



IPPL

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League

News

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- ◆ Shirley McGreal Legacy Award



A Message from Deborah

Dear Friends of IPPL,

In April of this year, IPPL held its first Biennial Meeting since 2018 on a lovely warm spring weekend. It was wonderful to have some of our Global Partners back and other primate experts and conservationists who shared informative and engaging presentations on their work. The two-day event was well-attended by many friends of IPPL.

This meeting marked the first since the bittersweet loss of Shirley McGreal, but proof that her legacy will continue. We are grateful to those who attended and agreed it was a measured success despite the many changes over the last six years. Everyone felt it was well worth the effort we all put into attending because of the marked camaraderie of speakers and audience! After dinner on Saturday evening, we were entertained by a new Gullah group that involved us in song and dance in true “Shirley” tradition. The weekend ended with a Sunday afternoon pizza party picnic. The casual atmosphere enabled all of our speakers to join in the fun.

Our speakers topics included Community Conservation by Teri Allendorf, One Health and Gorilla Conservation by Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Wildlife Trafficking by Ofir Drori, Carolyn Thompson on her teams’ discovery of a new species, the Skywalker gibbon and Collaborative Primate Conservation in China, Edwin Wiek on the Highland Park Rescue, Ian Redmond on The Importance of Primate Sanctuaries and Sam Shanee and Patricia Mendoza on Conservation in Peru.

In addition to many friends who attended there was a representative from The Citadel as part of our new adventures into education. We have been working on new educational initiatives for IPPL to grow into the future.

This issue also includes a special announcement of the newly created Shirley McGreal Legacy Award. This award is for an individual deeply involved in the conservation of primates. Nominations will come from IPPL friends and donors and the winner will be announced with our year-end Small Grant Awards. An interview with IPPL’s new Curator of Animal Care, Jennifer Buchanan is also in this issue.

We at IPPL invite you all to join us as we continue Shirley’s work with the next generation of primate and conservation-minded individuals, as our beloved gibbons sing us into the future.

Sincerely,



Deborah Misotti
Chairperson, Board of Directors



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IPPL News

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About the Cover



One of our presenters at this year’s Biennial Meeting was Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, CEO and founder of Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH). Their organization promotes biodiversity conservation by enabling people to co-exist with wildlife by improving animal health, community health, and livelihoods in and around Africa’s protected areas. Dr. Gladys’ first job was working as the first vet for the Uganda Wildlife Authority. They felt they needed a vet because gorilla tourism had begun and they were concerned that the tourists would make the gorillas sick. This cover features a silverback named Muturengere, the dominant silverback of the Isimbi Group. In this photo, Muturengere shows his magnificence – the grass in his mouth adds a touch of humor. See article on page 4.

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.

IPPL's 2024 Biennial Meeting

Six years ago IPPL held its last Biennial Meeting. It was the last meeting that its founder, Shirley McGreal, attended. Shirley started these unique gatherings in March 1990. COVID-19, and then Shirley's passing, caused us to suspend these meetings until 2024.

Finally, this April our line-up of presenters allowed us to greet some old friends and meet some new ones. During the presentations, their work reminded us of the continuing need for primate rescue centers in their countries of origin and the growing threat of illegal wildlife trafficking. Since IPPL's founding in 1973, primates continue to face increasing and unprecedented conservation threats (poaching, trafficking, habitat destruction, and in some populations, disease) and are still struggling to survive.

Several of the presenters shared approaches that involve local community-based conservation as the most effective strategy for protecting primates in nature. Shirley recognized the benefits of this strategy

early on and supported organizations that adopted this approach. Presenters at the meeting summarized the global effectiveness of these local human communities. They emphasized the importance of involving them as stewards of the habitat they live in and how this local protection sustains both the health and growth of primate populations. These organizations are making valuable and urgent contributions to the future of primates. Gibbon lovers (and there were plenty in the audience) were also delighted to learn about a new gibbon species, the Skywalker Gibbon discovered in China in 2017 and that very recent fieldwork has confirmed a more widespread distribution for this species (in Myanmar) than originally thought.

The eight presenters kept everyone engaged as they shared their work, solutions and challenges for the future. We are immensely grateful for their participation and look forward to IPPL's next Biennial Meeting in 2026.

When this issue goes on our website you will be able to view videos with Ian Redmond and Edwin Wiek while at IPPL and one from Sam Shanee taped before he arrived as well as links in other presentations.

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/411949921581906>

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague/videos/281255492229742>

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 Mendóza



Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka

Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (often called Dr. Gladys), is the CEO and founder of Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH), an award-winning Ugandan grassroots organization. Founded in 2003, it promotes biodiversity conservation by enabling people to co-exist with wildlife through improving animal health, community health and livelihoods in and around Africa's protected areas and wildlife-rich habitats.

She met Shirley many years ago and also visited IPPL where she spoke at a Biennial Meeting. She considered Shirley to be her mentor.

Gladys has spent the last 30 years working with gorillas in Uganda. She had wanted to become a veterinarian at a very young age and was influenced by a neighbor's monkey who played the piano with one finger.

Gladys' first job was working as the first vet for the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). They felt they needed a vet because gorilla tourism had begun and they were concerned that the tourists would make the gorillas sick. But one of the first diseases she had to deal with was not a disease transferred from tourists but from the local community.

In 1996, a fatal scabies disease outbreak in the then critically endangered mountain gorillas was traced to marginalized human communities living around the protected gorilla habitat. They discovered that when gorillas went outside the parks to eat people's crops, they came across dirty clothing and scarecrows where they picked up scabies or sarcoptic mange. They were losing hair, developing scaly skin and a baby gorilla was dying.

Gladys realized they could not protect the gorillas without improving the health of the people they shared a habitat with. As a result, CTPH developed a One Health approach to biodiversity conservation. It promotes coexistence between humans and wildlife by improving the health and livelihoods of the local communities thus preventing zoonotic disease between people and wildlife.

CTPH's programs began at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda, home to just under half of the world's mountain gorillas. The One Health model improved community health and contributed to a reduction in human-related morbidity and mortality in gorillas. This model also improved community attitudes to conservation and led to better protection for gorillas in community land.

CTPH built upon the One Health model to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, working with Uganda



Wildlife Authority (UWA), NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), tour operators and community groups to prevent transmission of COVID-19 between people and from people to gorillas. In the absence of tourism, it was important to improve community livelihoods, so they created Gorilla Conservation Coffee—a social enterprise that supports farmers living around habitats with gorillas. Through organic expansion, training, and advocacy this model addresses 10 out of 17 sustainable development goals. It is being expanded to biodiversity hotspots to prevent and better control disease outbreaks, as well as address climate change. In addition, the sale of this coffee provides money to purchase seedlings for food instead of having to poach.

In 1981 there were 254 mountain gorillas, in 2018 there were 1063. Mountain gorillas are no longer critically endangered. Even though they are better protected in community areas, they are still endangered. Therefore, tourism is a necessary evil. As of 2020, people taking tours must wear face masks to protect the gorillas from human diseases being transmitted to them.



Ofir Drori

Ofir Drori is the Founder of LAGA (The Last Great Ape Organization) and Founding Director of the EAGLE Network (Eco Activists for Governance and Law Enforcement). It is a network of members across Africa, who are effectively replicating a program and operational model to undertake wildlife law enforcement. It is based on the LAGA-Cameroon model, which has been trialed, practiced and tested since 2003.

Early in Ofir's presentation he stated, "Dr. Shirley McGreal was among the first to send us words of encouragement. She believed in us and shared with us stories of hard times during her pioneering primate investigations back in the early days of IPPL. It gave us the feeling that we were not alone and that fighting against all odds is the only hope for primate survival. IPPL, she told me, was established the year I was

born. After getting into debt, LAGA was in danger of shutting down and IPPL was one of the first to assist financially."

Ofir was working as a photojournalist in the Central African Nation of Cameroon. Jane Goodall's words predicting the start of ape extinction within 15 years brought him to Cameroon to write about this crisis. While in a remote small town with extensive ape trade, Ofir was led to an infant survivor of the bushmeat trade – a baby chimpanzee. He was found tied up in a dirty room, abused and sick; Ofir knew that if he did nothing, he would die. When the local authorities refused to act, Ofir bluffed the poachers into handing over the captive chimpanzee. He untied him from his ropes and hugged him. In seconds he was transformed into a baby and clung to Ofir's chest. "He would have died before reaching the third year of his life; now he got the chance to reach 50, the chance to outlive me. I named him Future because that is what I wanted to give him and what I want to give his species."

Ofir stopped writing the article the day he took Future home. "As the mother to this baby chimpanzee, I was forced to stay and apply what I was writing to show it was possible." That night he started writing down what was lacking in the system and almost all of what he wrote is what they do today.

"That special day I saved Future was the day I decided to stay and pioneer LAGA, the first wildlife law enforcement non-governmental organization in Cameroon, dedicated to the fight to save the last great apes of Africa from extinction. LAGA was born in 2003 out of criticism against the conservation world. Establishing the first-ever wildlife law enforcement NGO (non-governmental organization) was not easy and met a lot of resistance. We aimed to create a new model, breaking away from the traditional role of an NGO and finding legitimacy in a far more hands-on approach."



The EAGLE Network operates in eight countries, in East, West and Central Africa. It's a wildlife law enforcement NGO, which means they attack trafficking from the enforcement side. They have local teams in each country with four different departments. There are undercover investigators whose role is to infiltrate trafficking rings by gaining their trust and taking them down in sting operations. The operations department doesn't give any information to the authorities but collaborates with them to make arrests. The third is the Department of Legal Representation, which follows up on court cases and handles prosecutions on behalf of the state. Lastly, there are media departments in each country, which publicize our actions to maximize the deterrent value – which is the aim of enforcement to begin with.

Most of their work is to fight corruption, which is the first obstacle of wildlife law enforcement. The system is so dysfunctional they have come across clear instances of bribery in 85% of all their arrest operations. Their role is to intercept it and fight it. They don't deal with poachers, they deal with the traffickers that activate the poachers, and to date have put over 3,000 major traffickers behind bars.

LAGA aims not only to hunt down wildlife criminals in Cameroon but also to ensure that these men and women are being prosecuted and sentenced. LAGA brought the first-ever wildlife prosecution case in the whole of West and Central Africa. In 2017, LAGA's innovative model expanded into The EAGLE Network which has a rate of one arrest and prosecution of a major wildlife trafficker per day.

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

"Future lived with me for several months before I could find an ape family in a proper sanctuary but that special day I saved Future was the day I decided to stay and pioneer a Wildlife Law Enforcement NGO fighting to save the last great apes from extinction."



Sam Shanee & Patrica Mendoza

Dr. Sam Shanee is a primatologist and director of Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC) which conserves primate populations in South America. He is also an IPPL board member. Dr. Patricia Mendoza is a wildlife veterinarian, a board member of NPC Peru, and is a research worker at the Department of Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, USA. They jointly presented on conservation in Peru with an emphasis on the rehabilitation of confiscated wildlife. Sam and Patricia opened their presentation with a description of the Peruvian primate biodiversity. Three primate species are restricted (endemic) to the district of San Marten in northern Peru. NPC, as described by Teri Allendorf in her presentation, is a partner in community conservation and has adopted a holistic approach to primate conservation. Sam and Patricia showed slides that illustrated reforestation efforts by local people and their well-developed education programs that involve educating both adults and children of the local communities on conservation. Slides and tables showed maps illustrating the size of protected areas and also demonstrated the additional reach of protected areas both locally where NPC works, and in Peru where community protection of forests greatly expands the areas protected by the government.

A particular focus of their conservation efforts in Peru has involved investigating wildlife trafficking. Information was presented on the huge increase in bushmeat sales in Peru between 1986 to 1996. Sam and Patricia also reported that over half of the primate species in Peru are being trafficked, including large numbers of endemic and threatened species. These primates are being trafficked for both national and international markets. They consider the IUCN information on wildlife trafficking in South America is likely an underestimate and regard hunting and trafficking as serious conservation threats. They acknowledged that wildlife trafficking is a global issue and showed images of the African bushmeat crisis and the trafficking of lorises in Asia. In Peru there appears to be extensive wildlife trafficking of smaller monkeys, marmosets, and tamarins as pets and the larger Atelids are widely hunted



and consumed for food.

Primates are the most trafficked mammals in Peru, and Sam and Patricia presented data on the estimated numbers of monkeys that are trafficked. They shared images of primates that are illegally traded in Peru and they told how these primates are transported to local markets. Very discouragingly, when these trafficked primates are confiscated by the wildlife authorities, there is typically no action taken and only 3% of the cases lead to some form of legal consequences. They reported that mortality following confiscation is exceedingly high, and the facilities that these primates are transferred to are usually very overcrowded. Increased on-the-ground cooperation between enforcement agencies and rehabilitators is needed to improve the survival of these rescued monkeys. Despite confiscations and abandonment of illegally owned primates by and to authorities, there is no public infrastructure for triage, healthcare, and rehabilitation of these rescued monkeys in Peru.

Sam and Patricia reported disease hazards involved in these trafficking networks. These disease threats have been identified both in wet markets (that sell live animals) and in human households where primates are frequently kept as pets. This poses real concern for the reintroduction and translocation of these primates back to nature and the threat of infections being transmitted to other species and humans. The same concerns were expressed by Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka for the gorillas she studies. Confiscated primates now receive medical evaluations, and they are surveyed for potential diseases. Sam and Patricia provided data on the prevalence of both human and simian herpes viruses in 20 primate species. These are concerns about the reintroduction of infected primates to nature. However, there have been successful reintroductions, including a troop of howler monkeys that has been successfully reintroduced to the forests.

The presentation ended with a slide demonstrating how wildlife trafficking is also a challenge to the concept of One Health (community conservation through public health).

Carolyn Thompson

Carolyn Thompson is a primatologist and a doctoral student at the University College of London. She has a long history of working with primates in nature, including orangutans in Borneo. Carolyn studies some of the rarest of the 20 gibbon species, including the newly described Skywalker hoolock gibbon in southern China and the Hainan gibbon, considered the world's rarest primate with only 26 to 30 individuals on Hainan Island on the South China Sea. Carolyn gave two presentations at IPPL's Biennial Meeting, both on gibbons. Her first presentation on Saturday (A New Hope: Skywalker Gibbons Confirmed in Myanmar) described the expansion of the 2017 discovery of a new species of ape, a gibbon that lives in the remote forests of the Gaoligong Mountains on the border of China and Myanmar. This new species of gibbon was originally classified as an eastern hoolock gibbon, but this gibbon appeared distinct because they have different markings on their bodies (especially on their face) and their calls are easily distinguishable. The audience was able to confirm this directly by listening to the calls of these gibbons. The Skywalker gibbon has a very fragmented distribution in China. It is estimated that only 150 of these gibbons live in the Yunnan district of China. While the species was initially described and discovered in China, it was widely hoped that this species would also exist in neighboring Myanmar. Carolyn was part of a team that surveyed gibbons in Myanmar for the presence of Skywalker gibbons.

Carolyn is very resourceful and crowd-funded sufficient funds to begin her investigation of gibbon conservation in the Anthropocene (our current geological epoch- A period of time when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet). Her novel crowd-funding efforts show a remarkable amount of determination and resilience and earned her the name of "gibbon warrior." Moreover, Carolyn describes the privilege she feels when she sees and hears gibbons in the wild. Carolyn was part of a team that surveyed gibbons in Myanmar for the presence of Skywalker gibbons. Gibbons' songs are haunting and beautiful, but they also serve as a powerful tool for identifying species because gibbon calls are species-specific and they can carry across forests for more than 1 km. A team of researchers listened for gibbons on higher ground in Myanmar and used triangulation methods to pinpoint the location of gibbon groups and estimate their numbers. Once a gibbon group had been identified, the researchers took photographs to confirm the visual characteristics of the species.



The researchers then examined the ground for gibbon saliva among chewed remains of fruits and other plants to identify the DNA of the gibbon. Both the acoustic information, the photographs, and the DNA analysis of saliva identified 44 distinct groups of Skywalker gibbons in many parts of Myanmar, previously thought to be solely inhabited by eastern hoolock gibbons. Consequently, Myanmar is now the most likely significant stronghold of Skywalker gibbons on the planet. However, 95% of the Skywalker gibbons live outside of protected areas and face numerous threats: hunting and habitat destruction, combined with political instability, as well as a lack of support for national primatologists. Carolyn considers community forest management (for which there is enthusiasm from the local people) to be the most immediate and effective way of safeguarding the gibbons. They were

found inhabiting different forest types, but there were threats to their existence in these forests.

The distribution of the Skywalker hoolock gibbon in Myanmar remains uncertain. It's clear that national Myanmar primatologists will need support to identify the distribution of this species. The discovery that Skywalker gibbons appear to be more widespread than previously thought is a cause for hope, and it was a welcome addition to the meeting proceedings because of this to learn that the most recent gibbon species to be described may likely benefit from a community-based conservation approach.

Carolyn gave a second presentation on Sunday on her work specifically in China (understanding human-gibbon relationships in China using a social science lens). She drew the audience's attention to the fact that gibbons are frequently referred to as the forgotten apes because compared to their great ape cousins,



Female Skywalker gibbon Photo: BBC Magazine

they feature less in research and funding and media attention is a challenge.

Carolyn is particularly interested in the understudied gibbons of China. She shared the knowledge that one of the more common gibbon species that is no longer found in China despite the fact that this species was once widespread in China. The remaining gibbon distribution in China is very discontinuous and localized. Carolyn has immersed herself in Chinese culture to examine what human factors may influence gibbon distribution.

The approach she described is an integrative approach which she describes as ethnoprimateology (the study of human and non-human primate interactions), where direct quantitative behavioral observations on gibbons are combined with interviewing local communities. This combines ethnography (which is a qualitative method that can be used to understand human attitudes through observations and interviews) with participatory research (another qualitative method where the local people are actively involved in the research investigation). In her attempts to learn as much as

possible about the attitudes of local people, she has been accused of being a terrorist, but nonetheless has managed to conduct 413 semi-structured interviews with local communities and 30 focus groups. Carolyn considers it extremely valuable that social-science methods in conjunction with primatological research can help us understand the current distribution of gibbons in China. For example, how does habitat usage by local communities influence the distribution of the gibbons? Carolyn has certainly been very adventurous in her attempts to familiarize herself with the local communities by becoming accepted by the local community and sharing in their local life (cultural immersion). Using this novel approach, Carolyn hopes to explain some of the patterns of gibbon decline that China has experienced over the past 2,000 years. Understanding the attitudes of the local people about nature and wildlife can help inform future conservation strategies. It is an important component in community conservation, and mirrors the approach successfully adopted by Teri Allendorf in her conservation research.

Anna Nekaris Receives the Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Dr. Anna Nekaris, director of Little Fireface Project, IPPL friend and Global Partner, received the prestigious Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to conservation this past spring.

Anna is the world's leading expert on slow lorises, and her research ranges from behavioral ecology in zoos, in rescue centers, in the wild, and more. She is a world-leading primate conservationist, a global expert on nocturnal primates, and one of the wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) five Conservation Partners

Anna was to receive an OBE from King Charles III for her outstanding commitment to conserving slow lorises – the world's only venomous primates that are under severe threat from illegal poaching and devastating habitat loss since 1994. Due to the King's illness, the award was presented by the King's sister, Princess Ann.

"I was thrilled and humbled to receive the honour of Officer of the Order of the British Empire," wrote Anna Nekaris, adding that "small nocturnal animals like the slow loris are often forgotten, or their plight is overshadowed by that of large and charismatic species. The great interest that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, took in our work was also deeply rewarding."

A reception for all honorees was held by King Charles III and Queen Camilla at a later date.



(left to right) Princess Ann and Anna Nekaris

Edwin Wiek

Edwin Wiek is the Founder and Director of Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand. WFFT started as a dream and became a reality in 2001. That was the year Edwin, with the help of one animal keeper and one cage builder, established a Thai organization that would rescue and rehabilitate wild animals. Before the end of the year, two gibbon islands had been constructed and occupied and 25 animals had been taken in at the new rescue center. But that was just the beginning!

Edwin met Shirley McGreal at the CITES meeting in Bangkok in 2004. As Edwin related, “Shirley was a big name at CITES, yet she visited WFFT and offered to help! It was the beginning of becoming a member of the IPPL family.”

This year was Edwin’s fifth visit to IPPL and each time his presentations convey the continued expansion of WFFT’s work that began with gibbons and macaques. Today, WFFT occupies more than 245 acres. Over the years it has expanded to include over 800 animals in 75 species including elephants, bears, tigers, otters, and many primates including chimpanzees, one orangutan, and of course gibbons.

There are 140 gibbons at WFFT. They can inhabit 20 resident islands, but during this meeting, Edwin said that 14 islands were currently unoccupied because the water level was so low. He added, “Gibbons can’t swim – but they can wade.”

Last fall WFFT became involved in a huge rescue of gibbons and macaques at Highland Farm in northern Thailand. This rescue, which IPPL covered extensively in our newsletter and appeals last year, involved 21 hours of driving, vet exams before leaving Highland Farm, and extensive medical evaluations upon arrival at WFFT (per trip). Forty new enclosures were built to accommodate these primates and they hope to get the remainder of the primates this year. A video of one of these trips can be seen once this issue is added to our website. <https://www.wfft.org/primates/huge-rescue-of-gibbons-and-macaques-underway/>

Thailand has rich, biological diversity. However, human pressures such as overex-



ploitation, habitat loss and degradation, are pushing many of Thailand’s creatures to the brink of extinction.

In addition, young gibbons, macaques, lorises, bears and other wild animals are commonly illegally poached from the wild to be sold as pets or used as photo props in inhumane tourist attractions. WFFT is trying its best to get those animals out of the miserable conditions they are living in and to educate both local and international communities about animal welfare and wildlife conservation.

Where feasible, WFFT tries to provide rescued animals within their care with an environment as close to nature as possible. Their overall objective is to rehabilitate and release animals back into the wild. Unfortunately for the majority of the animals at the centre, this is often difficult and in some cases, not feasible at all. One successful release

was last year when a Bengal slow loris was brought to WFFT by a local village that discovered the animal in their backyard. The animal was released in a nearby protected forest far from human activity and not heavily affected by forest fires.

After 23 years of frustrations, WFFT is now legally working with the Thai Government. Edwin started and is president of Wild Animal Rescue Network (WARN). This newly formed organization is fighting wildlife trade and exploitation. Edwin noted that tigers and primates are the most trafficked in Thailand.

For a year and a half, WFFT has been working with other organizations to set up a rescue center to help the “coconut macaques.” These monkeys trained for coconut harvesting face heartbreaking lives, spending most of their days on short chains



Coconut macaque before rescue by WFFT

when not forced to climb trees using the threat of sticks and pain. This restrictive and isolating life leads to severe emotional trauma. The solitary confinement and constant physical abuse inflict deep psychological scars, causing many to develop self-harming behaviors. The government is providing the land and WFFT will build the rescue center. This 10-year project will cost 1.6 million dollars.

Social Media Animal Cruelty

By Sam Shanee, Co-founder of Neotropical Primate Conservation

The Social Media Animal Cruelty Coalition (SMACC) was formed by members of the Asia for Animals Coalition in May 2020. As a member organization, together with many other animal rights and conservation organizations, IPPL helps SMACC achieve its aims of understanding, addressing, and bringing an end to animal cruelty content on various social media platforms. Actions by SMACC and its members highlight the murky world of animal cruelty content and collaborate directly with social media platforms to stem access to the increasing spread and profitability of these cruel videos. Sadly, primates, particularly Asian macaques but also many other species globally, are some of the most popular targets in this type of content. Specifically, the coalition collects and collates data on content, reports to its members, the public, and social media platforms, seeks dialogue and action, and raises awareness through a unified front of organizations.

Online animal cruelty content can take many forms. It is defined by the coalition as depicting anything that has been posted on a social media platform by an individual, organization, or business that depicts animal cruelty or suffering for any reason apart from valid campaigning, journalistic or educational purposes. While it is true that suffering is a part of life and that it sometimes serves an important purpose, cruelty content has no discernible meaningful purpose and we consider it to be a barbaric form of entertainment. This can take many forms, some obvious and overt such as killing/slow deaths, physical and psychological torture, eating animals alive, hunting, and wild pet keeping. It can be less obvious such as the use of animal entertainers, fake rescues, sale of wildlife, teasing animals or forcing them to perform.

The data collected by SMACC and its members, including 2,800 incidents of animal cruelty watched, added up to a combined total viewing of over 12 billion! They found that Facebook is home to the majority of content but platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, Instagram and Twitter also host animal cruelty. This content included 10 different species of macaques, including Endangered and Critically Endangered species, with 60% of these videos involving overt physical violence. Through tracking of the accounts, it was possible to see that the majority of content originates in Asia, but some content also originates in North Africa, the UK and the southern USA. Thanks to the generous support of IPPL, we have been able to fund a full-time South East Asia based coordinator for SMACC, and the closely related Macaque Coalition, Amanda Yonica Poetri Faradifa. Amanda, based in Indonesia, will coordinate the different programs and campaigns for three years.

If you see what you consider may be animal cruelty online, you must never share, comment or engage with such content because even negative comments will increase its popularity and profitability.

Instead, always report animal cruelty content first to the platform it is published on using the links provided by the platform, and also through SMACC's reporting form: <https://www.smaccoalition.com/report-a-concern>.

To find out more you can also visit: <https://www.smaccoalition.com/public-advice>

SMACC'S 5 STEPS
To stop online cruelty

- Be aware**
- Do not watch**
- Do not engage**
- Do not share**
- Report**

smaccoalition.com

Please follow SMACC's 'Five Steps to Stop Online Cruelty'

- 1. Be aware:** Sometimes animal cruelty is less than obvious, such as an elephant calf bathing in the sea with a trainer, or a slow loris being 'tickled' by a human. Both of these examples involve serious animal suffering behind the scenes.
- 2. Do not watch:** Do not intentionally watch these videos. The more views the videos receive, the more they grow in popularity - and potentially, profitability. Often, you can see what is contained in the video by the still images, the titles, descriptions, or comments, before pressing play.
- 3. Do not engage:** Do not comment on, like or dislike, the video. This may seem counterintuitive. However, engagement increases popularity. It is best not to add any reaction at all, and to report the video or channel immediately.
- 4. Do not share:** Do not share the video on your own page, even if you are doing so to raise awareness of the cruelty or illegality. Sharing increases popularity and again, potentially also increases profitability. Instead, report them, and raise your concerns by sharing with others the things to look out for - or direct people to SMACC's website: www.smaccoalition.com
- 5. Report:** Always report the video and encourage others to do the same. Each social media platform has its own report function, and most of them has an option for animal cruelty. If there is no option for 'animal cruelty', select the closest category which can be applied. You can also report these videos to SMACC.

Ian Redmond

Ian Redmond is a tropical field biologist and conservationist, renowned for his work with great apes and elephants. He is also Chairman of Ape Alliance and a member of IPPL's Board of Directors. Ian's presentation was on the importance of primate sanctuaries and has provided his own written text.



As we celebrate the achievements of IPPL and the life work of the late lamented Dr. Shirley McGreal, it is important to think about the origins of this amazing organization. Shirley was an activist, someone who would step forward on seeing a problem, determined to right a wrong. It was seeing the suffering of gibbons being exported from Thailand in the early 1970s that led to the formation of IPPL. Once primates in trade are confiscated, wherever they are the authorities need somewhere to house and care for the vulnerable victims. It is meeting this need that has led to the formation of many primate sanctuaries, often supported by grants and advice from IPPL.

To understand the problem, it is useful to consider why so many primates end up in trade. Let me introduce you to the Ooh, Aah Ha-ha-ha Hypothesis, beginning with the three Cs of human nature: First, Curiosity – we encourage our children to be curious and explore the world, and their wide-eyed wonder is delightful, often accompanied by an Oooh sound of amazement. Primates when encountered for the first time elicit that reaction. Second is Compassion – seeing a baby primate triggers a compassionate response usually accompanied by an Aaah sound. Third is Comedy – watching primates play is funny so we laugh – and our breathy Ha-ha-ha is very similar to the play-chuckles of infant apes wrestling, tickling and chasing each other. I think it is not a coincidence that Ooh, Aah and Ha-ha-ha are the sounds we make that are most similar to the vocalization of our primate cousins – and were probably shared by our common ancestors millions of years ago. Moreover, when individuals in a community join together in making those sounds, it reinforces the bonds between us and raises the status of the individual responsible. Thus, if you have something that makes everyone around you go Ooh, Aah or Ha-ha-ha, you go up in the world – and this, I think, explains why exotic pets are so popular, and social media profile pictures often include animals. Demand for such status-enhancing pets, however, introduces the fourth C of human nature – commerce. Baby monkeys and apes have become a commodity but fortunately,

their suffering attracts the attention of people such as Shirley and all of IPPL's supporters and grant recipients determined to end that suffering.

This is important on many levels. Yes, a sanctuary primarily provides loving care and veterinary treatment for rescued and confiscated victims of abuse but there are other

roles. Most have an education program to reduce demand and teach people about the important role of primates in the ecology of their habitat. And if there is suitable habitat nearby, some of those rescued animals get a second chance at life in the wild, playing the ecological role they evolved to fulfill. Sanctuaries and rehabilitation projects often develop into centers for primate research, in both captivity and the wild.

Primates are not, however, just interesting research subjects. They are the #GardenersoftheForest – keystone species in the ecology of the rainforests and savannah-woodlands of Latin America, Africa and Asia. They disperse seeds, create light gaps and prune branch tips whilst feeding and – in the case of great apes – when building nests. In other words, the forests need primates as much as the primates need the forest. And primate habitat happens to comprise the planet's three major tropical forest blocks that are essential for global climate regulation and the global carbon cycle. To see how global rainfall systems are driven by the evapotranspiration of these forests, like the three chambers of a global heart, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0mupl4FZsQ>

More than a billion of the world's poorest people depend directly on these same forests and every person on the planet benefits indirectly. If we are serious about slowing climate change and achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, we *need* those forests to continue providing ecological services for the whole of mankind. Efforts are now underway to develop a system of payment for ecosystem services such as that being trialed by www.Rebalance.Earth and <https://blue-greenfuture.org/>. However we do it, we *must* find the resources to protect primates and implement the Global Biodiversity Framework – including scientific research and monitoring programs – thereby ensuring healthy populations of primates, to maintain in perpetuity the health of the forests for the benefit of all. IPPL and the sanctuaries we support play a vital role in this critically important mission.



Jennifer Buchanan

An Interview with Jennifer Buchanan, IPPL's new Curator of Animal Care

Can you describe your history with IPPL and what you are doing now?

I started at IPPL in January 2016 as a volunteer. My background is not in Animal Husbandry, I have a bachelor's degree in history and had initially planned on teaching, but the sanctuary is such an amazing place, that I

knew pretty quickly that I wanted to work there. In August of 2016, I was hired as a part-time Animal Caregiver. During my first six years at IPPL, I tried to learn everything that I could learn about caring for the gibbons and otters and the operations of the sanctuary. I was lucky enough to have some great teachers including Shirley and Dr. Ohlandt who trained me to be a member of our Veterinary team. I have had many job roles over the years including Volunteer Coordinator, Veterinary Technician, and Animal Care Manager.

In 2022 I stepped away from IPPL to pursue other avenues. During this time, I completed an associate's degree in Small Business Administration and Entrepreneurship and with my husband, purchased and started running our own small business. I continued to keep in touch with the sanctuary and volunteer whenever time permitted. When I was approached about the possibility of rejoining the sanctuary as the Curator of Animal Care, I knew it was an opportunity that I could not pass by.

In my new role as Curator, I oversee the day-to-day operations of the animal care staff, coordinate with our veterinarian, hire and train new staff members, and ensure that our Philosophy and Standards of Care are being followed in all aspects. My goal is to ensure that the animals under our care are thriving by providing proper diet, enrichment, veterinary care, and operant conditioning, which allows the animals an opportunity to participate in their own wellness. As a sanctuary when a new animal is acquired, it is for the duration of their life, so it is paramount to provide them with love, care, and the opportunity to thrive in their environment. I am excited to start on this new part of my journey with IPPL and to continue to care for the animals I have come to know so well over the years.

What are some stories you might have about any individual gibbons?

When Paen was sent to us we of course had to quarantine her away from the other animals for a while. During her quarantine time, I developed a very close bond with her. When it came time to move her to one of the main areas of the property, I was lucky enough to lead her on her journey. Whenever we move a gibbon from one area to another, we use our tube system which joins all

our enclosures together. Moving Paen from the quarantine area to her current home in Gibbon House 8 was a long move, so the caregivers all gathered early one morning and got her route all planned out. I then took her favorite stuffie, which at the time was a small elephant, and together the elephant and I guided her most of the way across the property. She did very well and it was a privilege to be able to help her feel calm and comfortable during her journey.

When Tong was still alive, the caregivers would joke that she would hold a grudge if someone was ever absent for too long. She was a very vocal gibbon, and you could tell her mood based on the noises she was making. When she was happy or excited, she would make very high-pitched squeals and chatter, but if she was angry or upset, she would make very low-pitched grunts and growls. On more than one occasion, I would come back to work after having a week or so off for vacation and as I would near Tong's enclosure, she would see me and start making her happy high-pitched noises. She would come over to where I was standing and just as I would reach out to scratch her back and say hello, she would move away from me and start making her low grunts and growls. It was almost like she was saying, "Oh wait, I'm mad at you for being gone for so long." She would do this for a few days until she finally decided that you were sticking around again and then she would go back to her usual happy routine.

Some of the gibbons enjoy playing catch, usually with food. Maynard for instance is very good at catching things. When I feed him, I like to take a piece of his meal that he is looking forward to and toss it to him so that he can catch it. There was one gibbon that took the game of catch to a new level. One day I was walking around the property with former caregiver Jaclyn, and we were handing out some nuts and dried fruit to some of the gibbons. When we got to Gus we started tossing them, one small piece at a time because he loved to catch. He caught the first couple of pieces with his hand like normal, but then he started trying to catch them in his mouth! He had discovered a new game. We sat there for quite a while with him trying to toss almonds and dried cranberries so that he could catch them in his mouth. It was very entertaining for all parties involved.

What do I find rewarding about working with the gibbons?

To me, the most rewarding part of working with the gibbons is learning each of their individual personalities. Their likes and dislikes, their facial expressions, and their body language. They are all so very unique and the more you know them as individuals the better able you are to care for them as individuals. Getting to know them individually enables me to build relationships with them over time and each of those relationships is unique. For example, I know that Courtney is super grumpy in the mornings until after she has had breakfast, but then in the afternoons she will want to run and play. It is a great privilege to get to know each of the gibbons and be able to use this knowledge to care for them and help them thrive.

Teri Allendorf

Dr. Teri Allendorf is a conservation biologist who has been working on issues of local communities and protected areas since 1994. Teri is the current executive director of Community Conservation Inc. (CC). She gave a summary of her conservation background which began as a Peace Core volunteer in Nepal and a description of the organization's work. CC is dedicated to promoting global biodiversity and sustainable land use by involving local people. Since 1989, the organization has protected over 1.2 million acres, catalyzed over 20 CC projects, influenced the creation of seven protected parks, and helped form 16 local CC groups in Belize, Asam (India), Nepal, Myanmar and Peru. Teri conducted interviews to examine the attitudes of local people toward protected areas. She found that on average, a majority of the respondents had positive attitudes. She was also able to explain some of the gender differences that she encountered in local communities and their attitudes towards wildlife to be a result of their belief systems.



There is a great deal of evidence from case studies that demonstrate diverse and ambivalent perceptions that people have toward protected areas. Teri examined the benefits and problems perceived by communities, summarized across 54 studies and 76 protected areas. Across the cases, the most commonly perceived benefits were conservation and ecosystem regulating services, such as protecting species and clean air and water. People also perceived benefits from protected area management, community development programs, and tourism. The most widespread negative attributes were the lack of legal natural resource extraction, conflicts with wildlife, negative interactions with management, and unmet expectations of projects and economic opportunities. Less commonly perceived problems were the loss of land and the inability to expand agriculture. Significant differences exist between protected areas in Africa and Asia, the only continents with sufficient cases to make comparisons. This review highlights that park-people relationships are complex and diverse, but they have the potential to be strengthened through different pathways to maximize the diversity of benefits for local communities while mitigating the costs.

CC was founded by Rob Horowitz, who established a sanctuary in Belize for black howler monkeys (known locally as baboons). This sanctuary exists entirely on private lands and there has been an increase in the number of howlers residing at the baboon sanctuary from 800 in 1985 to 4,000 in 2003.

This, along with another project that CC has successfully initiated, is the project in Asam, India. Two of the success stories

that CC is best known for include the golden langurs. These primates are characterized by beautiful orange-gold fur and are one of the most endangered primates on the planet. CC created forests in Assam where no forest had existed before, which they then protected with the cooperation of the local villagers (community). In 1994, there was only a 5% canopy in the area managed by and there were fewer than 100 langurs. The canopy cover rose to 80% in 2012 and now more than 500 langurs are present.

The community in Assam was opposed to the prospect of having the government manage one forest important for the golden langurs preferring to continue to manage the protected areas themselves. They had predicted that having the government manage the forest would take away many of their rights. The community considers some of the areas inside the

forest as sacred and that its sanctity should be maintained. The joint forest management committee in the surrounding villages is successful in protecting the forest and has an intricate relationship with the forest.

Teri described community-based conservation as the future of biodiversity protection and was emphatic that involving communities has the best long-term conservation impact. This approach is flexible enough to be used in communities globally. Other benefits include its low cost and its ability to empower local people. The addition of technology with camera traps (a method for recording wild animals when researchers are not present) has been successful in allowing villagers to see what wildlife exists in their forests.

She went on to describe how hunting is an issue at several of the other sites that CC manages, and the work of CC starts by involving local communities as the agents of conservation. CC currently is involved in protecting communities in Cameroon, Malaysia, Thailand, and Myanmar and the establishment of a wildlife corridor in Nepal. The establishment of expanding the network of community-conserved areas in the Amazon has been facilitated by CC partners at Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC), an IPPL-supported organization (there was an additional presentation on the activities of NPC in Peru the following morning that documented their success with community-based conservation).

Teri presented engaging slides demonstrating the enthusiasm of communities worldwide especially for training sessions and outlined several opportunities about how to learn more about community-based conservation and how to support CC in particular.

Shirley McGreal Legacy Award

Shirley dedicated her life to helping primates and the people and organizations who were also committed to primate protection. She did this through mentoring and financial assistance.

As soon as IPPL was financially stable, they sent whatever funds they could to primate rescue groups. In 1999, IPPL formalized its giving practice with the official name of Small Grants Program.

To commemorate her dedication for almost 50 years, IPPL has established the Shirley McGreal Legacy Award.

This award is for an individual deeply involved in the conservation of primates. Nominations will come from IPPL friends and donors.

A public announcement will be made on various social media platforms. Individuals can self-nominate or nominate someone else who meets the criteria.

The deadline to receive nominations is October 1, 2024.

This award carries a \$10,000 financial prize and will be given annually.

The recipient of the first Shirley McGreal Legacy Award will be announced when this year's Small Grants are announced in late December.



Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- **Anonymous** in honor of Carol Leenstra
- **Anonymous** in honor of Peppy
- **Anonymous** in memory of Charles W. Simon
- **Jad Belmoumen** in honor of George, Cacao and Bobby
- **Roy Fontaine** in memory of Geza Teleki
- **Vince Kordack** in honor of Jamie's birthday
- **Marie Mitchem** in memory of Ponso
- **Emily Papa** in honor of my gibbon loving brothers!
- **Amy Salisbury** in memory of Roscoe and Dottie
- **Denise Wilkinson** in memory of Bradley who was shot and killed in Walterboro. Failed by humans.

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:

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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.



Shop our online store for more colors and sizes

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.



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Rambunctious Robbie!



Robbie was born at IPPL. His mother, E.T., came from a New York laboratory as a baby. When E.T. matured, she was paired with Nicholas, a former zoo gibbon, and they had Robbie (before Nicholas had a vasectomy). Once he reached maturity, Robbie was paired with Dianne, another gibbon born at IPPL. These two are very close and love to spend their days wrestling and chasing each other around their spacious outdoor enclosure.

They're also big-time pranksters, with Robbie being the very confident ringleader. We need to be sure during feeding times to place the feeding cart far enough away from their enclosure or Robbie will grab the cart, pull it closer and start stuffing his mouth, hands and feet with as much food as he can before his naughty ways are discovered!

He is very food-motivated which is one reason the staff has been able to form a close bond with Robbie. It's impossible not

to laugh while spending time with him while he's in one of his goofy, playful moods. We cherish every moment we get to spend with this rambunctious boy!

The following link is a video of Robbie which can be viewed when this issue is on our website. It shows him working on a breakfast puzzle while Dianne lurks in the background waiting for him to solve it for her!

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/640880901283137>

