



IPPL

International
Primate
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League

News

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A Message from Deborah

Dear IPPL Friends

In our first issue of IPPL *News* for 2024, we would like to share some news with our friends and donors. We are going to announce our new Shirley McGreal Memorial Award to be given each year to some deserving individual working for Primates. This will be another of Shirley's legacy for primates into the future. We will be sharing this exciting news at the meeting, April 12, 13 & 14. It will be IPPL's first biennial meeting since 2018 when they were canceled due to COVID-19. These will be three busy days at our sanctuary as we share presentations by many of Shirley's friends and colleagues, tour the sanctuary and greet some of our friends. Our summer issue of IPPL *News* will cover all the special presentations planned from people as far away as Africa, Asia and South America.

IPPL has also begun reaching out to local colleges and universities to develop ongoing relationships with these institutions to begin our new facet of education into the future. I am happy to say we are having very good response and next semester, will be hosting a class from the Citadel, studying cognition as guests to observe our gibbons and otters as a work/study project. We are thrilled to be able to contribute to the next generation in this manner. These are exciting times for IPPL as we help to cultivate the next generation of environmentalists and conservationists.

In this issue of our newsletter, we are happy to have articles contributed by Chanee, co-founder of Kalaweit, who tells of rescued gibbon babies returned to the wild as adults; Roxane Chantareau, co-founder of J.A.C.K., with another life-saving primate rescue assisted by Ofir Drori and the EAGLE Network; Ian Redmond, an IPPL board member, who reports on the GRASP meeting held in Paris last December; Anna Nekaris, director of Little Fireface Project (and an esteemed member of a small group of people being honored this spring by King Charles with the Order of the British Empire for her incredible efforts on behalf of primates!), who will be sharing with us their participation in a Freedom to Learn Initiative; and Siân Evans, also an IPPL board member, who writes of the alarming situation with long-tailed macaques in Cambodia.

Sadly, we include a few Farewells to our Shanti gibbon, Ponso the chimpanzee, and three very important primatological figures.

We hope you enjoy these articles and news of our successful 2024 IPPL Meeting will be the feature of our next issue!

Sincerely,



Deborah Misotti
Chairperson, Board of Directors



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IPPL News

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About the Cover



The article "The Concerning Future of Long-tailed Macaques" describes how these primates are captured from the wild and then sent to breeding farms in Cambodia (most owned by a company registered in Hong Kong). The suggestion was that wild-caught long-tailed macaques were being comingled with captive-born individuals and exported to the United States. The number of macaques involved in the legal and illegal trade is considerable. In 2019, Cambodia exported almost 15,000 monkeys. Three years later, the number rose to 38,000 and the value of the Cambodian export business soared. Read this disturbing story on 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, 26 gibbons (the smallest of the apes) live in happy retirement.

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

IPPL *News* is published
three times a year.

The Concerning Future of Long-tailed Macaques

By Siân Evans, IPPL Board of Directors



It was at the 1998 International Primatological Society meeting in Madagascar that I recall walking between presentations with Dr. Ardith Eudey, the cofounder of IPPL. She expressed her concern that there was a very real threat to the number of long-tailed macaques in nature. While she didn't go into details, the thought of using these macaques in biomedical research was at the top of my mind.

Over 25 years later, IPPL was a co-organizer of a side event at CITES (the international organization that regulates the trade in endangered species) in Panama, where long-tailed macaques and their future in the wild were once more being discussed. Ian Redmond and I participated in this side event where alarming information was shared about a catastrophic decrease in the number of these macaques. This time there was no question that the capture of these macaques for biomedical research was the primary concern. The subject became extremely newsworthy when the Cambodian delegate to CITES was arrested in New York en route to CITES for the trafficking of these primates (see *IPPL News*, Spring and Holiday issues, 2023). The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) now regards long-tailed macaques as endangered. Consequently, CITES is reevaluating their status which would have a large impact

on the use of long-tailed macaques in biomedical research. This reevaluation is largely in response to information supplied by the Long Tailed Macaque Project, an IPPL Global Partner.

Recently, the topic of “monkey laundering” has surfaced in the popular media Bloomberg.com (Franklin, 2024). The article by Franklin describes how long-tailed macaques are captured in Cambodia's forests and even national parks. The capture is reported as stalking wild long-tailed macaques in Cambodia and transferring them to breeding colonies (monkey farms). While the export of captive-born macaques from Cambodia into the US is permitted, it is clear that wild monkeys are being smuggled directly from Cambodia into the US.

Macaques, captured from the wild, are sent to breeding farms in Cambodia (most of which are owned by a company registered in Hong Kong) and the suggestion was that wild-caught long-tailed macaques were being commingled with captive-born individuals and exported to the United States. Cambodian officials are accused of creating fake identity papers for the monkeys, listing them as captive-born when they in fact were captured in the wild. The Bloomberg article refers to this as monkey identity theft. The motivation for exporting these alleged shipments was the severe shortage of long-tailed macaques for biomedical



A monkey breeding farm in Cambodia

(by Vanny Group in Pursat) Bloomberg.com/video: Anton L. Delgado

research because of a) an increase in demand for vaccine development and b) a ban on the export of long-tailed macaques from China, which until the Pandemic had been an important source of these monkeys. With that ban, the price of a long-tail macaque jumped from \$3,000 apiece to over \$50,000.

The number of macaques involved in the legal and illegal trade is considerable. In 2019, Cambodia exported almost 15,000 monkeys according to the United Nations Comtrade database. A short three years later, the number rose to 38,000 and the value of the Cambodian export business soared from an estimated \$34 million to \$253 million. Big Pharma, which uses the monkeys by the thousands to develop vaccines and drugs, is paying a hefty price for each monkey, but such are the vagaries of this industry and so far the companies are absorbing the increased costs. One of the distributors of these shipments of long-tailed macaques in the United States is Worldwide

Primates Inc. of Miami founded by a figure well-known to IPPL supporters, Matthew Block.

The upshot of all these supply issues is that biomedical



A monkey with an identity tag.

When a captive-bred monkey dies, its tag and its history can be illegally transferred to a wild-caught monkey.

Source: Cruelty Free International

facilities are desperately searching for long-tailed macaques. Ways of resolving this problem include replacing long-tailed macaques with nonanimal models for vaccine development and drug testing (but this is a long way off). Establishing domestic breeding colonies in the US. Expansion of existing breeding colonies is also a possibility and there has been recent activity in the establishment of new monkey breeding facilities, the most notable one in Georgia meant to house 30,000 monkeys. This proposed facility in Georgia is, not surprisingly, being met with stiff local resistance. This is clearly a developing story

and IPPL supporters will be kept updated in IPPL News as this very concerning story unfolds.

Franklin, J. Animal testing for vaccines relies on a cruel monkey supply chain. Bloomberg.com. 4 March 2024

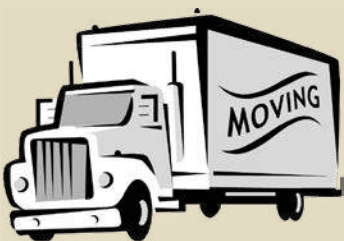
This Year We Celebrated A Milestone Birthday for Gibby!



On March 13 Gibby turned 65! Born in the wild and taken from his mother who had been killed, it's hard to believe that was 14 years before IPPL was formed!

After surviving decades of horror as a research animal, Gibby was sent to a sanctuary in 2003. Four years later, when that facility was experiencing financial difficulties, he came to IPPL. Finally, this little gibbon was about to enjoy a wonderful life.

Today, Gibby has been at IPPL for 16 happy years. This spunky little gibbon, who still enjoys birthdays, is believed to be the oldest lar gibbon living in captivity!



Moving Soon? Let Us Know!

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

Africa's Largest Monkey Seizure Welcomed at J.A.C.K. Sanctuary in Democratic Republic of Congo

By Roxane Chantareau, Co-founder of J.A.C.K.



Primates received rehydration salts and vitamins upon arrival

A few days before the end of 2023 and shortly before Christmas, we welcomed the arrival of 40 rescued monkeys seized in Togo. The animals were confiscated during an anti-fraud operation carried out in West Africa by Togolese authorities and Ofir Drori, founder of Eagle Network, a wildlife investigation organization, who intercepted these monkeys illegally trafficked from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Thailand.

Once boxes were opened, two decomposing monkey corpses were found in their cages by law enforcement officers in Togo.

Franck Chantareau, President of J.A.C.K., said: "We appreciate the collaboration between the governments of Togo and the DRC, who quickly repatriated the animals within days of their seizure." On December 22, the surviving monkeys were welcomed into the J.A.C.K. sanctuary.

This repatriation was unexpected. We had to mobilize our partners to raise emergency funds to bring these monkeys back to the DRC at the Rehabilitation Center, to give them appropriate care according to the condition that each individual was in.

Additional staff, including a surrogate mother, were needed to care for the babies. Their arrival at J.A.C.K. during the end-of-year festivities in 2023 was, in a way, their Christmas present, because who knew if they'd ever be able to survive?

The International Primate Protection League (IPPL) was one of the first partners to respond to our request to help the monkeys confiscated in Togo by releasing emergency funds to launch this life-saving operation for these orphaned primates.

As soon as the survivors arrived from Togo, our veterinary team took matters into their own hands to intervene as quickly as possible. Each individual was meticulously examined, rehydrated and then underwent initial surgery if necessary. However, Dr. Calvin found two very alarming cases that needed extra care.

A black-crested Mangabey had an open wound on the back of its skull. It caused a lesion in its brain that became infected. It and took several days to drain and remove the infection. The baby monkey was put on antibiotics immediately to begin the healing process.

A baby baboon named Julia had a bullet fragment in her skull bone.



Julia

This had put pressure on the brain, affecting not only Julia's locomotion but also her sight and hearing. Baby Julia had become blind, deaf, and had great difficulty moving around. We planned surgery to remove the bullet fragment but unfortunately, Julia died right before the intervention occurred. The impact had caused a lesion in her brain which was full of infection. It was obvious that even if we had been able to remove the fragment, she would not have survived. Julia gave her last breath in our arms. She is now at peace and no one will harm her anymore.

The conditions under which these primates had been caught in the forest were stressful with different species being put together in the same compartments. In the wild, these species usually kill each other. This caused them not only physical but also mental trauma.

Since then, thanks to the veterinarian team and keepers Papa Victor, and Maman Mireille, everyone is getting better. The animals have understood that they are in good hands.

More than a month later, the wounds have healed, and those who were aggressive on arrival have calmed down thanks to the hard work of the J.A.C.K. team.

Since 2021 and the repatriation of monkeys seized in Zimbabwe, the Togolese confiscation and repatriation of Congolese primates has become the largest that has ever happened in Africa.

Thanks to our partners, sponsors and the generous help of the International Primate Protection League, we have been able to bring them back to their country of origin to start a better life.



Being fed after rescue



Rescued with injuries



Monkeys in horrid crates



Traffickers put holes in transport "boxes" so primates could breathe

Captured as Babies in the Wild, Adult Gibbons Regain Freedom Thanks to Kalaweit

Provided by Chaneë, Founder of Kalaweit from a recent press release

Captured as babies in the wild and held illegally for years, adult gibbons regained freedom thanks to the rehabilitation work carried out by Kalaweit Association.

On October 23, 2023, eight families of agile gibbons were transferred to the slopes of Mount Marapi in Sumatra by the Kalaweit team for release. These primates had spent years in our care at Kalaweit, and it's a delicate operation. Their journey back to freedom was a lengthy process that carries risks, but the association has already successfully released siamang couples.

Massive deforestation complicating releases

In Borneo and Sumatra, Kalaweit rescues gibbons, siamangs, and other species victimized by wildlife trafficking and releases those that can be. It's a major source of frustration for the Kalaweit team to see these animals in its care centers; they should have never ended up there.

With the deforestation affecting Borneo and Sumatra, it's extremely challenging to find an ideal site with suitable and sustainable food resources for the animals in the long term, one that is not threatened by deforestation. The site is exceptional, and the families selected for release have been carefully chosen.

After months of scouting, a site has been identified on the southwest of the island, on the slopes of Mount Marapi in the West Sumatra province. It's a 6,000-hectare (14,826 acres) state reserve devoid of gibbons and siamangs, and it boasts a sufficiently diverse range of plant species for the animals' sustenance (as confirmed by a botanical study conducted by the University of Padang). This operation requires significant human and financial resources and adheres to the recommendations of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Gibbon Rehabilitation Expert Group.

The stages of the release

July/August: Construction of acclimatization enclosures and the transfer of animals to the site, a journey lasting 4 hours. It involves transporting the necessary materials (wood, fencing, etc.) for the construction of the enclosures and renting vehicles for the transfer of animals from the Kalaweit care center to the release site.

September: Arrival of the team, comprising veterinarians, caretakers, and Indonesian volunteers, who will observe the adaptation of each gibbon pair. Gradually, the animals will need to establish their territory and learn to forage for themselves. The monitoring will last a minimum of one year and will continue beyond that with a reduced team.

An NGO on the ground

Chaneë, the founder of Kalaweit, is native from the south of France and has been living in Indonesia since 1998, dedicating himself to the preservation of biodiversity. His unwavering commitment to this cause has been the driving force behind Kalaweit's mission.

Currently, Kalaweit's care centers provide refuge for 380 animals, primarily gibbons and siamangs. In addition to their care efforts, the NGO actively acquires forested hectares to establish protected areas. Already, 2020 hectares (4992 acres) have been safeguarded.

Indonesia is losing an area equivalent to six football fields of forest every minute to make way for palm oil plantations. Gibbons and siamangs are exclusively arboreal, and if the trees are cut, they too will vanish.

To sustain its vital work, the organization requires €500,000 (\$545,912) annually to cover its operational expenses. Kalaweit is a presence not only in France but also in Belgium and Switzerland.



A pair of gibbons in their acclimatization enclosure



Veterinary check-up of Gibbon at Kalaweit Camp in Sumatra



Transport of equipment to the site

Exciting update on the gibbon release in Sumatra where eight couples have been successfully reintroduced into the wild

By Chanee

It's a victory for the preservation of these iconic species. But as always, the path to freedom has not been without challenges.

While we anticipated the usual difficulties associated with rehabilitating animals – such as adapting to their natural environment, the risks of descending to the ground, or the lack of forest exploration – we were met with an unexpected surprise. The fruiting season worked in favor of the gibbons, rendering them incredibly independent in record time. Within just a week of their release, some of these primates were already visiting the feeding platforms less regularly.

However, our most unexpected challenge came in the form of a volcanic eruption. Located on the slopes of an active volcano, our release site was affected by an eruption, plunging us into a state of permanent stress. Fortunately, we were sufficiently distant from the crater (over 5 kilometers or 3 miles) to avoid evacuation, but we had to contend with ash showers that disrupted our operations. Despite this, the gibbons appeared largely unaffected, bravely continuing their exploration of their new environment.

After two months, the gibbons ceased returning to the acclimation aviaries altogether, opting instead to explore the heights of the reserve, albeit closer to the crater. Our teams now find themselves at an impasse, unable to follow

these primates into this part of the Gunung Merapi reserve. Nevertheless, this challenge is a testament to the success of our endeavor, as these gibbons have swiftly established their own territory, free from the pressures of other individuals of their species already present in the forest.

The success of our release method, which involves waiting for all couples to vocalize – a crucial means of communication among them – before simultaneously opening all aviaries, cannot be denied. This approach has prevented any conflicts between couples, greatly facilitating their integration into their new habitat. We will continue to monitor them for the next six months.

However, our joy is tempered by the realization that such ideal release sites are rare to find, especially in Borneo, where many animals await their return to freedom. We struggle to find forest areas devoid of wild gibbon populations, which is essential for ensuring the success of our reintroduction program.

Despite these challenges, nothing compares to the happiness we feel in restoring the freedom of these magnificent creatures, especially when everything unfolds so harmoniously. I want to express my gratitude to IPPL for its unwavering support over the years. I know Shirley would have been particularly delighted to hear such news.

Primateology Loses Important Figures

In the first few months of 2024, primatology lost some very important figures; a field worker who documented the social lives of chimpanzees, a pioneering scientist and well-known author who nudged humans to reconsider their uniqueness and a legal advocate for the rights of animals including primates.



Photo: Mays-Mays Entertainment 2

Christophe Boesch

11 August 1951 – 14 January 2024

Dr. Boesch was a French-Swiss primatologist who studied chimpanzees. He wrote two books, *Wild Cultures: A Comparison between Chimpanzee and Human Cultures* and *The Real Chimpanzee: Sex Strategies in the Forest* and co-authored many more.

Boesch's first field experience in 1973 was conducting census work on the mountain gorillas in Rwanda's Virunga National Park under Dian Fossey. He was the founder of the Tai Chimpanzee Project in the 1970s as well as the Director of the Primatology department of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany from 1997 until his recent retirement. It is impossible to overstate his impact

on our understanding on wild chimpanzees, their different cultures and his work to protect them. Christophe's work on different cultures of chimpanzees is directly relevant to content presented by Ian Redmond (see article page 15).

In 2000, Dr. Boesch founded the Wildlife Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) to focus on protecting chimpanzees and other wildlife by preserving and protecting their habitat. To date, WCF has engaged local communities to protect land in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea. His work continues through his students, colleagues and the many people who are inspired by his tremendous accomplishments.

Article from Nature (link will work when this issue is posted on IPPL's website) <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00638-z>



Photo by Ying Tang/NurPhoto via AP web

Frans de Waal

29 October 1948 – 14 March 2024

Emory University primatologist Frans de Waal who pioneered studies of animal cognition while also writing best-selling books that helped popularize the field around the globe passed away March 14, 2024.

De Waal, a Charles Howard Candler Professor Emeritus of Psychology and former director of the Living Links Center for the Advanced Study of Ape and Human Evolution at the Emory National Primate Research Center, was 75.

From his groundbreaking 1982 book *Chimpanzee Politics: Power and Sex Among Apes* to 2019's *Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us About Ourselves*,

de Waal shattered long-held ideas about what it means to be an animal and a human.

"One thing that I've seen often in my career is claims of human uniqueness that fall away and are never heard from again," de Waal said in 2014. "We always end up overestimating the complexity of what we do. That's how you can sum up my career: I've brought apes a little closer to humans but I've also brought humans down a bit."

De Waal retired from Emory in 2019 but remained active. He continued writing, publishing *Different: Gender Through the Eyes of a Primatologist* in 2022.

Soundbites of Frans de Waal from NPR (link will work when this issue is posted on IPPL's website) <https://www.npr.org/2024/03/22/1240304854/remembering-frans-de-waal-who-studied-empathy-and-emotion-in-primates>



Source: WEBP File

Steven M. Wise

19 December 1950 – 15 February 2024

Steven Wise was an American lawyer and legal scholar who specialized in animal rights, primatology and animal intelligence.

Wise was the first president of the Animal Legal Defense Fund and served from 1985-1995. In 1995, he launched the Nonhuman Rights Project (NhRP) to address this core issue facing all animals and their advocates. The NhRP is the only civil rights organization in the United States dedicated solely to securing legal rights for nonhuman animals. After more than a decade of preparation, the NhRP filed first-of-their-kind lawsuits in 2013, demanding rights for four captive chimpanzees in New York State.

Wise had a long career of writing and, as the Nonhuman Rights Project announcement of his death put it, "teaching animal rights jurisprudence at law schools around the world, including Stanford Law School, the University of Miami Law School, St. Thomas University Law School, John Marshall Law School, Lewis & Clark Law School, Vermont Law School, Tel Aviv University, and the Autonomous University of Barcelona." Wise is the author of four books including *Rattling the Cage* and *Toward Legal Rights for Animals*.

Article from Artful (link will work when this issue is posted on IPPL's website) <https://artful.substack.com/p/a-well-lived-life-steven-m-wise-animal>

Little Fireface Project Invited to the Freedom to Learn Initiative

By Dr. Anna Nekaris, Professor of Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University, Director of Little Fireface Project

In 2020, Indonesia launched a new initiative Merdeka Mengajar, or Freedom to Learn. Initially as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Freedom to Learn platform provides an app allowing teachers all over the country to have access to teaching materials and methods. The success of this app, including in remote regions of the country's 6,000 populated islands, led to the government's continuance of it, as well as improvement of its offer. Key features

of the app include a variety of teaching materials to suit the technology and accessibility across Indonesia's diversely developed communities (for example, some may include colourful electronic films and PowerPoints, whilst offering black and white printable downloads for more remote places). The platform also offers discussion forums between teachers and students and caters to students' learning styles through different types of active assessment. Teachers can also collaborate with each other and share experiences via the app.

In August 2022, the Little Fireface Project team was invited by the Bakti Barito Foundation, an educational foundation focused on green and environmental learning to provide training to teachers for part of an education outreach program. In particular, they worked with Adiwiyata School programme in four elementary schools in Garut, whose main mission is to build a culture of environmentally conscious behaviour within schools. This included launching the programme through improving waste disposal, including a waste saving account, whereby students who recycle get credit towards their tuition fees. This collaboration led to our Education and Outreach Lead, Windi Bukit, provides training and curriculum ideas to 1000 teachers in Garut Regency. Our lessons were so well-received that Windi, along with our Head Research Assistant, Esther Adinda, were invited to Jakarta for further training on developing materials appropriate for the national curriculum and the correct way to upload these to the new app. In particular, the teachers were very impressed with our lessons directly linking conservation to biodiversity, which is an important new element in Indonesia's new national curriculum.



One year later in September 2023, our first lessons were uploaded to the app! The lessons were inspired by my children's book *Slow Loris Forest Protector* and fit within the biodiversity framework of the national curriculum. We are currently developing 16 lessons for children aged 10-11 covering ecosystem services provided by some of Indonesia's endemic animals. Working alongside a UK-based conservation educator and artist

Alison Tew who has decades of experience in developing place-based biodiversity lessons, we have been co-developing lessons





Blue Nocturnal Animals by Alison Tew

with Indonesian educators. What has been vital for us is to include animals that children may rarely learn about, yet which play vital roles in Indonesian ecosystems. Previously in Indonesia, many biodiversity lessons either covered non-endemic charismatic taxa (e.g., zebra and giraffes) or mainly megafauna from Indonesia itself (e.g., Komodo dragons, elephants, orangutans). In our curriculum, children learn about Javan palm civets, Javan scops owls, Indonesian short-nosed fruit bats, and of course, slow lorises! By avoiding exams, children experience learning in the classroom, but in every lesson are also encouraged to go outside and directly experience an aspect from the lesson. For example, instead of looking at an image of a flower and the parts engaged in pollination, they are encouraged to look at flowers on the grounds of their school, home garden or nearby forest.

Currently more than 2.6 million teachers have downloaded and used the app, and more than 731 thousand materials have been uploaded. This means that more than ever before, we can reach children and teachers across the country with vital conservation messages as well as

introducing them to unique and wonderful endemic species that are often overlooked as examples in ecology and conservation messaging. Our ultimate aim is to have our lessons start with the youngest classes (ages 5-6) with the lessons increasing in complexity for 15-16 year-olds. In this way, we may even be able to approach tougher and more complex topics such as wildlife trade. We will assess the impact of our first lessons alongside an island-wide survey in Java in 2024. If all goes well, and the lessons are used and well-received, our ultimate goal is to incorporate Indonesia's many primate species into the lessons. At the same time, considering the passionate hobby of songbird keeping across the country, we will also continue to integrate endemic bird species in the hopes that early knowledge and love for these species will lead to a reduction in trade.

It is truly exciting to be able to have access to thousands if not hundreds of thousands of students across the country. As other countries across the world increase the presence of biodiversity in their national curricula and align their national curricula alongside the sustainable development goals. We hope also that materials such as those we are creating now can be a guide, with species we choose to be replaced by other native species. After all, we can only love what we know and the more we can fight for underdog species, the greater chance that champions will emerge to ensure their protection!



Remembering Ponso the Chimpanzee

Facebook post provided by Alexandra Gazel with Friends of Ponso



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Ponso the chimpanzee who has been referred to as “the loneliest chimpanzee on earth” for decades. Ponso was discovered unresponsive on March 2.

Believed to be around 50, Ponso had been part of research conducted by the New York Blood Center’s laboratory in Robertsfield, Liberia. The lab was founded in 1975 and IPPL learned from a woman named Sonia Jeffrey, who was living in Liberia, that wild chimpanzees were being caught by darting and bought from dealers. The lab conducted disease experiments on its chimpanzees.

In 1983, Ponso was one of 20 chimpanzees the lab transferred to an island in the neighboring Ivory Coast. After 11 died, nine including Ponso, were moved to a smaller island. Five died shortly after the move. In 2013 Ponso’s female companion and their two offspring died within days of each other. Germain, the villager who had been feeding them, reported that Ponso

helped bury his family.

Ponso was suddenly alone and spent nearly three years in isolation on an island. In April 2016, Estelle Raballand of the Center for Chimpanzee Care, a sanctuary in Guinea that IPPL has been helping since 2005, visited Ponso’s island to examine him. He let her take blood samples and was shown to be healthy. In addition to Raballand’s frequent visits, Germain and his son Junior had continued to care for and feed Ponso until his passing.

“On Sunday, we decided to bury Ponso in the hot weather. In 2013, Germain had already buried Crécia (Ponso’s female) and Mimi (Crécia and Ponso’s daughter) in the presence of Ponso, who had imitated his gestures and helped him. Now it was Ponso’s turn to join his family on this lagoon island. Germain and Junior, accompanied by a friend, delicately wrapped the body of our friend. It was

with great sadness and gentleness that Ponso was buried on his island, where he will remain king forever.

“There is a hole in my heart. The love I have for him is still here and will remain until I die. I hope we will meet again so I can whisper in his ear to make him laugh.”

♥Estelle Raballand



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIURvpltoE> (link will be active when this issue is published on IPPL’s website)

Primates and the UN

By Ian Redmond, OBE and IPPL Board



Photo provided by UNESCO

The founding charter of the United Nations, drafted in 1945 out of the trauma of the Second World War, sought to create a structure to enable countries to live in peace. A glance at today's headlines indicates that we are far from achieving that lofty ideal but for all its faults, the UN does provide a mechanism for inter-governmental collaboration in tackling the world's problems – mostly from an anthropocentric viewpoint. What does it do for the other non-human primates that are of concern to IPPL members?

IPPL was founded in 1973 to speak up for apes, monkeys, lemurs, bushbabies and tarsiers, especially those taken from their natural habitat and sold for profit, whether as pets, as living test tubes in laboratories, trained for shows or used as photo-props. As a result, IPPL has been an accredited observer at almost every meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the UN's Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, which coincidentally was also established in 1973 and most recently met at CITES CoP19 in Panama in 2022. https://ippl.org/newsletter/2020s/IPPL_News_Spring2023.pdf#page=3.

The interlocking crises of climate change and biodiversity loss have resulted in their respective conventions being better known in recent years. Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

agreed at CBD CoP15 in Montreal in 2022 upon a Global Framework for conserving all species on earth <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022>.

Then there is GRASP, the UN Great Apes Survival Partnership, unique among UN bodies; it is dedicated to the conservation and long-term viability of great apes in their natural habitat in Africa and Asia. UN-GRASP hosted its third Council meeting at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, from the 11th to the 14th of December 2023 <https://www.un-grasp.org/grasp-council-meeting/>. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and funding constraints, the Council has not met since 2012.

The GRASP Council is made up of representatives from all GRASP partners, including great ape range states, donor governments, private sectors, non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations, and the host organisations of the GRASP Secretariat (UNEP and UNESCO). It is the highest decision-making body of this UN-led 'Type II Partnership' – unusual in that all partners have voting rights, whereas UN Conventions and Agencies allow only member governments to vote. GRASP was launched in 2001 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) as the Great Ape Survival Project following a

discussion the previous year between the Ape Alliance (a loose coalition of conservation and animal welfare NGOs www.4apes.com including IPPL) and the then Executive Director of UNEP, Dr Klaus Toepfer, on the alarming declines being reported for ape populations across Africa, Borneo and Sumatra. GRASP was registered as a Type II Partnership at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/johannesburg2002>, changing the P from Project to Partnership, and UNESCO joined as joint Secretariat. The organisation's history and key documents and publications can be found here <https://www.un-grasp.org/about-grasp/>. It was formally constituted at the first Intergovernmental Meeting on the Conservation of Great Apes and their Habitats, held in Kinshasa in September 2005, which included the First Council Meeting and out of which came the Kinshasa Declaration and the Global Strategy. The latter was revised in 2012 and is in need of further updates due to the landmark agreements on climate and biodiversity in recent years. Apes play an essential role as keystone species in the tropical rainforests of Africa and SE Asia - #GardenersoftheForest - which in turn are of global importance for climate stability and biodiversity.

The meeting included informative presentations and discussions on key great ape conservation issues such as great apes and health, innovative finance strategies to benefit communities living with great apes, large-scale development impacts, and illegal trade. The Council worked on developing a new business model and revising GRASP's rules and regulations. Working groups were set up to look into the issues related to illegal trade and also to develop a work plan for the GRASP secretariat and its partners, including the IUCN Primate Specialist Group, Section on Great Apes.

It was a successful and fruitful meeting of some of the most dedicated and passionate organisations and individuals in great ape conservation.

are listed on the Appendices. This is because where international borders cut through contiguous ape habitat in Africa, some gorilla groups and chimpanzee communities will predictably move back and forth across the border. Clearly there must be some coordination and

cooperation between the governments concerned to protect them. In February this year, the CMS Parties met in the historic crossroads city of Samarkand, hosted by

Ian Redmond making an intervention



Photo: by IISD/ENB|Kiara Worth

the Government of Uzbekistan, for CMS CoP14. I have attended CMS meetings since 2010 as CMS Ambassador but this time was delighted to be asked to represent the Born Free Foundation. I joined more than 2,000 delegates from around the

other species; and important resolutions on 'cross-cutting issues' such as climate change, ecotourism, wildlife health and zoonotic diseases were on the table. [The Born Free Policy Team](#) worked for weeks beforehand to prepare suggested amendments to the draft decisions and resolutions, and I had the honour to make several interventions based on this work, most of which were well-received and endorsed (sometimes with modifications) by the Parties.

When Parties had divergent views, they were instructed to hash out their differences in Working Groups during lunchtimes and evenings and present a revised text for consideration in a later session. One by one, more than 100 documents were presented, debated, revised and eventually adopted on the final day by the Plenary, chaired by Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, Uzbekistan's Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change. After checking there were no objections to each decision in turn, he struck the gavel saying it is hereby adopted – thereby bringing the



Photo by IISD/ENB|Kiara Worth

At the start of the week-long conference, the first ever report on [The State of the World's Migratory Species](#) was launched – a detailed scientific assessment which makes sobering reading:

Seventy Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)-listed migratory species – including the steppe eagle, Egyptian vulture and the wild camel – have become more endangered over the past three decades. Only 14 listed species have an improved conservation status, including blue and humpback whales, mountain gorillas, the white-tailed sea eagle and the black-faced spoonbill.

IPPL members might be surprised to hear that some primates could be considered migratory. While the biological definition of the word would not include them, under the terms of the CMS gorillas and chimpanzees

world to discuss and adopt decisions and resolutions to better protect all manner of migratory species threatened with extinction.

Measures known as 'Concerted Actions' were adopted to safeguard chimpanzee cultural diversity, giraffes, lynx and several



Photo by IISD/ENB|Kiara Worth

decision into international law.

One of the most interesting topics considered by the CMS is the importance of animal culture and social learning. Drs. Erin Wesling and Crickette Sanz, representing the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), PSG (Primate Specialist Group) and SGA (Section on Great Apes), presented a proposal to expand a previous Concerted Action on nut-cracking chimpanzees in four West African countries to encompass all cultural diversity in chimpanzees across Africa

in 21 countries.

It was adopted by consensus and brings a new perspective on the conservation of our zoological next of kin. However, like all UN decisions, its success depends on its implementation and that is down to all of us to play our part.



Photo by IISD/ENB/Kiara Worth

GRASP Council

All links will be active when this issue is published on IPPL's website.

2024 IPPL Biennial Meeting

This was our 16th meeting since these unique three-day meetings began in 1990 and the first since 2018 when COVID-19 stopped everything. Our 2024 summer issue of IPPL News will cover exceptional presentations made by Ofir Drori, founder of EAGLE Network; Sam Shanee, co-founder of Neotropical Primate Conservation and IPPL board member; Edwin Wiek, founder and director of Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand; Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, founder and CEO Conservation Through Public Health; Sam Shanee, cofounder of Neotropical Primate Conservation and IPPL board member; Carolyn Thompson, primatologist; Teri Allendorf, Executive Director at Community Conservation Inc.; and Ian Redmond, a tropical field biologist and conservationist, renowned for his work with great apes and elephants and an IPPL board member.

Presenters were (left to right): Edwin Wiek, Deborah Misotti (IPPL board chairperson), Ian Redmond, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Carolyn Thompson, Teri Allendorf, Sam Shanee, Ofir Drori, and Patricia Mendoza



Read more updates about IPPL's activities on our Facebook page. "Like" us!

www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague



See more images from the sanctuary and IPPL activities.

Follow us on Instagram!
www.instagram.com/ippl_summerville

Farewell to Gentle Shanti

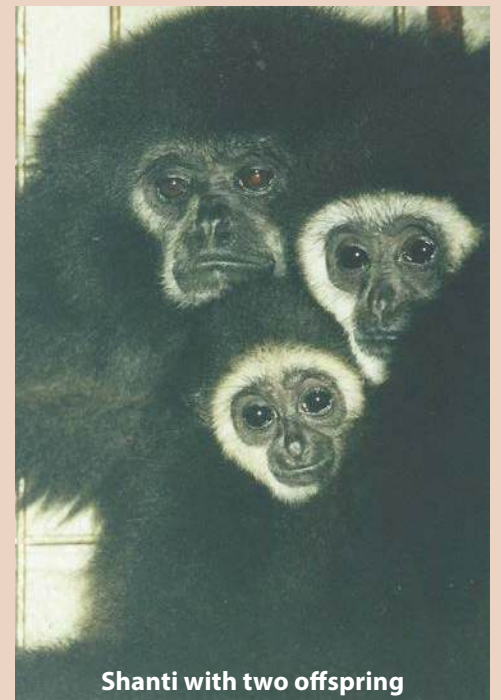


Shanti, whose name means “peace” in Sanskrit, was born on June 24, 1978, at the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. IPPL had acquired its first lab gibbon, Arun Rangsi (Ruie) in 1981 and Shirley was eager to locate a companion for him. After contacting the then-director of LEMSIP in 1983, Shirley and a former animal caregiver drove to New York to bring Shanti back to IPPL to begin her new life at our sanctuary. They found her living alone in a small cage – what a change was in store for this little gibbon!

When she was introduced to Ruie – it was love at first sight. For over three decades they rarely left each other’s side and even shared food. While together, they had several gibbon children until Arun Rangsi had a successful vasectomy. Ruie died in 2019. In November of 2022, Shanti was

introduced to Gibby our oldest gibbon. They were wonderful companions until Shanti’s passing in November of 2023.

Shanti had a very laid-back disposition. Her favorite food was figs and her favorite pastime was picking these figs from trees next to her outdoor habitat. The unique way her mouth turned down was endearing. After being at IPPL for 41 years, Shanti has left us with many special memories. We will remember her fondly for years to come.



Shanti with two offspring

Fotos of Our Gibbons ~ Having Fun!



Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- **Anonymous** in honor of Iqbal Malik
- **Anonymous** in honor of Carol Leenstra
- **Jad Belmoumen** in honor of George, Cacao and Bobby
- **Kathleen Chobot** in memory of Sean Crocker
- **Celeste Coles** in honor of Edwin Wiek for the amazing work he continues to do with his wonderful Wildlife Friends!
- **Melissa Dutton** in memory of Banks A. Dutton, Jr.
- **Stella Guyatt** in honor of Mitch Guyatt
- **Meg Haskell** in honor of Avery Haskell on her birthday
- **Alfreda Harsha** in memory of Michael
- **Clyde Hedin** in memory of Carol Hedin
- **Peggy Hoburg** in memory of Jim Hoburg
- **Candy Jones** in memory of Peruvian Amazon
- **Karen Kamm** in honor of Jane Goodall
- **Grace Lines** in loving memory of Barbara Haynie
- **Mary Jane Low** in memory of sweet beloved Emsie
- **TD Matheny** in honor of Louise Waters
- **Barbara Minsky** in memory of Mugsy and Sparky
- **Linda Morton** in memory of Shanti
- **Christine Saridakis** in memory of Diane de Graffenreid
- **Emily Schweitzer** in memory of Pharanee Deters
- **Jo Weddendorf** in memory of Hannah Weddendorf
- **Cynthia Wright** in memory of David

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

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

Leave a Lasting Legacy...

...for the Primates You Love

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

- ◆ build new gibbon houses and outdoor enclosures at our sanctuary;
- ◆ acquire new sanctuary land, now totaling 45 acres, which not only creates space for our gibbons but provides a buffer zone that shelters local wildlife;
- ◆ construct a much-in-demand guest cottage for our visitors, known as “Swan and Mary’s Cottage” after the lovely couple who left IPPL the funds to build it;
- ◆ provide support to dozens of primate sanctuaries and rescue organizations around the world, wherever primates are native.



Ahimsa, son of Arun Rangsi and Shanti

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

Your bequest to IPPL will ensure that our unique work can carry on long into the future. Our address to include in your will is: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA. Our U.S. federal tax ID number is 51-0194013.

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



Gary, retired from a tourist venue

IPPL Donation Form



IPPL *News* began printing in 1974. Since then we have shared thousands of articles about primates and the heroes who have dedicated their lives to protect them. After reading this issue, we hope you will consider a donation so that all our important work can continue. 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 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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Please mail form and payment to: IPPL ♦ P.O. Box 766 ♦ Summerville, SC 29484 ♦ USA. **Thank you!**

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Primate Paraphernalia!



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



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



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www.ippl.org/store

Meet the Gibbons Available for Adoption



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

Courtney was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving this tiny infant with a terribly mangled leg. Since she could not be returned to her mother, she was hand-raised by IPPL staff, special night-nannies, and volunteers for over six years. Many caregivers took turns feeding her, playing with her, and taking her for walks around the sanctuary grounds. Always curious and energetic, she was a real handful! Courtney has made an amazing recovery since the difficult time of her early life. She now runs, swings, and climbs so well you would never guess how badly she had been injured. Despite Courtney's high level of activity, she is the biggest gibbon in our sanctuary. If asked what her favorite food is, we would have to say "grapes, and well... everything!" Since May 2009, Courtney has been paired with a former lab gibbon by the name of Whoop-Whoop. His mild-mannered personality is a good match for her wild ways as he always lets her have first dibs at their lunch pail. We hope you will consider adopting this spunky and determined "not so little" ape!



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

Peppy was born at the Comparative Oncology Laboratory of the University of California at Davis. When he was only two months old he was infected with gibbon leukemia virus, but luckily for him the virus preparation was inactive, and his test results continually came back negative for the disease. He was later sent to the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York where he was paired with a young female gibbon named Helen. In April of 1982 IPPL made arrangements to take in Helen but, once we got to new York, staff members noticed that Peppy looked so forlorn at being separated from Helen that we arranged to have him sent to us as well! Helen sadly passed away in March of 2017, but the two of them had 35 wonderful years together. Peppy is one of our older gibbons; over the years, he had developed cataracts, leaving him completely blind. In late September 2023, Peppy had successful cataract surgery in both eyes. Since his recovery, Peppy has enjoyed watching the world around him. Over time, the age difference between Peppy and Mia was of concern. Mia is more active than Peppy and we didn't want anyone to get hurt so in early 2024 they were separated. Both have adjusted to happy single lives and Peppy can, once again, see his neighboring gibbons!



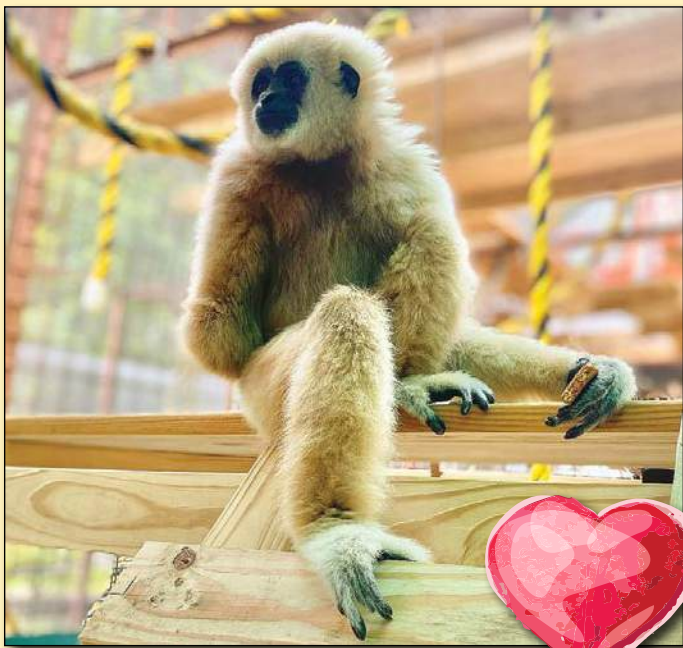
Visit IPPL.org for more information



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

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

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



Gary has some smooth moves, and he will flip when you adopt this happy little gibbon!

Gary arrived at IPPL in May 2013. He came with his mate, Kendra, a daughter, and a son from a tourist attraction that was closing. Gary is a petite, blond gibbon with lustrous, pale fur. When he arrived, we could hardly believe that he was the dad, and that Thai was his son – Thai was twice Gary's size! We soon learned that this petite gibbon had brittle bones and a broken arm. A specialist from Illinois felt it had stabilized and no surgery was required. Unfortunately, he broke the other arm beyond repair; it had to be amputated. Being an amputee has not slowed this adorable little gibbon down at all. Gary is quite the acrobat and gracefully flips and twirls all over his outdoor enclosure. After Kendra passed, Gary was introduced to Chloe and they lived together until 2023 when Chloe also passed. He has been a bachelor since then and continues to enjoy life at IPPL. Gary's favorite food is mangos, which he eats so quickly that he has mango smeared on his face the rest of the day! Nearby gibbons attempt to imitate Gary's uniquely smooth moves, especially the ones with lots of arm action. For Gary's 46th birthday in 2022, his 2.5-story enclosure was modified with many platforms, ladders, ropes, bamboo, and sunshades to keep this happy, active little gibbon stimulated.



Adoptions make wonderful and unique gifts – all year long!



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Peppy and His Miracle!



Peppy was born in 1979 at the Comparative Oncology Laboratory at the University of California Davis. At two months old he was infected with gibbon leukemia virus, but luckily the virus preparation was inactive. Later he was sent to the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. He was paired with a young female named Helen. In 1982 arrangements had been made for Helen to come to IPPL but when IPPL got to the lab, staff members noticed Peppy looking so sad at being separated from Helen that he was allowed to come to IPPL too!

Peppy and Helen spent 35 special years together before her passing in 2017. In 2020 Peppy was introduced to Mia. Despite their 12-year age difference, they were getting along.

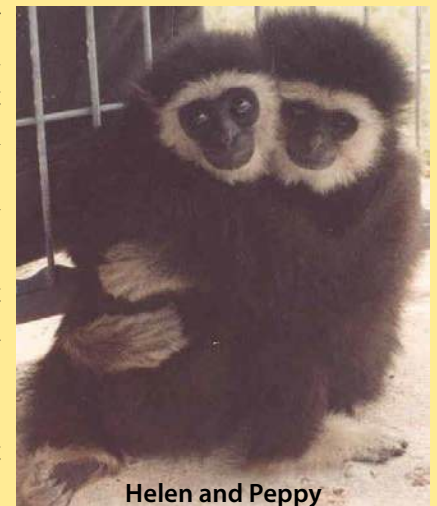
Miracle Eye Surgery! At 44 years old, Peppy is one of our older gibbons, and over the years, he had developed cataracts leaving him completely blind.

In late September 2023, Peppy had successful cataract surgery in both

eyes! Dr. Hannah Visser, veterinary ophthalmologist, generously donated her time for Peppy's surgery and aftercare. It is not an overstatement to say that she completely changed Peppy's life.

After his recovery, Peppy spent a lot of time watching the world around him, but another change was in store. Over time, the age difference between Peppy and Mia became a concern. Mia is more active than Peppy and we didn't want anyone to get hurt, so in early 2024 they were separated. Both have adjusted to happy, single lives again.

No longer blind, Peppy is farsighted which is good because he can clearly see distant images – including all his neighboring gibbons!



Helen and Peppy