfare of rescued primates. Patricia is a board member, researcher and veterinary advisor with Neotropical Primate Conservation in Peru.

The Hidden Lives of Peru's Trafficked Monkeys and the Fight to Save Them

If you spend enough time in primate rescue, you learn to recognize a certain kind of photograph. A tourist stands in smiling as a baby monkey clings to their shoulder. Sometimes the monkey is wearing a tiny shirt. The traveler posts the photo proudly, believing they've shared a moment of connection with the wild.

But those who work with primates see something else entirely.

They see the mother who was killed so that baby could be taken. They see the forest that lost another life it could not afford to lose. And they see the long chain of suffering that led to that single, "cheerful" snapshot.

As Patricia said, "no legitimate wildlife operation would ever let an untrained stranger hold a monkey." The very existence of the photo is proof of harm. And yet, these images spread across social media like wildfire — normalizing a trade that is anything but normal.

The Many Ways a Monkey Is Taken From the Forest

In Peru, the path from forest to captivity is rarely dramatic. It is quiet, almost mundane.

A family buys a woolly monkey because it looks gentle and sweet. For a while, it is. But woolly monkeys grow strong. Their hands become powerful. Their instincts sharpen. One day the family realizes they are living with an animal they cannot control. Fear creeps in. They call a conservationist to "come get it."

Or someone sees a baby monkey in a market — tiny, trembling, clinging to a

vendor's shirt — and believes they are saving it by buying it. But they don't know what it eats. They don't know how fragile its immune system is. They don't know that howler monkeys, especially, almost never survive captivity, no matter how much love people pour into them.

Then there are the government confiscations. Authorities seize animals but have nowhere to send them. Some monkeys are euthanized simply because no facility can take them. Others are kept in cramped rooms, multiplying in number until someone finally calls a rescue group with a plea: "We have dozens of monkeys here. We don't know what to do."

Peru has only three long established primate rehabilitation programs. They do extraordinary work, but they cannot take everyone. And not every monkey can be released.

Release Is Not Freedom — It Is Responsibility

For primate supporters, release is often imagined as a moment of triumph: a door opens, a monkey leaps into the trees, and the forest swallows it in green.

But release is not a symbolic gesture. It is a scientific act — one that must be done with precision, caution, and deep respect for the wild populations already living there.

Releasing a monkey is not as simple as opening a cage. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, moving animals from captivity back into the wild — a process called translocation — must be done only for



conservation purposes. It is meant to restore populations, not simply to "set animals free."

There are two main goals:

- **Reintroduction**, when a species has disappeared from an area and is brought back.
- **Reinforcement**, when new individuals strengthen an existing population or add genetic diversity.

Peru's programs do both. Spider monkeys, once locally extinct in some regions, are returning to forests where their ancestors lived generations ago.

But the process is long. It begins with quarantine, medical exams, parasite screening, behavioral rehabilitation, genetic testing, social group formation, pre-release evaluation, and finally, monitoring in the wild. It takes years. It requires veterinarians, biologists, caretakers, infrastructure, and funding.

And it requires certainty — because one sick monkey can devastate an entire wild population.

The Invisible Threat: Diseases That Travel With Us

For years, Patricia has walked through markets, studying the pathogens trafficked monkeys carried. What she found was sobering: more than 30 different pathogens shared between humans and primates. Parasites. Bacteria. Viruses. Hemoparasites.

Some were native to the forest. Others were native to human environments. In captivity, they mix freely.

"We are now sending human diseases

back to the forest,” she said. “We don’t know if these species will survive.”

Monkeys can carry human diseases like tuberculosis, which they have no natural resistance to, forest diseases that can spread to humans, and common parasites that become dangerous when present in high numbers

A monkey rescued in northern Peru might carry pathogens never before seen in the south. When moved, it becomes a vector — not by intention, but by circumstance. And each one is a story of movement — of animals taken from the forest, of humans entering spaces they never belonged, of pathogens hitching rides across landscapes.

The Rise of Herpes in Rescue Centers

Herpes viruses are especially troubling. There are more than 200 types, many harmless in their natural hosts but dangerous when they jump species. Human herpes can cause severe disease in mon-

keys. Monkey herpes can cause tumors or cancer when transmitted to other primate species.

Patricia described two monkeys rescued from a hotel. One developed lesions on its face; soon the second did too. Tests revealed a storm of infections — tuberculosis, filariasis and herpes.

Her research found that cross species transmission is happening, most commonly from humans to monkeys. Some monkey herpes viruses hide in brain tissue, and are undetectable in saliva and blood. Many infected monkeys show no symptoms but can still spread disease.

This is why some rescued monkeys must remain isolated for months. In many cases, they cannot be released at all.

She showed a photo of a tiny monkey, “the size of a hand,” with lesions around its mouth. Testing is expensive. Collecting samples is nearly impossible on such a small animal. For now, it sits alone in a cage, waiting. If the lesions worsen, euthanasia may be the only option. If they heal, perhaps it can join others of its species — but release is unlikely.

The Mystery of Identity: Why Genetics Matter

Even identifying a monkey’s species can be a challenge. Peru has several species that look nearly identical. Even experts struggle to distinguish them visually.

“I see these three pictures,” Patricia said, “and I think they are exactly the same monkey. But

they are three different species from three different parts of the country.”

Sending a monkey to the wrong region risks genetic contamination, disease introduction, and ecological disruption.

Genetic testing can solve this. In Argentina, researchers mapped populations to genetic clusters. Now, when a monkey is confiscated, they test it and send it to the region that matches its genetic signature.

Peru hopes to do the same. A new molecular lab in the Amazon is a promising step, though funding and staffing remain obstacles.

Going Forward

Despite everything — the trafficking, the disease, the heartbreak — there are successes. Patricia showed a photo of a released monkey carrying her baby. Recently, that baby had babies of its own. A new generation, born in the wild.

These moments prove that with careful science, proper facilities and a long-term commitment, rescued monkeys can return to the forest and rebuild.

But the work is slow, fragile and expensive. And it depends on people understanding that the animals themselves are not the danger — **the movement of animals is.**

When monkeys stay in the forests where they belong, they are no threat to humans. Monkeys belong in the forest. Not in markets. Not in homes. Not in tourist photos.

If people understood the true cost behind those “cute” images, perhaps they would stop sharing them — and start speaking up.

Patricia at Gocta Falls, Peru



Ian Redmond, OBE is a tropical field biologist and conservationist known for his work with great apes and elephants. For 50 years his work has ranged from the undercover investigation of wildlife traffickers to helping local conservationists during Africa's civil wars to consulting on more than 100 documentaries for BBC, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and others. He has advised groups such as the Born Free Foundation, the Gorilla Organization (later serving as Chairman), the Orangutan Foundation, and IFAW. He founded and chairs the Ape Alliance, a coalition of more than 90 organizations, and helped establish the African Elephant Fund and UK Rhino Group. He also served as Chief Consultant and Envoy for GRASP, the UNEP/UNESCO Great Apes Survival Partnership, and continues to advise on apes, bushmeat, forests, and climate change, consulting for the UN Great Apes Survival Partnership (which he co-founded) and Born Free Foundation, which supports his work as chair of Ape Alliance, chair of the Species Survival Network Primate Working Group, and ambassador for the UN Convention on Migratory Species. Ian is a long-time member of IPPL's Board of Directors



Primate Trophy Hunting: A Crisis We Can Still Stop

Trophy hunting has long been defended as a tradition of courage — a way for hunters to prove themselves against nature's largest and most imposing animals. Elephants, rhinos, buffalo, bears: these are the species that typically adorn the walls of trophy rooms, symbols of dominance and status. But in recent years, a disturbing trend has emerged. Primates — animals with rich social lives, complex intelligence, and deep emotional bonds — have become targets too.

A review of the legal Convention on International Trade in Endangered Trade in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) import permits revealed that over a recent decade, British trophy hunters imported 274 elephant trophies, 232 bear trophies, and 178 primate trophies. That last number shocked even seasoned conservationists. Baboons, vervet monkeys, olive baboons, yellow baboons, chacma baboons — all killed for sport, often for trophies no larger than a dinner plate. Hunters boast about shooting “nuisance” monkeys, sometimes offered as freebies: buy a license for one species, get another thrown in.

This is not conservation. It is commerce disguised as tradition.

A Different Way of Seeing Primates

Ian's relationship with primates began fifty years ago when he wrote to Dian Fossey asking if he could join her research team in the Virunga vol-

canoes. She said, “If you can get here, we'll try you.” That simple invitation changed his life.

While he was in Rwanda in January 1978, David Attenborough arrived to film what would become one of the most iconic wildlife sequences ever broadcast. Now 100, David Attenborough is still narrating documentaries. One of them — *Gorilla Story* — follows the life of Pablo, the young gorilla who famously sat on him during filming.

Pablo was a curious juvenile who grew into a powerful silverback with a large family. Today, if you visit the Pablo group in Rwanda, you won't meet Pablo himself — but you will meet his children and grandchildren. His lineage continues to shape the forest.

This is the kind of story that shows what happens when primates are valued alive.

Ian went on to say, “Working with mountain gorillas taught me what trust between species looks like. Dian photographed me sitting among a gorilla family, scribbling notes as they went about their day. I watched infants approach her with curiosity, parents allowing their young to explore this strange human who meant no harm. I saw how gorillas learn — how mothers teach their children which plants to eat, how to prepare them, how to navigate the forest.

I also saw how fragile that trust was. Dian organized anti poaching patrols, standing between gorillas and the men

who hunted them. She was murdered in 1985, but the patrols she started continue today, protecting a population that has grown from around 250 individuals in the 1970s to more than 1,100 today.”

A History Written by Hunters

Contrast that with the history of gorilla hunting. In the 1860s, explorer Paul du Chaillu described gorillas as terrifying monsters — yet he also wrote tenderly about a mother gorilla stroking her infant moments before she was shot. His books inspired generations of “sportsmen” who traveled to Africa to kill gorillas for museums and personal collections.

Carl Akeley, one of America's most celebrated taxidermists, killed a female gorilla whose infant clung to her body. When he looked into the infant's eyes, he saw a being — not a specimen. That moment transformed him. He persuaded King Albert of Belgium to create Africa's first national park in 1925, laying the foundation for modern gorilla conservation.

But even today, the same mindset persists. Trophy hunters still seek the biggest, oldest animals — the very individuals most important to their species' social structure and ecological function.

Why Primates Matter More Than We Realize

Primates are not ornaments. They are gardeners of the forest.

Gorillas disperse seeds through their

dung, fertilizing the soil and shaping the forest's future. Elephants create pathways, open clearings, and spread nutrients. These animals are not passive residents of their ecosystems — they are active engineers.

When you remove them, forests suffer. When forests suffer, people suffer.

REDD+, *Stolen Apes*, and the Climate Crisis

What about Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) — paying to keep forests standing? The UN introduced this scheme to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the “plus” represents all the extra benefits healthy forests provide. But REDD+ has not stopped bulldozers from converting land. It has not stopped the extraction of animals for entertainment, the pet trade, or meat. This was documented in a UN report we produced called *Stolen Apes*.

Climate distribution for primates is overwhelmingly tropical. The most northern primates live in Japan and Morocco, but nearly all primates depend on tropical forests. A four degree rise in global temperature — as projected by the UK Met Office — would leave the Amazon basin arid, the Congo basin arid, and Southeast Asian rainforest islands arid. That is not just a conservation disaster — it is a human disaster.

Ignorance Has a Cure

Much of what we've heard today about abuse of primates is through ignorance. There's a cure for ignorance — knowledge. And here's one way you can get it. Instead of a paid Netflix subscription, you can have a free Ecoflix subscription. IPPL is a partner NGO on Ecoflix — learn about this stuff (www.ecoflix.com). You can read the blog on trophy hunting, science, ethics, and conservation.



A Path Forward: Paying for Ecosystem Services

Economists are beginning to understand the true value of wildlife. Ralph Chami of the International Monetary Fund calculated that each great whale contributes roughly \$2 million in carbon sequestration services over its lifetime. Forest elephants, through their influence on carbon storage, are worth an estimated \$2.4 million each. Yet some countries still sell permits to kill elephants for around \$20,000.

The math is obscene.

There is a solution — one that aligns economics with ecology. It's called PESA: Payment for Ecosystem Services of Animals. Primates and elephants are not

expendable. They are essential workers in the life support systems that keep us alive.

What Must Change

Governments must stop treating trophy hunting as a harmless pastime. It undermines conservation, destabilizes ecosystems, and ignores the economic value of living animals.

The public must understand that primates are not pests. They are partners in the fight against climate change.

And policymakers — especially in countries that import trophies — must act. A ban on primate trophy imports would be a powerful first step.

Going Forward

If you value forests, you must value the gardeners of the forest. Killing primates for trophies is not only immoral — it is economically irrational. We can still stop this. But only if we recognize that the future of our forests, our climate, and our own survival depends on the animals that sustain them.



Dian's photo of Ian sitting among the gorillas

Dr. Paul A. Garber, a biological anthropologist and former editor of the *American Journal of Primatology*, a career studying primates that has blossomed into a deep passion for activism. As a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois Urbana's Department of Anthropology, his focus is on ecology, evolution, and conservation biology. His recent work includes an effort to help bring awareness to the primate extinction challenges in China, where 80 percent of the country's 25 extant primate species are Threatened, and 15 to 18 species have population sizes of less than 3,000 individuals. Paul has authored over 250 journal articles and book chapters (including 12 edited books) on the behavior, ecology, cognition, and conservation of nonhuman primates.

The Primate Extinction Crisis: Why “Business as Usual” is No Longer an Option

Non-human primates are facing an extinction crisis unlike anything seen before. As Paul explained in his presentation, the numbers are staggering. Of the **527 recognized primate species, 69% are listed as Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered, and almost 94% have declining populations.** No other major mammal group faces such overwhelming pressure. “If we keep doing what we’ve been doing,” Paul warned, “many primate species will go extinct by the end of the century.”

To understand the scale of the crisis, Paul offered a broader perspective. There are 19 orders of mammals, and primates are just one of them. Rodents, for example, include more than **2,300** species, yet only **18%** are threatened. Bats, the second-largest group, include around **300** species, with **20%** threatened. Primates rank third in diversity — but nearly **70%** face extinction. No other mammal order comes close.

This is not a distant or theoretical problem. It is happening now, and rapidly. Many primate species are already reduced to tiny, fragmented populations with limited genetic diversity. Without intervention, they will not recover.

Paul illustrated this urgency with a species he has worked with personally: the white-headed langur of China. Adults are striking black and white, while infants are born a brilliant orange. Today, **fewer than 1,200 remain in the wild.** Their survival depends entirely on whether humans choose to act.

“We have to change business as usual,” Paul emphasized. “The time for us to act is now. We don’t have the luxury to keep waiting.”

Hunting, Trapping, and the Global Trade in Primates

While many forces contribute to primate declines — habitat loss, climate change, human encroachment — Paul focused on one of the most devastating: hunting and trapping. About **70% of primate species** are threatened by these activities.

In many countries, it is perfectly legal to trade primates or keep them as pets. Trafficking, by contrast, is illegal — but the distinction means nothing to the animals. As Paul put it, “To any self-respecting primate, it makes no difference if they’re legally traded and hunted or illegally traded and hunted.”

Wildlife trade and trafficking is estimated to be a **\$23 billion per year industry**, contributing to the deaths of **hundreds of thousands — likely millions — of primates annually.** It operates at multiple levels:

- **Local hunting**, often family-based, for meat, pets, or traditional medicine
- **National trafficking networks**, run by criminal organizations
- **International smuggling rings**, moving live primates and primate body parts across continents

Beyond the cruelty, Paul stressed another danger: wildlife trafficking is



a major biohazard, increasing the risk of animal-to-human disease transmission. The public health implications are enormous.

Four Major Drivers of Primate Trade and Trafficking

Paul identified four primary forces behind the exploitation of primates worldwide.

1. Biomedical Research

For decades, primates have been captured or bred for use in biomedical research. The United States is the **largest importer of live primates** for this purpose. Between 2018 and 2024, the U.S. imported **750,000 primates** — mostly long-tailed macaques, a species now listed as Endangered.

Although many of these primates are bred in captivity, about 24% of the legal trade involves individuals who were themselves, or whose parents were, taken from the wild. Paul noted that this is likely an underestimate due to **primate laundering**, where wild-caught animals are falsely labeled as captive-bred.

“The biomedical community needs to prioritize non-primate models,” Paul said. He argued that given the number of primates extracted from the wild, the biomedical industry should also be required to fund conservation projects to help restore wild populations and habitats.

2. Primate Meat Markets

In some regions, subsistence hunting has existed for centuries. But modern pressures — firearms, commercial demand,

and habitat loss — have made primate hunting unsustainable.

Paul shared sobering examples:

- **Ikitos, Peru:** 28,000 primate carcasses traded annually
- **Nigeria & Cameroon:** 150,000 primate carcasses traded in six months
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** 8,500 primates sold in one market over 131 days

Primates reproduce slowly, with long infant dependence and typically one offspring at a time. These losses cannot be sustained. As populations decline, the price of primate meat rises — driving poachers to hunt even more frequently, both inside and outside protected areas.

3. Traditional Medicine

Traditional medicine has existed for thousands of years and plays an important cultural and practical role, especially

in rural communities. But rising demand among affluent consumers has turned primates into exotic commodities.

About 123 primate species are used in traditional or ritual medicine. The majority are in Asia (40%) and Africa (36%) and 61% of these species are threatened.

Traditional medicine is now contributing significantly to primate population declines.

4. The Online Pet Trade

The online trade in primates has exploded in recent years. Buyers want infants, which means mothers and other group members are often killed during capture. Entire family groups can be destroyed.

Paul cited disturbing findings:

- Thai social media accounts advertising **380 primates**
- Indonesian accounts offering **105 gibbons, 17 orangutans, and 4**

chimpanzees

- Over **1,138 YouTube videos** and **39,000 Instagram posts** featuring pet or abused capuchin monkeys

Many posts include torture or killing. Paul stressed that internet companies have a moral obligation to intervene.

How You Can Help

It is still legal to own a pet primate in **25 U.S. states**. A bipartisan bill — the **Captive Primate Safety Act** — would end interstate commerce in pet primates. Paul encouraged everyone to contact their congressional representatives and urge support for this critical legislation.

Protecting primates requires action at every level — from governments, conservationists, and scientists to everyday citizens who care about the future of these remarkable animals.



Paul with golden snub-nosed monkeys

Photo courtesy of Paul Garber

Four members of IPPL's Animal Care Team

made a presentation about the daily life at the sanctuary. They offered a heartfelt look at how they support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the gibbons and otters who call the sanctuary home. Their work is a true collaboration — caregivers, veterinary staff, and volunteers all contributing their expertise, creativity, and compassion to help each animal thrive.

Left to Right: Molly Hicks, Mirabella Wimburn, Sophie Benson, and Krystal Lightell



IPPL's Animal Care Program:

A Warm Look Inside Daily Life at the Sanctuary

What Animal Welfare Means at IPPL

For the staff, animal welfare isn't an abstract concept. It's something they see and feel every day — in the way a gibbon relaxes in the sunshine, in the curiosity sparked by a new enrichment item, in the comfort of a familiar caregiver's voice. Welfare is understood as the overall physical, mental, and emotional state of each individual over time.

To guide their work, IPPL uses wellness assessments and individualized care plans, along with the **Five Opportunities to Thrive**, a modern framework that emphasizes:

- **A well-balanced diet**
- **Species-appropriate environments**
- **Prompt and proactive medical care**
- **Natural behaviors and social opportunities**
- **Choice and control over daily life**

These principles help ensure that every animal receives care tailored to their unique needs.

Individualized Care Plans: Meeting Each Animal Where They Are

The staff spoke warmly about how different each gibbon and otter is — not just in age or health, but in personality, preferences, and quirks. Individualized care plans allow them to honor those differences.

As the gibbons age, they are faced with mobility issues and other health

issues. Adjustments are made to their outside enclosures and houses. Diets may need to be altered and they are carefully monitored for any changes in their behavior. They also enjoy extra caregiver time, which provides social comfort and enrichment.

Val, energetic and athletic, receives additional calories to support his active lifestyle. His recent reunion with his father, Snowy, has been a highlight for the staff — the two spend long stretches grooming each other in the sunshine, a simple joy that has improved both of their lives.

These stories reflect the heart of IPPL's approach: every animal is an individual, and every individual deserves care designed just for them.

Welfare Assessments: Thoughtful, Team-Based Care

Once a year, each gibbon and otter receives a 60-day welfare assessment. Caregivers observe daily behaviors, activity levels, social interactions, and emotional indicators. At the end of the assessment period, the team meets to discuss what's working well and what might need adjustment.

If an animal is spending too much time indoors, staff may add new outdoor furniture or enrichment to encourage exploration. If an individual seems stressed, they may adjust social opportunities or modify routines. These discussions are collaborative, thoughtful, and grounded in the shared goal of helping each animal thrive.

Enrichment: Creativity, Curiosity, and Joy

The staff's enthusiasm for enrichment was unmistakable. Over the past year, IPPL has expanded its enrichment program dramatically, offering a wide variety of experiences that stimulate natural behaviors and spark curiosity.

They now use:

- **Sensory enrichment** like bubbles, rainforest sounds, and gibbon calls
- **Food-based enrichment** such as puzzle feeders, popcorn bags with substrate, and ice treats
- **Environmental enrichment** including new ropes, platforms, swings, and fresh browse
- **Cognitive enrichment** like busy boards, jars to open, and feeder balls with hidden food

Caregivers track how each animal interacts with new enrichment using a simple rating system. This helps them refine the program and tailor items to individual preferences. The results have been clear: more activity, more natural behaviors, less stress, and a noticeable increase in curiosity.

Training: Building Trust and Reducing Stress

Training — or operant conditioning — is another way the staff supports welfare. Through positive reinforcement, gibbons learn behaviors that make medical care safer and less stressful, such as injection training, scale training, and crate training.

For singly housed gibbons, training also provides valuable social interaction. Caregivers described how training sessions help build trust, confidence, and mental stimulation. Favorite rewards include grapes, dried fruit, blueberries, and enthusiastic verbal praise.

Nutrition: Fresh, Balanced, and Thoughtfully Designed

The staff also shared how IPPL has refined its diet program to better meet the nutritional needs of gibbons, who are natural leaf-eaters. Each animal receives two meals a day plus a nighttime snack, all crafted with a variety of fruits and vegetables.

Working with SSP nutritionists, the team gradually adjusted meal plans to ensure proper balance — reducing fruit, increasing vegetables, and tailoring portions for individuals with specific health needs. Fresh produce is sourced from restaurant-grade suppliers and supplemented with greens grown on-site in IPPL's garden. Daily browse encourages natural foraging and climbing behaviors.

The staff spoke with pride about how well the gibbons have responded to these changes — eating enthusiastically, exploring new foods, and showing improved overall health. It's a good life at IPPL for both gibbons and otters.



Snowy grooming his son Val



Dr. Liz Tyson is the Director of Animal Welfare and Advocacy at Born Free USA in Texas. As an experienced animal advocate for 20 years, she has helped animals across the globe. Liz helped to establish the very first locally run sterilization program for street dogs in the Middle East, worked with indigenous communities in the Colombian Amazon to end the hunting of wild primates, ran a UK charity campaigning to end the exploitation of animals in circuses and zoos, and helped design a new rehabilitation complex for rescued monkeys at Born Free's sanctuary in Ethiopia. Liz published the book *'Licensing Laws and Animal Welfare: The Legal Protection of Wild Animals'*.

The US Pet Trade – It's Time for a Ban

For those of us working in primate rescue and sanctuary care, gathering together is more than professional development — it's a rare chance to feel understood. Many of us work remotely, scattered across countries and continents, often surrounded by people who don't share our values or our urgency. Being in a room full of people who care deeply about the same mission fills a part of the cup that daily work often drains. It reminds us why we fight so hard for animals who should never have been in captivity in the first place.

At Born Free USA's primate sanctuary in South Texas, we care for 208 monkeys — mostly macaques, a handful of vervets, a few baboons, and individuals like Willis, who arrived as a baby spinning in circles from trauma and has grown into a mischievous, beloved terror. Alongside rescue work, our advocacy team fights to change the systems that allow primates to be bred, sold, and kept as pets in the United States. Sanctuary care and policy change must go hand in hand; one without the other will never be enough.

Why the Five Freedoms Matter

The "Five Freedoms" were developed in the 1960s as a framework for animal welfare. They were freedom from hunger and thirst; from discomfort; from pain, injury and disease; the freedom to express normal behaviors and freedom from fear and distress. Over time, they evolved from a checklist into a set of guiding principles: if an animal experiences these freedoms, they can

live a good life.

Domesticated animals, like dogs, can often have these needs met. A dog can be fed, sheltered, treated medically, allowed to play, and protected from fear. But for wild animals, especially primates, the Five Freedoms reveal a stark truth: **their needs cannot be met in private homes.** Even the best-intentioned owners cannot replicate the social, environmental, and behavioral conditions required for a primate to thrive.

Sanctuaries work tirelessly to approximate these freedoms, but even in the best facilities, they cannot fully meet them. We can only do better — never perfect.

Charlie: A Case Study in Trauma

Charlie, a Japanese macaque, embodied the tragedy of the primate pet trade. Physically, he looked perfect: strong, fluffy, healthy. But emotionally, he was the most distressed monkey our staff had ever encountered. Kept as a pet until he bit off a child's finger, Charlie arrived terrified, oscillating between extreme submission and extreme aggression. Socialization attempts failed; he ricocheted between fear and hostility, unable to understand or trust other monkeys.

One day, staff found him lying still in his enclosure. He looked peaceful, untouched, as though asleep. But his necropsy revealed widespread internal hemorrhaging caused by physiological changes triggered by chronic stress. In blunt terms: **the pet trade killed him.**

Charlie's story is not rare. Trauma



from early deprivation, isolation, and inappropriate environments leaves lasting damage. Some primates recover partially. Some never recover at all.

Sanctuary Care: A Beginning, Not an Ending

When a monkey arrives at a sanctuary, people often celebrate it as a happy ending. But rescue is only the beginning of a long, difficult journey. Recovery can take weeks, months, or years — and sometimes, despite every effort, it never fully comes.

Sanctuaries operate at capacity because they provide lifelong care. A monkey rescued at age four may live another thirty years. Every day of those decades requires individualized attention, enrichment, medical care, and social support. The quiet work — the unseen work — is what defines sanctuary life.

With an estimated **15,000 primates in the U.S. pet trade, 112,000 in laboratories**, and countless more in roadside zoos, sanctuaries cannot absorb the volume. They are essential, but they are not the solution. The solution is stopping the pipeline.

The Faces of the Trade

The monkeys rescued in recent years tell the same story, whether they were kept legally or illegally. Their experiences — fear, isolation, malnutrition, aggression, self-harm — are nearly identical.

Gilbert arrived emaciated, attacking his own limbs due to severe psychologi-

Rhesus macaques Creed and Oscar groom one another, an important aspect of primate socialization.



cal distress. Kai was purchased as a baby at an animal auction, fed formula, and surrendered when he became aggressive. Willis was found wandering the streets of Chicago, escaping animal control repeatedly. Elvis, an olive baboon, was intercepted before being sold into the pet trade. Darwin, kept legally until adulthood, never learned to socialize and threw tantrums like an adolescent. Betsy, kept as a pet for 33 years, chewed off part of her own foot and tail. Gambit lived for years in a bird cage, never let out because his owners were terrified of him. Kiki arrived emaciated, afraid of grass, dirt, and other monkeys.

Some recovered. Some partially recovered. Some never did.

And some, like Maliki and Peanut, died within weeks of arrival — victims of undiagnosed medical conditions that could have been treated had they ever seen a veterinarian.

A Public Safety Crisis

Beyond welfare concerns, primates pose serious risks to humans. Macaques carry herpes B virus, fatal in 80% of untreated human cases. Primates can transmit yellow fever, monkeypox, measles, hepatitis, and other zoonotic diseases. Even small monkeys can inflict life changing injuries. First responders, animal control officers, and neighbors are all at risk.

Yet people continue to keep primates in their homes — often without veterinary care, proper containment, or any understanding of the danger.

A Broken Patchwork of Laws

The United States has no unified federal law governing primate ownership. Instead, there is a chaotic patchwork:

- Some states ban primate ownership.
- Some require permits.
- Some have no regulations at all.
- Monkeys are bought legally in one state and transported illegally to another.
- The legal trade masks the illegal trade.
- Domestic demand fuels international trafficking.

This system is impossible to enforce and impossible to navigate. As long as loopholes exist, primates will continue to suffer.

The Captive Primate Safety Act: A Path Forward

The Captive Primate Safety Act (CPSA) offers a federal solution. Modeled after the successful Big Cat Public

Safety Act, the CPSA would:

- Ban private ownership of primates.
- Ban interstate commercial trade in primates.

Although the bill is framed around public safety — a strategic choice to make it more palatable to lawmakers — its impact would be profound for animal welfare. Whether passed for human safety or animal protection, the result is the same: fewer primates suffering in captivity.

The bill currently has around 42 co sponsors. It may not pass in the current Congress due to political gridlock, but building support now ensures faster passage in the next session. Advocacy must continue at every stage: contacting representatives, urging committee movement, and keeping public attention on the issue.

What Comes Next

Sanctuaries will continue doing what they do best: providing lifelong care, healing trauma, and giving primates the closest thing to a natural life they can have. But sanctuaries cannot solve the crisis alone. The pet trade must end.

Every rescued monkey is a victory — but also a reminder of the thousands still waiting, suffering, or dying unseen.

The Captive Primate Safety Act is not just legislation — it is a lifeline.



Little Foot and her mom Dee Dee at the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary

Lana Bru is a volunteer with the Vervet Monkey Foundation (VMF). Her relationship with monkeys began with what she describes as “divine intervention” after seeing a video of an injured monkey in South Africa that was released back to its family. Seeing how its family picked it up and began hugging it, Lana began a vigorous search on vervet monkeys. Two years later she began her volunteer work at VMF in South Africa and has returned six times during baby season. Lana’s volunteer work for the foundation has expanded. She has set up charity status for VMF in the United States and hopes to do likewise in Canada.

The Journey of an Orphaned Vervet: Inside the Vervet Monkey Foundation

The Beginning

The Vervet Monkey Foundation (VMF) began in 1989 when Dave Du Toit rescued a newborn vervet after being told to kill it because vervets were considered pests. That infant, Regis, lived more than 30 years and became the foundation’s first success story. Today, Dave and co director Josie Cook lead a dedicated team — from troop integration specialists to a vegan chef — who keep the sanctuary running every day.

Health Checks and First Steps

When orphaned vervet monkeys arrive, their journey begins in a small intake building where each receives a full health assessment. Much like a human annual checkup, staff evaluate for dehydration, weight issues, skin infections, ringworm, and even broken bones. Wild orphans often cry for days as they search for their mothers, while former pets may cling to humans, making reintegration more challenging.

For three days, each baby stays in quarantine while fecal samples are monitored and their overall condition is assessed. Around the clock care is essential. Volunteers may wake every two hours to feed the youngest arrivals, learning the meaning behind each cry — hunger, discomfort, or simply a plea for attention.

Disneyland: Learning to Feed and Socialize

Once healthy, the babies move to “Disneyland,” a training area designed to teach them how to use specialized feeding cages. These small enclosures allow only tiny vervet infants and not larger vervets

to enter and drink milk from a bottle — a necessity for their first year of life. Some babies learn quickly; others require coaxing, flavoring their formula with honey or a rehydration solution to encourage them.

Socialization also begins here. Orphans learn to play, climb, and interact with one another, forming bonds that will help them thrive in a troop. Volunteers closely monitor stools, behavior, and energy levels, watching for signs that a baby is ready to progress.

Intro Cage: Meeting the Troop

The next stage is the intro cage, positioned beside a semi wild troop. Here, babies experience natural ground, troop sounds, and the presence of adult vervets. They must demonstrate confidence climbing, navigating the feeding cage, and interacting with the troop through the mesh.

Eventually, the human caregivers step out, and the integration team takes over. This moment is emotional for both humans and monkeys. Integration can be immediate or take hours of crying, hesitation, and negotiation. Experienced females may ignore the baby at first, then suddenly scoop it up. Sometimes a passing male or a mischievous “bandit troop” member startles the baby straight into a foster mother’s arms. Once the baby feels fur, instinct takes over — they cling, and the bond begins.

Troop Life and Monitoring

At around three months old, the baby is ready to enter the troop. Release day is joyous and chaotic: juveniles rush to greet the newcomer, smothering it with hugs, carrying it off, and proudly showing it to others. Foster mothers, often lower ranked



females, enjoy a temporary break from troop politics while caring for the infant. Eventually, higher ranked females may take over, but the feeding cages ensure the baby continues receiving milk regardless of troop dynamics.

Sunrise and sunset monitoring help staff ensure the baby is adjusting well, staying healthy, and maintaining its bond with its foster mother.

Challenges Facing the Foundation

Recent years have brought significant challenges. Severe storms and flooding in South Africa damaged roofs, cabins, toilets, and showers. Mold developed in wooden structures, threatening the health of vulnerable babies and volunteers. Food supply has also become difficult; farms that once donated produce now charge for it, and stigma around vervet monkeys sometimes lead suppliers to cut off donations entirely.

Volunteer numbers have shifted as well. Younger generations increasingly ask what the sanctuary can offer them, rather than how they can contribute. With no government funding, the foundation relies heavily on volunteer fees and private donations to continue its work.

Social Media Success and Rescue Achievements

Despite hardships, the foundation has achieved remarkable success. Its YouTube channel has grown to over 90,000 subscribers and 35 million views, with nine seasons of videos documenting rescues, integrations, and troop life. More than 700 vervets have been rescued, and 150 have



Baby vervet

Individual stories highlight the impact. Rexie, who arrived with extensive fractures and required syringe feeding, now climbs confidently despite a slight head tilt. Gobo, found with severe dog bite wounds and maggot infestation, recovered fully and now lives happily within his troop — his rescue video reaching nearly two million viewers.

Dreamland: A Safer Future for Vulnerable Babies

To address the health risks posed by weather damaged cabins, the foundation is building “Dreamland” — a temperature controlled concrete structure with air conditioning and three separate rooms designed for humans to stay overnight to care for these fragile infants.

been released back into the wild and over 300 orphans have been successfully integrated into semi wild troops through the foster mom program.

Gratitude and Looking Ahead

The Vervet Monkey Foundation continues its mission despite climate challenges, funding struggles, and the constant demands of caring for over 700 monkeys. Lana acknowledged VMF’s gratitude for IPPL’s support over the years often arriving at critical moments helping sustain the lifesaving work carried out by staff and volunteers.

The journey of each orphaned vervet — from frightened infant to thriving troop member — reflects the dedication, resilience, and compassion that define the foundation’s work in South Africa.



Gobo after rescue

Caroline Griffis received her M.S. in Psychology with a focus on nonhuman primate behavior from Walden University. Her thesis was on environmental enrichment as an intervention for abnormal behavior in rhesus macaques. She has over 23 years of experience working with primates and 20 years of experience in operant conditioning. At Save the Chimps, Caroline is implementing and managing a sanctuary-wide training program in operant conditioning for staff and chimpanzees.

Rebuilding Hope in Gabon Inside the Fernan Vaz Gorilla Project’s Fight for Survival

Caroline Griffis has spent more than two decades working with primates, specializing in operant conditioning and behavioral management. At Save the Chimps in Fort Pierce, Florida, she oversees a sanctuary wide training program. But her work extends far beyond the United States. Since 2012, she has traveled regularly to primate sanctuaries across Africa, spending six to eight weeks at a time helping teams strengthen welfare practices, improve staff training, and solve behavioral challenges.

Her early projects varied widely. At some sanctuaries, she advised caregiv-

ers on shifting techniques when chimpanzees resisted cooperation. At others, she introduced operant conditioning or built enrichment programs from scratch. In 2012, she visited BJ Korre and found no enrichment program in place — so she created one. Her work quickly expanded into a broad portfolio of behavioral management across multiple facilities.

Caroline’s independent consulting began when Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone became the first to respond to her outreach. She worked with them for several years before learning that the Pan African



Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) had undergone a leadership change. She contacted the new director and offered to collaborate. PASA soon launched a primate care training program, sending experts — including Caroline — to sanctuaries across Africa. They covered travel and living expenses for instructors specializing in fencing, reintroduction, nutrition, veterinary care, and behavioral management. Caroline became one of their go to behavioral specialists.

A Meeting That Changed Everything

At the 2016 PASA conference in Uganda, Caroline met Nick Bashan, a long time leader of the Fernan Vaz Gorilla Project (PGF) in Gabon. Nick had been with the project since its earliest days, guiding staff, caring for gorillas, and keeping operations afloat through years of challenges. He told Caroline about a silverback named Azoy who lived alone, frequently escaped his enclosure, and showed signs of severe anxiety. His welfare was deteriorating, and the team needed help.

Caroline agreed to assist. Her first trip to PGF was in 2017. She has since returned six more times, each visit with new objectives but always with the same commitment. She witnessed firsthand the struggles the team faced — paying staff salaries, maintaining enclosures, and caring for gorillas despite inconsistent funding. Staff continued showing up even when salaries were delayed. Their dedication left a deep impression on her.

Why PGF's Work Matters

Western lowland gorillas are Critically Endangered. Their population has declined by more than 60 percent in just 25 years due to habitat loss, bushmeat hunting, disease, climate change, and fragmentation. Every gorilla at PGF arrived because of one of these threats — orphaned, traumatized, and unable to survive alone.

Gabon, located on the equator along the Atlantic coast of Africa, is one of the last great forest nations on Earth. More than 80 percent of its land remains intact rainforest. Its conservation value is immense.

PGF operates on two islands in the Romi Lagoon, reachable only by boat from the small town of Omboué. The remoteness that protects the gorillas also makes the sanctuary vulnerable. Staff

live on site during the week and return to their families on weekends.

A Sanctuary Built on Forest and Family

The sanctuary began in 2001 with three adult gorillas — Cola, Caroline, and Tonnie — rescued from a medical research facility. When they stepped onto the island, it was the first time their feet had ever touched forest soil. They could never be released, but they could finally live with dignity.

In 2006, PGF began accepting orphan gorillas like Isoy, a victim of the bushmeat trade and likely the sole survivor of his family. Rehabilitation required extraordinary care: caregivers slept beside the orphans, lay on the ground with them, and spent weeks building trust. This was not a job. It was a vocation.

When the gorillas reached independence, they moved to Ori Island, where eight individuals now live free ranging, forming a social group and preparing for reintroduction. Then something remarkable happened: a baby gorilla,

Tiguay, was born on the island. She has never seen a cage. She knows only forest, family, and freedom — proof that PGF's mission works.

Threats Beyond the Sanctuary

The sanctuary could not ignore the pressures surrounding it. When a new road connected Port Gentil to the Fernan Vaz region, access for poachers and loggers increased dramatically. Hunting intensified. Snared animals, including forest elephants, appeared more frequently.

Caroline recalls one heartbreaking case: a young elephant with a deeply embedded snare was brought to the island to prevent villagers from killing it for meat. It died shortly after arrival — a stark reminder of the dangers wildlife face.

In 2016, PGF commissioned an independent review supported by Wildlife Impact and the Arcus Foundation. The resulting strategic plan focused on sustainability and conservation impact. It opened doors to major partnerships, including Chester Zoo, which surveyed 600 square



Bélinga, a female gorilla at PGF

kilometers of forest around the lagoon.

Their findings confirmed what PGF always knew: the region is a biodiversity hotspot, home to gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephants, and even giant pangolins. But logging had intensified. The threat was growing.

PGF was no longer just a sanctuary. It was a conservation anchor for an entire ecosystem.

A Pathway Back to the Wild

With full political support from Gabon's Ministry of Environment and National Parks Agency, PGF developed a reintroduction plan. Pongara National Park, a protected coastal forest with low human density, was identified as a release site.

The plan is real. The protocol is ready. The gorillas of Ori Island — including

Tiguay's family — could be among the first candidates for release.

But reintroduction is complex. Gorillas must be conditioned to enter holding enclosures safely for transport. Construction setbacks, territorial behavior, and group dynamics all influence the timeline. Even with funding, release may still be several years away.

A Sanctuary That Never Stopped

When PGF's founder could no longer sustain funding, the institutional framework collapsed — but the sanctuary did not. The caregivers did not leave. The gorillas did not leave. Twenty years of relationships with local communities, farmers, and government officials remained intact.

Today, PGF survives through three simultaneous efforts: ethical ecotourism,

crowdfunding, and emergency donor support. A recent \$7,500 grant from IPPL provided a full month of essentials — food, medical care, and staff salaries — buying critical time for the sanctuary to rebuild.

A new NGO is now being formally registered, built on PGF's twenty year foundation. The mission remains unchanged: protect gorillas, restore ecosystems, and prepare individuals for life in the wild.

Caroline's story — and the stories of Cola, Tonnie, Isoy, and Tiguay — live on in every step the sanctuary takes toward a stronger future. With renewed partnerships, dedicated caregivers, and a resilient community, PGF continues its work in the Romi Lagoon, proving that conservation is not a destination but a lifelong commitment.

Dr. Angela Maldonado has dedicated her life to the conservation of our planet and stopping illegal wildlife trade. She is co founder and serves on the board of Fundacion Entropika, an NGO working for the long-term conservation of the Colombian Amazon through community led education and research. Angela grew up in Bogotá, her country's capital. Over twenty years ago, she visited the Amazon for the first time and it changed her life. At the time she was studying business administration and travelled there to free a woolly monkey that she had helped rescue from smugglers. Since that visit, her life took a sharp turn and she became an expert in the conservation of primates. The primatologist has spent more than ten years documenting the abuse of nocturnal monkeys, winning the Whitley Award in 2010 and National Geographic's Awards for Leadership in Conservation in 2020.

A Fight for Primates, People, and Justice in the Amazon

For more than two decades, conservationist Angela has worked in one of the most complex and dangerous regions of the Amazon—an area where wildlife trafficking, coca cultivation, illegal timber extraction, and armed groups overlap in a web of corruption. Her mission began with a simple question: “What is happening to the monkeys?” What she uncovered was a story of cultural traditions, exploitation, scientific misconduct, and a long legal battle that would ultimately change national policy.

Understanding the Cultural Landscape

Angela's work began by listening.

In many Indigenous communities, primates—especially capuchin and owl monkeys—hold deep cultural significance. They appear in traditional dances, folklore, and daily life. Yet the perception is often negative: monkeys are seen as thieves, tricksters, or even supernatural beings capable of stealing the moon or sucking blood at night. In some communities, monkey meat is a staple food, and the tail is considered a delicacy.

Angela understood that conservation could not begin with condemnation. “You cannot ask people to stop eating monkeys when they don't have food on their plate,” she often explained. Instead, she focused on understanding the cultural context, the

economic pressures, and the traditional ecological knowledge that shaped local relationships with wildlife.

The Biomedical Research Scandal

Her work took a dramatic turn when she discovered that thousands of owl monkeys were being illegally captured for biomedical research in Colombia. The monkeys were used in malaria vaccine experiments that had been running since 1987—experiments that never produced a successful vaccine.

The scale of the extraction was staggering. To reach sleeping groups hunters cut down entire sections of forest to capture monkeys. It's estimated that in 24





over 4,000 monkeys were captured and around 65,000 adults were killed in the process.

Even worse, the surviving monkeys—after being inoculated with malaria parasites—were released back into the forest! The long-term ecological and epidemiological consequences remain unknown.

The animals were taken from Indigenous territories, violating Colombian, Peruvian, and Brazilian law. Yet when Angela approached authorities, she was dismissed. Wildlife crime seemed insignificant compared to drug trafficking and armed conflict.

A Twenty-Year Legal Battle

Angela refused to give up. She began documenting the trade, interviewing hunters, and gathering evidence. She discovered that Peruvian hunters were being hired by Colombian intermediaries, creating a cross-border trafficking network. She also found that environmental authorities were issuing permits without population studies, without species identification, and without oversight.

Corruption was everywhere.

She filed a groundbreaking legal case that brought together local authorities, the Ministry of Environment, and the national prosecutor's office. It was the first time anyone had challenged the system that allowed the biomedical lab to operate unchecked.

In 2021, after years of pressure, the permits were revoked and the lab was shut down. Her case forced the government to revise environmental regula-

tions and close long-standing legal loopholes.

Working With Hunters, Not Against Them

Angela knew that enforcement alone would not solve the problem. Many hunters had inherited the practice from their fathers and

grandfathers. One of her closest collaborators, Juanito Rodríguez, began trapping monkeys at age 13. He later became one of her most trusted field assistants.

Angela asked hunters a simple question: “Would you work with us instead of against us?” Most said yes.

She launched a community-based research program, training former hunters to conduct primate censuses, track groups, and collect ecological data. She also supported Indigenous families with sustainable livelihood projects—handcrafts, regenerative tourism, cacao cultivation, and access to clean water.

Over time, more than 26 communities gained potable water, and thousands of people benefited from improved infrastructure and educational support.

Education and Training Across All Levels

Education became a cornerstone of Angela's strategy. She and her team developed environmental curricula tailored to Indigenous children, who often face severe educational disadvantages. Many brilliant students fail university entrance exams simply because their schools lack basic resources.

Her goal shifted from pushing university pathways to helping young people develop practical skills—agriculture, tourism, environmental monitoring, and legal literacy.

She also trained law enforcement. Police, army personnel, prosecutors, and navy officers often had no idea how to handle confiscated wildlife. Angela organized workshops where officers learned from veterinarians, biologists, and legal

experts. These trainings were essential in a region where staff turnover is constant and institutional memory is fragile.

Health Risks and Scientific Discoveries

Her team's research revealed important health findings. During the dry season, monkeys carried heavy loads of external parasites. Nearly half of sampled individuals carried herpes viruses, and one monkey tested positive for a flu virus never before documented in neotropical primates. These discoveries raised urgent questions about disease transmission—especially given the history of releasing experimentally infected monkeys back into the wild.

Expanding the Model

Angela is now replicating her conservation model in eastern Colombia, where cultural dynamics differ and meat consumption is central to daily life. She works with campesino women, supporting cacao production and documenting traditional ecological knowledge. Her goal is to build a new reserve and empower local leaders to defend environmental rights.

A Legacy of Courage

One of Angela's proudest achievements is inspiring young people to fight for their environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, local teenagers documented the destruction of wetlands and filed complaints with national oversight agencies. Their persistence forced authorities to act.

Angela believes this is the future: communities trained to defend their rights, monitor elections, and hold officials accountable.

Her work has come at a personal cost. She has received threats from traffickers and illegal tourism operators, requiring government-provided security. Yet she continues, driven by a belief that conservation must include people, culture, law, and justice.

Angela's story is not just about saving monkeys. It is about transforming systems, empowering communities and proving that one determined person can change an entire region.

Dr. Lisa Jones-Engel is a primate scientist, Fulbright scholar and former academic insider within the U.S. primate research system, with more than four decades of experience spanning laboratory science, fieldwork, and global health. Her research has focused on zoonotic disease transmission at the human–primate interface. Now a chief science advisor to PETA, she analyzes the scientific, regulatory, and biosecurity failures underlying primate experimentation.

From Forest to Laboratory to Advocacy

A Life Shaped by Primates

Lisa Jones Engel began her career in 1983 in the forests of Borneo, mentored by Biruté Galdikas — part of the pioneering generation of women like Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Shirley McGreal who brought primates into public consciousness. Living among orangutans, gibbons, and macaques taught Lisa that to truly understand primates, one must be in their presence, witnessing their roles in the ecosystem.

Her plan was to return to the U.S. and work with Dian Fossey at Cornell. But Fossey was murdered just days after Lisa arrived home, abruptly ending that path. In the 1980s, anyone interested in primates in the U.S. inevitably ended up in the world of monkeys — and so Lisa's journey shifted.

Entering the Biomedical Pipeline

A few years later, Lisa joined the Yerkes Primate Center, conducting cognitive assessments on infant chimpanzees. She then became a caregiver and veterinary technician at the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP). Her mentor there, Dr. Jim Mahoney, taught her two principles: the science must be impeccable, and the welfare of captive animals must be the best possible. Those words stayed with her for decades.

Jim sent her to Africa to manage a chimpanzee sanctuary, then to Thailand to run a gibbon and macaque sanctuary. She saw animals released without proper assessment and realized she needed more scientific authority. She returned to the U.S. and earned her PhD.

Lisa then joined the Washington National Primate Research Center, embedding herself in the biomedical research industry for 30 years. She toggled between two worlds — laboratory science

and sanctuary care — walking what she called a “tightrope” between them.

A Collision of Worlds

At LEMSIP, Lisa hand reared three infant chimpanzees — Digger, Regis, and Karina — taking them home on weekends because they needed maternal comfort. When LEMSIP closed in the mid 1990s, she faced a painful decision about their futures. Regis went to a sanctuary in Canada. Digger went to Ohio State University and later died due to veterinary malpractice. Karina, the most emotionally balanced, entered the biomedical pipeline.

He ended up at the notorious Coulston Foundation. When Lisa visited him, he greeted her with the same gentleness he had as an infant. Decades later, in 2018, she discovered he had finally made it out — rescued to Project Chimps. When she visited him with her daughter, Karina recognized her, studied her daughter's face, and handed Lisa a piece of kale. “He had no reason to forgive me,” she said, “but he did.” That moment became one of the turning points that pushed her out of biomedical research.

Tracking Disease and Seeing the Cracks

Lisa's scientific career focused on disease transmission between humans and primates. Funded by NIH (National Institutes of Health), DARPA, and the DoD (Department of Defense), her team worked across Asia studying areas with intense human–primate contact. She found that most disease transmission flowed from humans to primates — a critical insight, given that tens of thousands of monkeys were being exported from those same regions into U.S. laboratories.

She trapped and sampled thousands of animals, publishing papers documenting



human pathogens in primates — knowing those same primates were entering research facilities. She realized the monkey model was scientifically compromised long before the scientific community acknowledged it.

In 2019, at the height of her career, she resigned from the University of Washington. “If the science wasn't going to be impeccable,” she said, “I wasn't going to be part of it.”

The Disappearance of Long Tailed Macaques

Over decades in Asia, Lisa had noticed something alarming: long tailed macaques — adaptable, resilient “Darwinian superstars” — were disappearing. Not just declining, but gone from villages, temples, and forests. **In some countries, populations had dropped by 80 percent.**

These macaques are keystone species, seed dispersers, and culturally significant animals. Yet a multibillion dollar industry wanted them in cages in the U.S., EU, Canada, China, Korea, and Japan. They became the most expensive wildlife traded today.

In the 1970s, Shirley McGreal helped shut down the export of Indian origin macaques after exposing U.S. treaty violations. The industry simply pivoted to long tailed macaques — not because they were better scientific models, but because they were available and unstudied. Primatologists dismissed them as “weed species,” making them easy targets.

Since the late 1970s, 850,000 long tailed macaques have arrived in the

U.S., not counting the countless animals who died during capture and transport. Poachers cut down sleeping trees, killing adult males first, then mothers who fight to protect their infants. Juveniles are taken to breeding farms where disease and mortality are rampant.

Lisa estimates that another thousand macaques die every night somewhere along this pipeline.

A Dangerous and Hidden Trade

The industry's message is simple: "If we don't use monkeys, your grandmother dies." It's effective — and false.

A video shown during Lisa's talk revealed the pipeline: monkeys trapped, stuffed into sacks, shipped to Cambodian factory farms, tattooed, collared, and falsely labeled "captive bred." Paperwork is falsified. Officials are bribed. U.S. importers buy monkeys laundered through these systems.

In 2025, U.S. authorities intercepted trafficked monkeys destined for Cambodia. At the same time, U.S. Fish and Wildlife reopened imports from Cambodia for Charles River Laboratories — despite its own investigations showing widespread smuggling.

The first indictment of an international wildlife trafficker ended in acquittal. Seven others were never prosecuted. The Department of Fish and Game effectively told importers to

continue.

Biosecurity Risks and Scientific Failure

Imported primates are supposed to undergo mandated quarantine by The Center for Disease Control (CDC), but quarantine occurs at undisclosed private facilities run by importers — a profound conflict of interest. The only required test is a century old tuberculosis test known to be inaccurate.

Monkeys have arrived in the US carrying Ebola like viruses, tuberculosis, Campylobacter, Shigella, retroviruses, herpes viruses, and hepatitis viruses. Some shipments contained tier one select agents — pathogens classified alongside anthrax and Ebola.

Infected monkeys were moved across the U.S. and sold for experiments. Workers contracted drug resistant Shigella and car-

ried it into their communities.

Lisa and PETA began tracking pathogens — something the industry never expected. It exposed systemic failures in scientific integrity and biosecurity.

A Turning Point

In 2022, primatologists submitted an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessment listing long tailed macaques as Endangered. The biomedical industry fought aggressively to reverse it. The 2025 reassessment elevated their Endangered status even further.

In April 2026, US Representatives Dina Titus and Greg Steube introduced the bipartisan **PRIMATE Act**, which would prohibit the importation of nonhuman primates into the U.S. and impose civil penalties. Legislators understand the biosecurity risks.

The scientific necessity argument is collapsing. Non animal research methods are expanding rapidly. Scientists themselves are saying they no longer want to use monkeys.

Toward an End to Primate Experimentation

Lisa believes primate experimentation is nearing its end — not this year, maybe not next, but soon. When it does, tens of thousands of primates will need sanctuary. "We must be ready," she said, "to give them dignity for the rest of their lives."

Lisa at an early PETA protest



Photo © Lynn Johnson

Dr. Burité Galdikas 1946-2026

In March of this year, the primate world lost Dr. Burité Galdikas, a scientist and conservationist who worked tirelessly with orangutans for over 50 years in Borneo, Indonesia. Biruté first began studying the elusive wild orangutan in Borneo through the mentorship of Dr. Louis Leakey who, with National Geographic, helped her set up a research camp, dubbed "Camp Leaky," to conduct field study on orangutans in Borneo.

In 1986, Biruté and her colleagues founded Orangutan Foundation International based in Los Angeles, USA to help support orangutan protection and research.

Biruté was the first to document that orangutans have the slowest reproductive rate of any land mammal—giving birth about once every eight years—and recorded over 400 different types of food consumed by them. She contributed to the release of more than 1,000 rehabilitated orangutans into the wild and has rescued and relocated an additional 200 wild orangutans into the wild.

Dr. Galdikas passed away in on March 24 in Los Angeles. Her main home was in Borneo, where she was laid to rest.



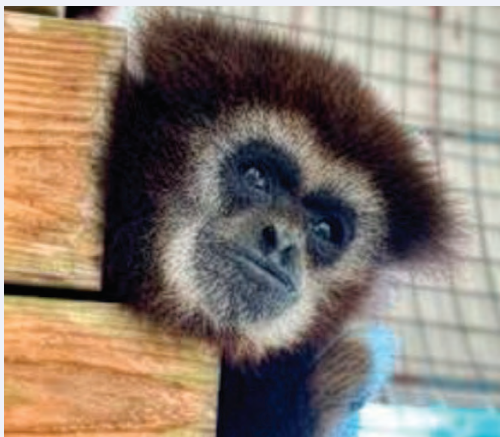
Farewell Peppy

By Jennifer Buchanan,
IPPL Director

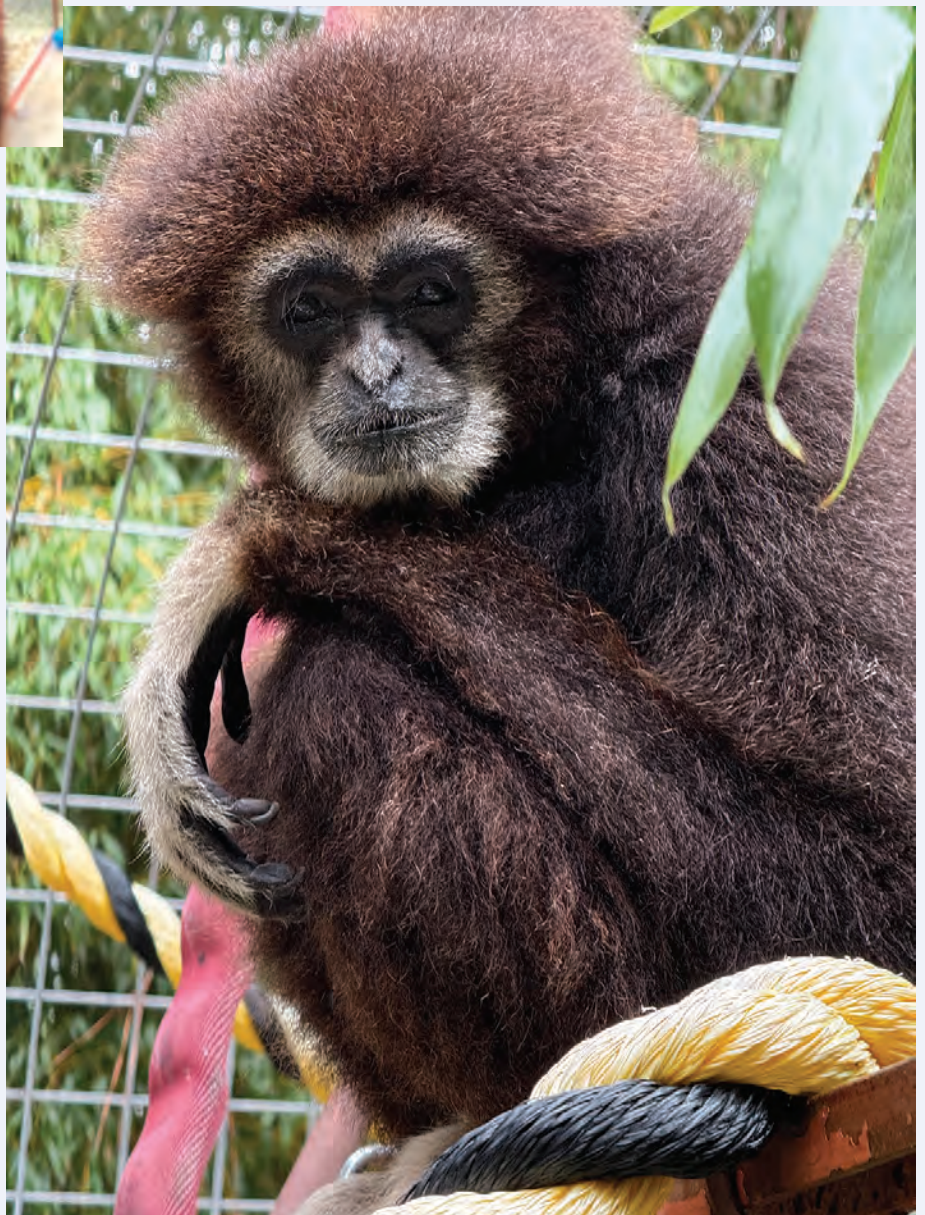


Peppy was a calm and gentle soul who had lived with us here at our sanctuary for the past 44 years. He arrived here in 1982 when he was only three years old with his almost lifelong mate, Helen, from the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP).

Affectionately known as “the one who got away,” Peppy was not originally intended to come to IPPL in 1982, but when IPPL staff arrived to pick up Helen, she was found cuddled next to another gibbon. Not wanting to separate this obviously bonded pair, the inquiry was made: “Could we also take him?” The lab director agreed, and Helen and Peppy came to IPPL together. They lived here happily together until Helen passed in 2017.



Since then, Peppy spent some time with two different females, but eventually settled in as a content bachelor. During his long residency at IPPL, Peppy endeared himself to his care staff. He was almost always sucking his thumb, a habit that began before his transfer to IPPL. He had slightly odd tastes for a gibbon; one of his favorite foods was celery. So much so that staff loved giving him an entire head of celery as enrichment and watching him tear into it, eating the tender heart first while vocalizing soft “oohs”.





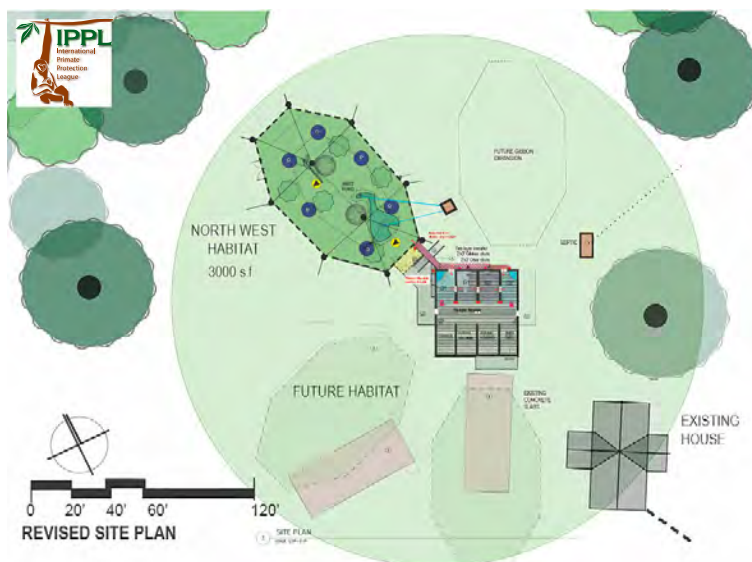
IPPL's Exciting Expansion and How You Can Help!



The concept for the new habitat is to create a vertical forest. It's designed to be as visually unobtrusive as possible, using high-tensile, flexible stainless steel wire rope mesh.

Listed below are the details and images.

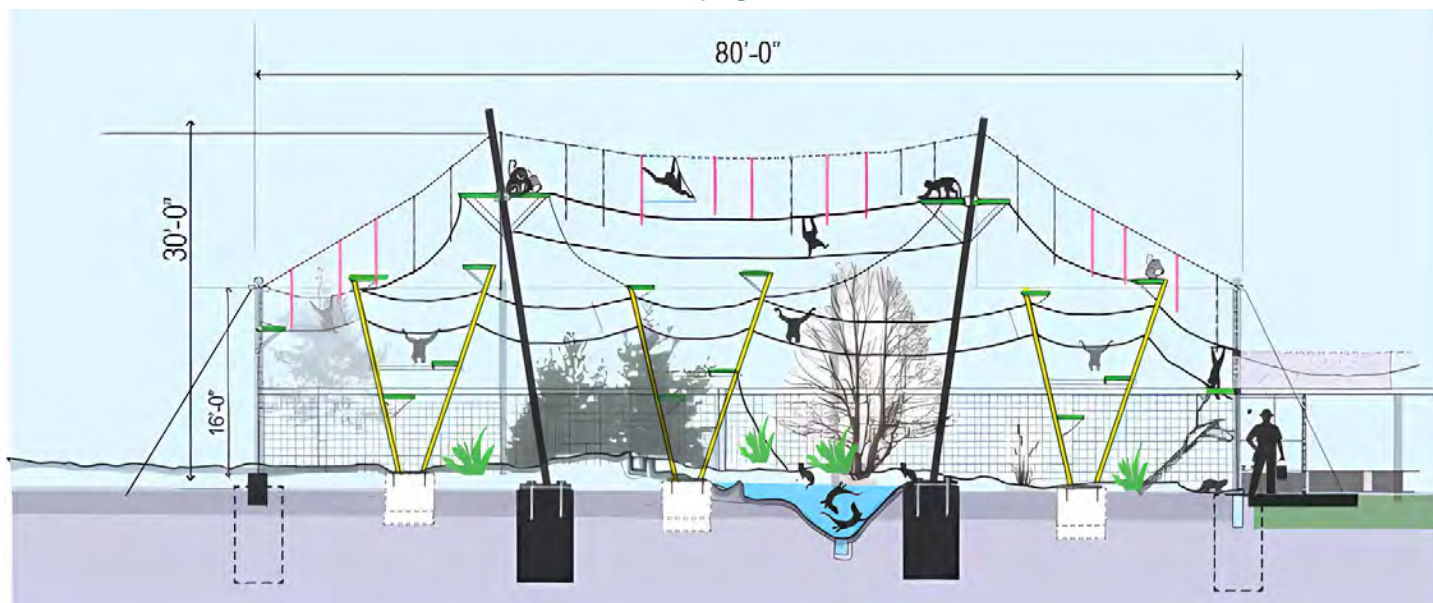
The Vertical Forest: The interior of the enclosure will be anchored by large, strategically placed structural posts that will act as the "trunks" of our forest. These posts will provide the foundation for a complex web of furniture, ropes, platforms, bamboo, and fire-hose swings, that we can customize and rotate to keep the environment fresh and engaging.



Designed for the Golden Years: Because our gibbons are predominantly geriatric, the design focuses on Senior-Friendly safety. We will mimic the complexity of a natural canopy using high-grip, durable materials and carefully planned pathways that will allow, particularly, our older gibbons to climb and swing with confidence and security.

A Foraging Garden: Unlike the floors in the current outdoor enclosures, the floor of the new habitat will be natural earth, not concrete. We will plant native, non-toxic flora and bushes that will be incorporated into the gibbons' nutrition plans, allowing them to forage at will.

We hope that you will want to be part of this important expansion by making a special donation!
(See page 37)



GENERAL LONG SECTION A

The Pipeline that Polio Built

By Lisa Jones-Engel, PhD

Chief Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation PETA

The pipeline that supplies monkeys to laboratories around the world did not emerge accidentally. It was built during the race to develop the polio vaccine, when hundreds of thousands of rhesus macaques were taken from forests and villages and shipped into research facilities across the globe. What began as an emergency scientific effort became a permanent international pipeline.

In the 1970s, Shirley McGreal began documenting the export of rhesus macaques from India, drawing attention to something the public rarely saw: the scale at which monkeys were being extracted from the wild and absorbed into a rapidly expanding experimentation system. Crates and burlap bags moved out of forests and villages, across borders and oceans, and into laboratories demanding a constant supply of primates. At the time, the justification was a single word: *polio*.

What the Polio Era Created

For decades, the primate experimentation industry has relied on the same rhetorical shield: polio. Whenever the use of monkeys is questioned, the disease is invoked as proof that primate experimentation was indispensable and therefore remains justified today.

But the story repeatedly told about polio leaves out much of what the polio era actually created. If we are going to talk honestly about primate research, *past or present*, we have to be willing to tell the whole story.

Behind the triumph narrative promoted by the primate experimentation industry lies a far more complicated and cautionary history, one that normalized the capture, transport, confinement, breeding, and use of primates in laboratories around the world.

Early twentieth-century researchers, including Simon Flexner, relied on rhesus macaques to model the disease. Those experiments also helped entrench a mistaken understanding of how poliovirus spread in the body, delaying recognition that infection

occurred primarily through the gastrointestinal tract rather than the respiratory system. That misunderstanding shaped decades of research and slowed progress.

By the 1950s, rhesus macaques were no longer being used only in individual experiments. They were being used on an industrial scale. To sustain vaccine development, hundreds of thousands of monkeys were exported from India to laboratories around the world. Their kidney cells became the substrate for growing poliovirus. What began as discrete experiments became an integrated global system for acquiring and using primates.

Then came an unexpected discovery. In 1960, scientists including Bernice Eddy and Maurice Hilleman discovered that rhesus kidney cell cultures used in vaccine production were contaminated with Simian Virus 40, a naturally occurring monkey virus. Between 1955 and 1963, millions of people were likely exposed through polio vaccines produced using those cells. The full implications remain debated today.

But viruses and other pathogens have long circulated at the rhesus macaque-human interface. In 2004, my first National Institutes of Health grant took me into South Asia to sample rhesus macaques after polio-like viruses detected in sick children appeared closely related to viruses found in rhesus macaques connected to the massive export era from India.

A System that Moves More than Monkeys

Long before terms like “biosecurity” entered public discussion, the global primate trade was already moving microbial worlds across borders. In their natural habitats, rhesus macaques and other primates are part of complex ecosystems where pathogens, hosts, and environments have evolved together over time. That balance changes when animals are removed and transported.

The pipeline did not stop with rhesus macaques. Monkeys and apes from across the world were swept into the trade.



In transport systems and laboratory settings, viruses, bacteria, and parasites that would not otherwise have encountered one another were brought into close contact. These conditions created opportunities for cross-species transmission, recombination, and spread.

These risks were not well understood in the early years, and systems to manage them did not yet exist. Standardized quarantine protocols were limited, and worker exposures occurred. Modern biosecurity measures emerged reactively, shaped by outbreaks and the recognition that the primate trade was moving more than animals.

Reconsidering the Pipeline

Reading decades of IPPL newsletters today is striking not because the warnings feel outdated, but because so many of them still feel immediate: wildlife extraction, disease risks, transport deaths, confinement, and the constant insistence that the system remains necessary. Fifty years later, the geography has shifted and the species have changed, but the machinery of the pipeline remains largely intact.

Shirley McGreal's work contributed to the closure of rhesus macaque exports from India, dismantling one of the largest supply routes in history. But the pipeline adapted rather than



PRIMATE ACT

Preventing Risky Importation of Monkeys to Avoid Toxic Exposures

HR 8471



A rhesus macaque, tattooed for identification

disappeared. New sourcing networks emerged, and the trade expanded.

However, over time a different kind of international network emerged, an expanding ecosystem of primate scientists, whistleblowers, journalists, conservationists, sanctuary operators, attorneys, public health experts, and advocacy organizations began documenting what moved through that pipeline: animal suffering, wildlife depletion, disease outbreaks, pathogen transmission, transport deaths, and scientific failures.

Long-tailed macaques are now classified as Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, reflecting growing recognition of the pressure the trade has placed on wild populations. And recently introduced bipartisan legislation, the PRIMATE Act (Preventing Risky Importation of Monkeys to Avoid Toxic Exposures Act), would ban the importation of primates for use in experimentation in the United States.

The global primate experimentation pipeline was built in an era defined by urgency. Now, for the first time in generations, that system is being examined

not as an unquestioned scientific legacy, but as an ongoing source of biological risk, institutional opacity, and global consequence.

JOB OPENINGS AT IPPL'S BEAUTIFUL GIBBON SANCTUARY!

If you have the skills we are looking for - you could be joining a great team working in unique surroundings while being serenaded by our charismatic gibbons!

Facilities and Maintenance Manager: The Facilities and Maintenance Manager leads the maintenance team at IPPL and works closely with the Curator of Animal Care and the Sanctuary Director to ensure the animals have the environment they need to thrive. While remaining highly hands-on, this position serves as the primary point of contact for day-to-day activities, ensuring optimal facility function and the safety and well-being of our primate residents.

Maintenance Technicians: Our Maintenance Technicians provide essential hands-on support to ensure the safety, functionality, and beauty of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) sanctuary. Reporting directly to the Facilities and Maintenance Manager, this role is responsible for the daily execution of repairs, habitat upkeep, and grounds maintenance.

Maintenance Technicians play a vital role in creating a secure and comfortable environment for our resident primates through technical skills and dedication.

These positions require a 40-hour work week, including some weekend work and the ability to respond to emergencies outside of regular hours.

Up to 10 days of PTO | Holiday pay OR paid time off on holidays.

To view complete job descriptions, please visit our website at

<https://ippl.org/about-us/employment/>

Then send resumes and cover letters to www.ippl.org.



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Our best selling T-shirt in new colors:

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More IPPL gibbon stickers are on our website

Please shop our online store for more merchandise and information

www.ippl.org/store

Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- Steven Baer in remembrance of Nancy Baer
- Jad Belmoumen in honor of George, Cacao, and Bobby
- Victoria Byrd in memory of Helen and Peppy
- Bradley Craddock for Dorothy
- Elizabeth Leighton in honor of Courtney
- Friedrich Wendl in memory of Tong

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.



Louie-Louie, came from a private foundation

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 Donation Form – Will You Help Us?



As IPPL embarks on the costly major expansion of our sanctuary, we are asking that you please become a part of this innovative endeavor by making a special donation. Your gift will enrich the lives of our gibbons and otters for years to come. You may also donate on IPPL's secure website <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 donate to IPPL's Expansion ☐

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.

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

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

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

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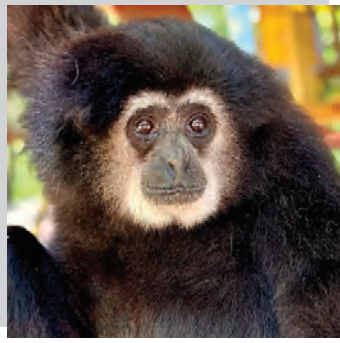
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ALL IPPL GIBBONS ARE NOW “SYMBOLICALLY” AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



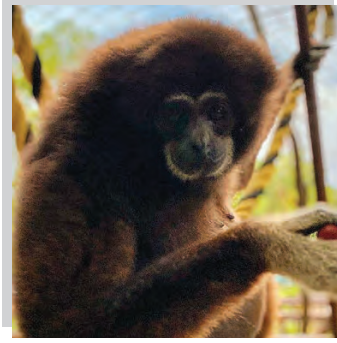
Ahimsa

Ahimsa was the first gibbon born at IPPL! He was born to Shanti and her mate Arun Rangsi. Ahimsa was a surprise baby, as his dad had been isolation-reared in a lab and was not expected to breed.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/ahimsa/>



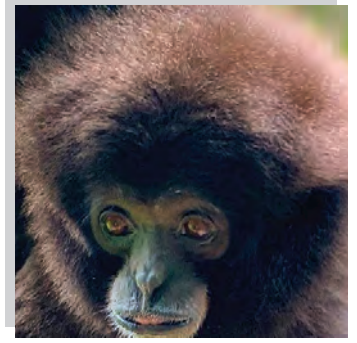
Courtney

Courtney was a “surprise baby” born here at IPPL. Her mother Michelle never showed that she was pregnant, and her father, Maui, had supposedly been vasectomized. Sadly, at just 12 days old, her mother attacked her.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/courtney/>



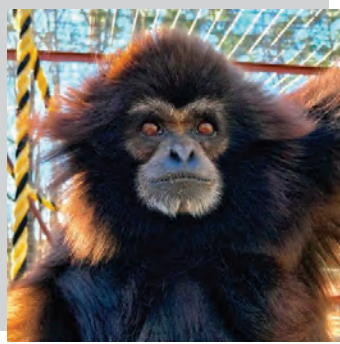
Dianne

Dianne is one of our more reserved gibbons. She is daughter to IPPL's own Arun Rangsi and Shanti, so she spent her young life living in a normal gibbon family with her parents and siblings.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/dianne/>



Elsa

Elsa is one of the many children of IPPL's Arun Rangsi and Shanti. When she grew up, she was placed with Nicholas, a former zoo gibbon. They are one of our cutest couples as they frequently groom, cuddle, and play together.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/elsa/>



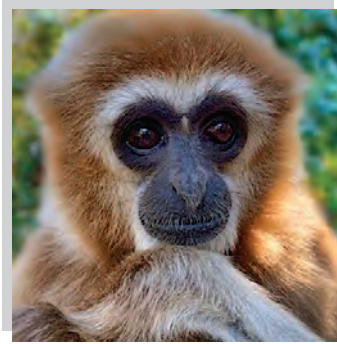
Erin

Originally from the Hattiesburg Zoo in Mississippi, Erin was sent to a sanctuary in Texas when aggression broke out in her zoo family group and she had to have her right foot and lower leg amputated.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/erin/>



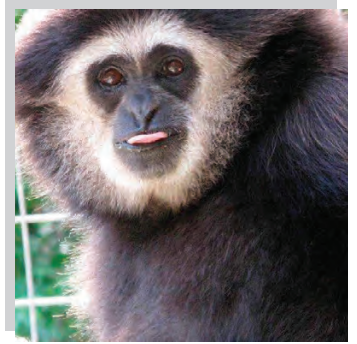
Gary

Gary arrived at IPPL in 2013 with his mate Glenda, daughter Kendra, and son Thai. They had been living in a tourist attraction that was closing. Gary is a petite, blond gibbon with lustrous pale fur.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/gary/>



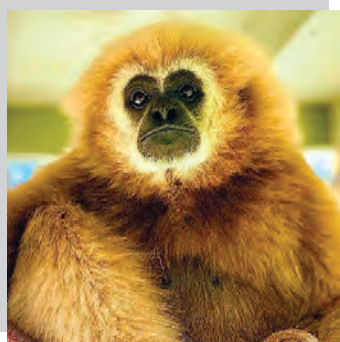
Gideon

Gideon was born at a Nebraska zoo on January 11, 1995. He lived with his brother in an unusual zoo setting. It was an indoor mixed species exhibit. After his brother died the zoo tried to pair Gideon with one of their female gibbons.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/gideon/>



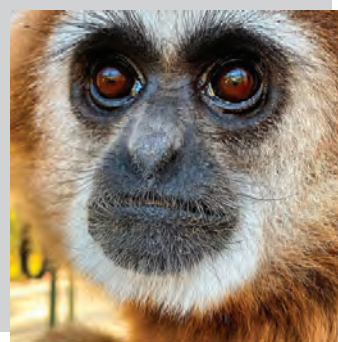
Louie-Louie

Louie-Louie came to IPPL with his elderly parents Cleon and Clementine (now deceased) in October 1991 from the Lube Foundation in Florida, after the death of the establishment's owner.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/louie-louie/>



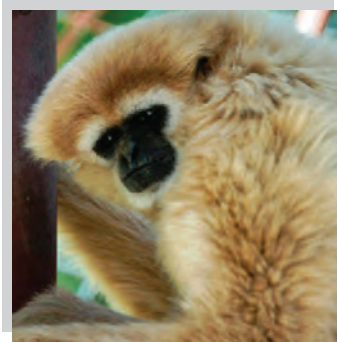
Maui

Maui came to IPPL in March of 1996 with his parents Jade and Palu-Palu from the Maui Zoo, which was being closed due to its violations of the Animal Welfare Act. After reaching maturity, we paired him with tempestuous Michelle.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/maui/>



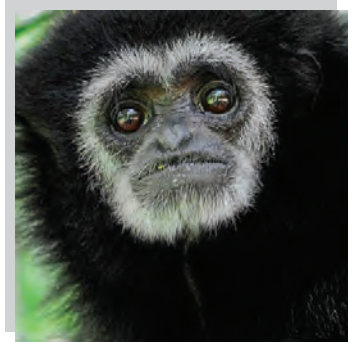
Maynard

Maynard arrived at IPPL on October 30, 2009. He had been living at a small sanctuary for rescued animals of all species in Washington State. A former pet, he was surrendered to this facility, where he lived for four years.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/maynard/>



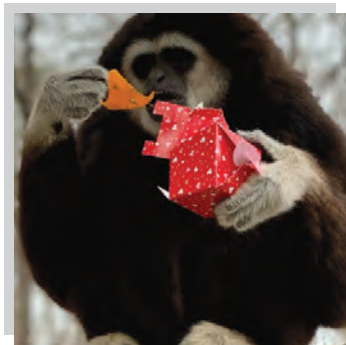
Nicholas

Nicholas arrived at IPPL in April 1993. An Illinois zoo had sent him to another zoo in the Midwest, but they returned him after just six months. Nicholas was kept off-exhibit in an indoor aviary shared with birds of prey.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/nicholas/>



Paen

Paen, a petite white-handed gibbon came from a zoo in the northwest. She and her two sisters were in zoos most of their lives and were companions the entire time.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/paen/>



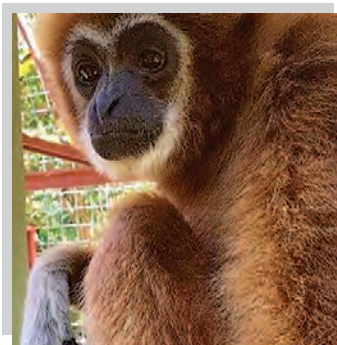
Robbie

Robbie was born here at IPPL. His mother was E.T. who came from a New York laboratory as a baby along with her elderly parents, Penny and Blackie.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/robbie/>



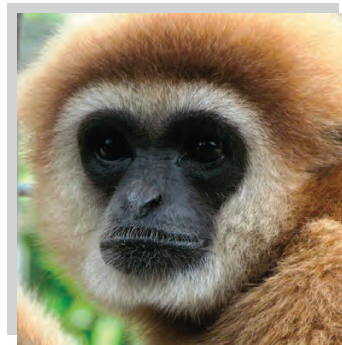
Snowy

Snowy is originally from a wildlife park in southern Florida where he lived with his mate and a few offspring. As his male children grew up they showed signs that they needed to be separated.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/snowy/>



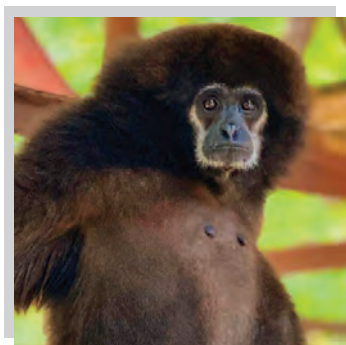
Scrappy

Scrappy and his mate Uma were brought to IPPL in March of 2007 from a sanctuary in Texas. We were informed that Scrappy and Uma had been sent to Texas in 1993 from the Glen Oak Zoo in Peoria.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/scrappy/>



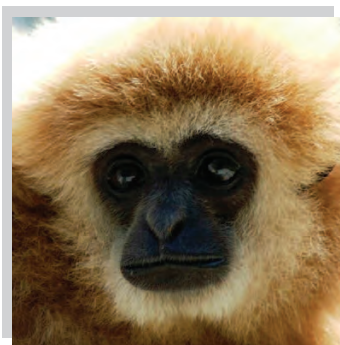
Spanky

Spanky is one of the unfortunate primates bred in the U.S. for the pet trade. He was purchased as a birthday present by a family when he was eight months old and was intended to be a companion for a female gibbon they already owned.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/spanky/>



Speedy

Speedy is one of Arun Rangsi and Shanti's children, and she was born after Arun Rangsi's first vasectomy failed. Gibbon vasectomies are a tricky process and are sometimes left unfinished which means that the males can still breed.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/speedy/>



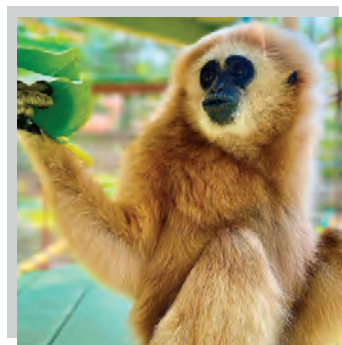
Thai

Thai arrived at IPPL on May 13, 2013 along with his big sister Kendra and parents Gary and Glenda. They came to us when the Silver Springs, Florida tourist attraction where Thai was born was being closed.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/thai/>



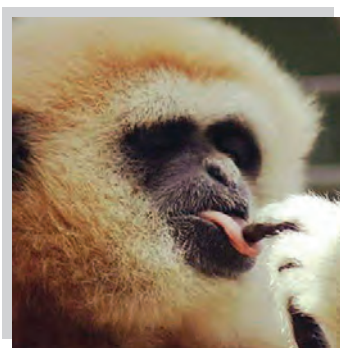
Val

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 & fell on hard times.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/val/>



Whoop-Whoop

Whoop-Whoop came to IPPL in March 2007 from another sanctuary where he had lived for four years. Before that, Whoop-Whoop had been used for research at a notorious primate lab in Louisiana.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/whoop-whoop/>



Ziggy

Ziggy arrived at IPPL in 2007. He came with his mate Erin and daughter Cathy from a Texas sanctuary that was undergoing reorganization. Prior to that, he had lived at the Dallas Zoo. His records show that he lost some fingers to frostbite while there.... See more <https://ippl.org/gibbons/ziggy/>

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



PRINTED MATTER

Meet Scrappy: The Old Man with a Big Personality

By Krystal Lightell, Animal Care Technician



Scrappy

Today, Scrappy enjoys keeping a watchful eye on his caregivers from the comfort of his tube, spending time with Paen, and interacting with enrichment. He is especially motivated when food or music is involved. An adventurous eater, Scrappy eagerly samples new foods that many of the other gibbons are reluctant to try. He also enjoys listening to classical music while caregivers clean and will often sing along!

Scrappy's story highlights the importance of IPPL's mission. For nearly two decades, he has called IPPL home, and at 51 years old, he is our oldest resident. His longevity is a testament to both his resilience and the exceptional care he receives here at IPPL.

Every resident at the International Primate Protection League has a unique story, and Scrappy is no exception. Scrappy, like our other residents, is a white-handed gibbon, an endangered species native to Southeast Asia. True to his name, Scrappy is full of personality, making him a joy to work with amongst our staff.

Scrappy began his life as a pet before he eventually was sent to a sanctuary in Texas. In March 2007, Scrappy, his mate Uma and ten other gibbons known as the Texas 12, arrived at IPPL. After Uma passed away in October 2018, Scrappy was introduced to Paen in March 2019, and this happy pair have been together since then.

Scrappy has developed special relationships with his caregivers and is known for enjoying gentle interactions. Like many gibbons, he is incredibly curious and always interested in investigating anything within reach. His inquisitive personality keeps the staff on their toes and makes him a memorable member of the IPPL family.



Paen and Scrappy enjoying another great day at IPPL!