

IPPL

International
Primate
Protection
League

News

ISSN-1040-3027, Vol. 35, No. 1

May 2008



IPPL's 10th Members' Meeting Celebrating 35 years of protecting primates



Inside:

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A Letter from IPPL's Executive Director Shirley McGreal

Dear IPPL Member,

IPPL's 10th biennial conference was held during the last weekend of March 2008. We had assembled a wonderful group of speakers from many countries. Nearly 100 members came to learn about our work and meet our speakers, staff, and other members. A special treat was the arrival of our 97 year old member, Kitty Weaver!

As IPPL members know, there are "high-profile" primates and there are also lowly primates who receive less attention—both in the media and from donors. Because of the huge increase in the international monkey trade, we brought in several speakers from Asian nations that are home to macaques, as well as world macaque expert Dr. Ardith Eudey who led a pre-conference discussion on the plight of these monkeys.

Mangal Man Shakya and Manoj Gautam flew in from Nepal to tell us about the fight against U.S. efforts to establish breeding centers there for rhesus monkeys. Lim Phaik Kee from Friends of the Earth Malaysia introduced us to the variety of primates found in her country, some of which had been threatened with capture and exportation as a result of a plan announced last year to lift Malaysia's 1984 primate export ban. Fortunately, according to an announcement by the Malaysian government earlier this year, that plan has been abandoned.

Members also enjoyed hearing about the saga of the Taiping Zoo gorillas from beginning to end. It was on the couch in IPPL's office during our 2002 conference that an Asian speaker opened up his laptop computer and showed me photos of two Nigerian smugglers holding apes and gave me the business card of a company called NigerCom Solutions, which had an office in Penang, Malaysia. He told me that Malaysia's Taiping Zoo had just received four young gorillas. IPPL's investigations showed that the animals had been smuggled from Nigeria on false captive-born papers.

We kept up the fight and, in November 2007, the four gorillas, after spending some years at a South African zoo, were returned safely to Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon. Jonathan Kang from Limbe told us that they were

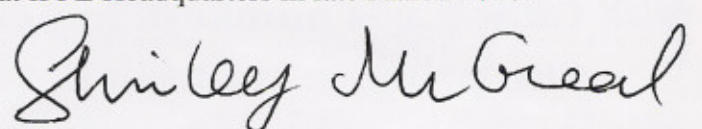
doing well and showed us lots of pictures. For these four animals, it was one of those rare happy endings.

One of the delights of the conference for many members was seeing the gibbons swinging and hearing their songs. The grounds were lovely with azaleas as well as many other flowers in bloom. The trees in our woodlands were turning a lovely green. There were lots of birds.

The IPPL dogs, Bullet, Zoe, and Northie, made everyone feel welcome.

We had excellent new caterers and our animal care staff and volunteers baked up all kinds of cakes, crumbles, and muffins.

We are all looking forward to our 11th conference to be held at IPPL Headquarters in late March 2010.



Shirley, left, with senior IPPL member Kitty Weaver, right, accompanied by Kitty's niece Patsy Dunlap.

IPPL's faithful mascot, our blind rescue dog Bullet, was on hand for our tenth biennial Members' Meeting this past March.



Photo: Susan Parker

Awards and Congratulations!



Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder, Awarded the OBE

Twice a year the Queen of England honors British citizens through the New Year's Honours List and the Queen's Birthday Honours.

We at IPPL are very proud that our founder Shirley McGreal was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) on the 2008 New Year's Honours List. Shirley will attend a formal investiture at Buckingham Palace on 4 June 2008.

Cyril Rosen, head of IPPL-UK, commented,

Over the past three decades IPPL's role has widened to become a leading force in the conservation and welfare of all primate species. Many governments found themselves unable to enforce confiscation of illegally held and traded primates through lack of suitable holding and release facilities. IPPL's response is to encourage rescue and rehabilitation in the habitat countries. This often includes the provision of financial and advisory support in the early stages, before proven success can attract local and international attention

Shirley McGreal Honored by American Anti-Vivisection Society

The American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) is 125 years old this year. The organization was founded by Caroline Earle White in 1883 and still maintains its headquarters in Pennsylvania. AAVS was the first organization to focus its mission on ending the use of animals in experimentation and testing.

A special anniversary dinner was held on 5 April 2008. Following dinner, Sue Leary, President of AAVS, awarded the first Caroline Earle White award to Shirley McGreal, founder of IPPL. The presentation was followed by a talk by philosopher and author Dr. Tom Regan and a film documenting the history of AAVS. The evening ended with songs from the Anna Crusis Women's Choir.

on a wider scale.

It is twenty years since Dian Fossey wrote to Shirley to ask, "What would the apes and monkeys have done without you?" Her many admirers today still ask the same question.

AAVS president Sue Leary, right, presents IPPL founder Shirley McGreal with the first Caroline Earle White award, in honor of Shirley's leadership, vision, and commitment in working for animal protection all over the world. Shirley was commended for her pioneering work investigating illegal primate trafficking and abuse.

A Message from Jane Goodall

Dear Shirley,

So many heart felt congratulations to you and all the wonderful staff and volunteers of IPPL on the 35th anniversary of the founding of IPPL. Now you have your 10th biennial meeting—another landmark occasion. Fantastic!

When I think of all that you have accomplished through IPPL I am truly full of admiration. You have helped not only thousands of primates, but also brought hope to all those who care about them and their suffering at human hands. And the numbers of those who care has increased a thousand-fold because of the awareness IPPL has raised in countries around the world.

Once again, warmest congratulations. And loud pant hoots of thanks from the chimpanzees, too.

Good luck for the next 35 years!

With all good wishes,

Jane

Jane Goodall PhD, DBE
Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute
& UN Messenger of Peace

Macaques and More: Members' Forum on International Monkey Trade

As a lively kick-off to IPPL's tenth biennial Members' Meeting, which was held 28-30 March 2008, over 40 visitors gathered in IPPL's main office building on Friday afternoon. The objective: a wide-ranging discussion on the threats faced by the world's monkeys, especially our humble and much-abused friends, the macaques.

Dr. Ardith Eudey, the former Vice-Chair for Asia of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Primate Specialist Group and a macaque specialist, facilitated a dialogue among those in attendance. She drew on the input of numerous professionals who were part of the group, such as Jim Mahoney, a primate specialist veterinarian who has worked with IPPL for decades.

Ardith began by pointing out the spike in primate imports to the U.S. in recent years (see the chart on page 5). In part, we can thank Project BioShield for this increase, she said; in 2004, President Bush authorized \$5.6 billion over 10 years for, among other activities, developing treatments to be used in the event of a possible bioterror attack—a research bonanza that opened the lab doors to huge numbers of experimental subjects, including monkeys.

IPPL Founder and Executive Director Shirley McGreal handed out a summary of primates imported to the U.S. in 2007 (see "Monkeys by the Numbers"). She pointed out that China had exported 15,053 monkeys to this country—most of whom were crab-eating macaques. This trade deficit is especially troubling because these primates are not native to China. The monkeys (also known as long-tailed macaques, cynomolgus monkeys,

or "cynos") have been imported to the U.S. in huge numbers ever since the late 1970s, when countries like India and Bangladesh banned exports of their own rhesus macaques (the former favorite species of imported lab monkey). Crab-eating macaques are native to several countries that count China as a near neighbor (including Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam), and it is believed that China is siphoning off its neighbors' wild monkeys and re-exporting them for profit.

In the discussion that followed, participants noted several disturbing trends:

- Macaques are increasingly considered as pests in their native countries; they are omnivorous and, in the face of habitat encroachment, will raid the crops of their human neighbors. This scenario is an increasingly common source of human-animal conflict, one that often results in the capture and killing of the animals.
- Monkey populations that make the successful transition to an urban environment may nonetheless find themselves targeted for "culling" if they are deemed a nuisance by the authorities.
- Chinese entrepreneurs, possibly financed by their government, are known to have established "monkey farms" in China and its neighboring countries. These facilities are supposed to be stocked with wild-caught animals for captive breeding. Although the job of wildlife authorities is to ensure that wild primate populations are not negatively impacted by trade, both wild- and captive-born

Monkeys by the Numbers

Every January IPPL submits a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Law Enforcement Management Information Service (LEMIS) spreadsheet that lists the number, species, and other details for primates imported to the U.S. during the previous year. Here is what we learned about 2007:

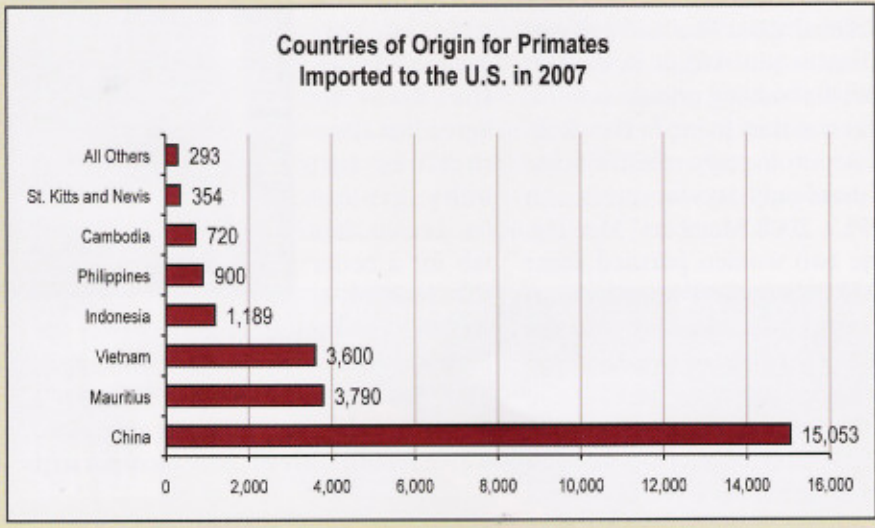
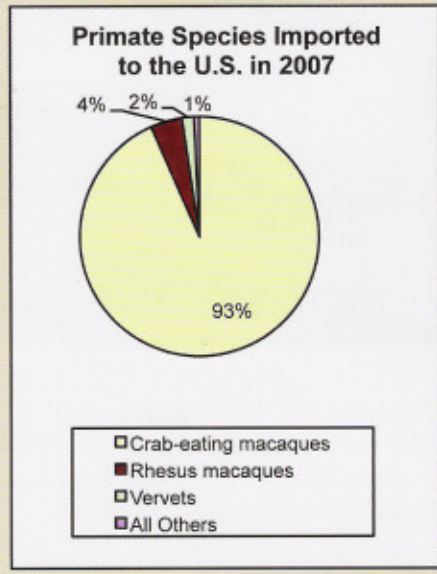
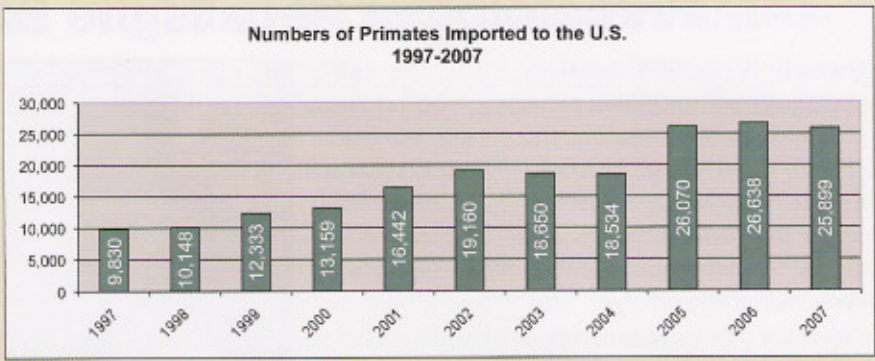
- A total of 25,899 primates were reported to have been imported.
- Most of these—24,196, or 93 percent—were crab-eating macaques.
- China was the country of origin for 58 percent of primate shipments to the U.S.

See the figures on page 5 for the latest summaries on U.S. primate imports.

animals can be easily exported together on false "captive born" documents (sometimes just a photocopy of a prior permit will suffice).

- These "monkey farms" are a far cry from the pastoral primate playgrounds you might want to envision. The animals are usually kept in tiny, crowded, unsanitary, barren cages. There, they could become prime candidates for sparking any sort of epidemic, or even for disseminating some emerging disease that could be exported around the world before the authorities were aware of its existence.
- We can only guess at the mortality experienced by monkeys who have been targeted for export, but one suspects that the survival rates are staggeringly low. Conditions of capture, housing, and transport are widely reported to be inhumane.

Later in the afternoon, the conversation turned to potential solutions—even subversive ones (like selling the Chinese low-cost monkey chow impregnated with oral contraceptives to send the monkey farm populations crashing!). Several of those present thought that psychology and economic sanctions should be recruited to discourage continued monkey exports. British veterinarian Simon Adams proposed that identifying monkeys as possible vectors for disease would discourage some humans from having contact with the animals, particularly at the dinner table. Shirley concluded that what is most essential is a "yes, we can make a difference" attitude—one which forum participants all seemed to share.



ShirleyFest is Highlight of Members' Meeting 2008!

On Friday night, IPPL-2008 kicked off with a very special event: "ShirleyFest," a celebration of the life of IPPL's founder Shirley McGreal and the successes of IPPL over 35 years. ShirleyFest was organized over many months by long-time Advisory Board member Ann Koros, with a lot of help from IPPL staff members Barbara and Sharon.

The program started with a PowerPoint presentation assembled and narrated by Ann, which even included baby photos of Shirley and her twin sister Jean. Ann had assembled a roster of speakers to make friendly tributes, and several other members also volunteered their reminiscences. Thank you to Carol Arthur, Jane Dewar, Jim Mahoney, Jean Martin, Linda May, Heather McGiffin, Lynette Shanley, Dianne Taylor-Snow, and Linda Wolfe for sharing your stories.

Following the presentation, a huge "special delivery" package was brought in from the back of the room. It was carefully wrapped and tied with a cord—everyone was curious about what was inside.

It turned out to be a magnificent photo-montage of all the major primate groups—lemurs, Old World and New World monkeys, small and large apes. The gibbon clan is represented by a lovely portrait of IPPL's beloved blind gibbon Beanie, who passed away in 2004. At the bottom of the piece is a calligraphed list of IPPL's accomplishments since 1973, when Shirley founded the organization. Noted wildlife photographer Michael Turco had assembled this masterpiece, which is mounted on an easel and now resides in IPPL's office for everyone to enjoy.



Ann Koros and Michael Turco, with Shirley's special gift commemorating 35 years of IPPL.

Thank you to Ann, Michael, and everyone involved in this memorable evening!

Primatologist Recalls the Birth of IPPL

In the early 1970s, IPPL Advisory Board Member Ardith Eudey was a graduate student beating the bushes in the wilds of Thailand, trying to shed some academic light on the "differentiation and dispersal" of macaque monkeys in Asia. When she emerged from the forest, a mutual acquaintance who had read an article by Shirley McGreal about Thailand's abused primates put Ardith in contact with the budding primate activist, who was then living in Bangkok.

Ardith happily recalled some of those early days for attendees at IPPL's 2008 Members' Meeting. The two women pursued some of IPPL's earliest investigations together—like looking into the case of 10 gibbons who had been smuggled out of the SEATO Lab (a U.S. Army medical research facility in Bangkok) to a research lab at the University of California at Davis, where Ardith was studying for her doctorate. In those days before the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the only legal recourse for people like Ardith and Shirley was the Lacey Act, which (among other provisions) prohibits international shipments of wildlife products using false declarations on the accompanying paperwork. The case against the illegal gibbon importers ultimately had to be dropped—not for lack of evidence, Ardith was told, but because it was "too sensitive," from which she inferred it could have embarrassed the army or the university.

But maybe the investigation itself was embarrassing enough: UC Davis halted the acquisition of the gibbons and the funding for the research evaporated. The lab director in question, previously a recipient of generous funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), was reduced to cleaning his own gibbon cages.

All the lab's gibbons were sent to other facilities, except for one infant considered to be "mentally retarded." Fortunately, when IPPL offered this gibbon a home, the director agreed to allow that one last baby gibbon to leave his lab for a better life. In 1981, at

Ardith's prompting, he turned over the little ape (whom we named Arun Rangsi, Thai for "The Rising Sun of Dawn") to a still-new charitable organization, which Ardith had officially incorporated

for Shirley in California. IPPL's first lab gibbon still lives happily at IPPL's South Carolina sanctuary with his mate Shanti and was there to greet Members' Meeting attendees this past March.

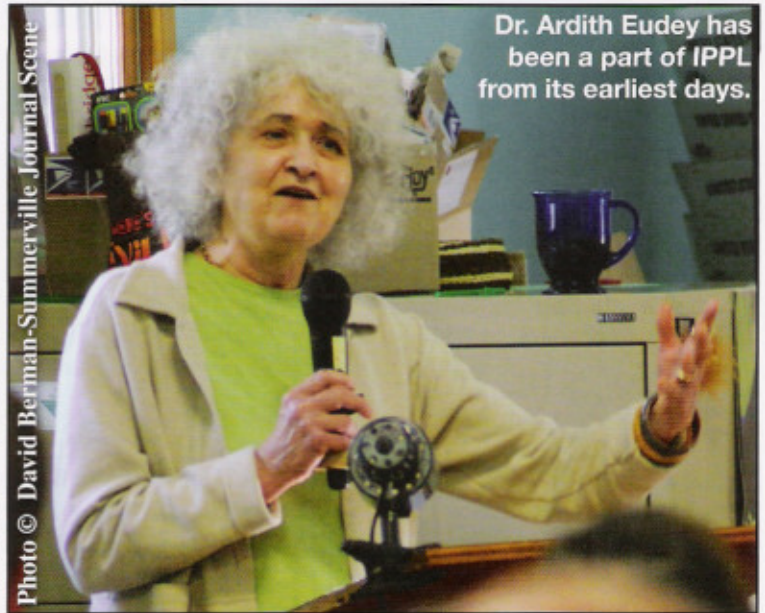


Photo © David Berman-Summerville-Journal Scene

Dr. Ardith Eudey has been a part of IPPL from its earliest days.

Dr. Ardith Eudey: Macaque Expert

In 1973, Ardith began what has become a long-term field study to work out the distribution and habitat preference of the five species of macaque monkeys found in the Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, a World Heritage Site in west-central Thailand. She is the first person to have undertaken a systematic study of a large mammal in this important protected area in Southeast Asia, and all of her fieldwork has been carried out in cooperation with the Royal Forest Department's Wildlife Conservation Division. She received her PhD in physical anthropology from the University of California at Davis in 1979. Her dissertation examines the effects of climate and habitat change during the ice ages on the differentiation and spread of macaques in Asia, but her most significant fieldwork occurred later, including a demographic and land-use study of Hmong hill folk involuntarily relocated from the sanctuary in 1986-87.

In 1976, she joined the Anthropology Department at the University of Nevada Reno. Previously she had taught courses in physical or biological anthropology at Pasadena City College (California), California State University Hayward, and, subsequent to being advanced to doctoral candidacy, UC Davis.

Ardith served as Vice-Chairwoman for Asia of the IUCN/Species Survival Commission's Primate Specialist Group (PSG) until the position was eliminated during reorganization of the PSG in 2006. She compiled the IUCN Action Plan for Asian Primate Conservation: 1987-91 (the second action plan produced by the Species Survival Commission) and she has plans to revive as an online publication the newsletter "Asian Primates," the first regional newsletter of the PSG that she edited in hard copy format for eight volumes. During this period, she held adjunct positions at the University of California Riverside (Psychology) and California State University Fullerton (Anthropology).

Addressing the growing perception of macaque monkeys as "pests" has been the focus of much of her recent work. Illness in her family interrupted her fieldwork in the late 1990s, but she returned to Thailand and Huai Kha Khaeng in 2007 to investigate resuming her study and contributing to the protection of the sanctuary.

Vet Describes the Plight of Indonesia's Primates

Dr. Kar mele Llano Sanchez received her veterinary training in Spain, which of course does not have any native primates, but after working with capuchin monkeys, she was hooked and decided to specialize in primate care. She went to Holland to get more primate experience and soon welcomed the opportunity to do a stint in Indonesia, a primate habitat country. However, the "three month" volunteer experience has turned into a four year residence for this young vet!

Kar mele is currently working for UK-based International Animal Rescue (IAR), an animal welfare organization that helps wild and domestic animals with hands-on rescue, rehabilitation, and (when

Update on Nakola, the Silvery Gibbon

Kar mele was also happy to provide some good news about Nakola—a poor silvery gibbon deformed by rickets and missing toes—living at the troubled Cikananga Rescue Center in Malang on the island of Java. Last year, as reported in the December 2007 *IPPL News*, IPPL made an emergency donation to this sanctuary during a time of severe cash shortfall.

In recent months, Cikananga has improved, and Nakola, too, is doing so much better. And he has been receiving unexpected visits from a bold little orange fellow! A baby was recently born to a neighboring couple of leaf monkeys. Although adult animals at the sanctuary do not wander about freely, the adventurous baby has had no trouble leaving his parents' enclosure and slipping through the mesh of Nakola's cage. Now, said Kar mele, the two of them frequently enjoy play sessions together, a charming example of interspecies friendship!

Nakola receives a visit from...



...a baby leaf monkey!



appropriate and possible) return to the wild, with field projects in India, Malta, and Indonesia. In Indonesia, said Kar mele, they are focusing their rescue operations on the five most commonly traded primates: two species of macaque monkeys (pig-tailed and crab-eating macaques) and three kinds of lorises (the greater slow loris, Javan slow loris, and Bornean slow loris). Last December, IAR set up a rehabilitation and education center for their Indonesian work. The rehabilitation facility has features like socialization cages for groups of macaques; the education center welcomes school groups and volunteers, and the children enjoy field trips to the nearby Curug Nangka waterfalls.

IAR's species of concern have not received the same amount of attention as, say, orangutans (although these apes have deservedly received a good deal of press as their forest homes in Borneo and Sumatra have been illegally logged, burned, and converted to oil palm plantations at a dizzying rate), but without proper protections, populations of macaques and lorises could reach a crisis state, too. In fact, said Kar mele, there is no firm idea of how many of these smaller primates remain in the wild.

The humble macaque monkeys are forced onto breeding farms, their babies or remaining wild cousins exported to research labs in the West. Domestically, they are popularly kept as pets (which is legal in Indonesia) and used for food (monkey brains are a delicacy). But the fate of the small, nocturnal lorises is especially saddening. They, too, are popular as pets, touted as a sort of living toy. They are also used for "minyak kukang," for which the animal is burned alive to obtain a liquid that is employed in traditional medicine/black magic. Although officially protected, lorises are

regularly traded in the backs of stores. Karmele estimated that over 1,000 of them a year are trafficked from Sumatra to Jakarta to be sold as pets. To give the impression that these wild animals are appropriate for children, the Jakarta animal dealers will usually clip or pull out the lorises' teeth. Karmele said that it is important to rescue

Slow lorises like this one are often traded as pets in Indonesia.



lorises before they get to the Jakarta markets, or else, with their teeth gone, there is an 85 percent chance that they will die of a dental infection—and a zero percent chance that they could ever be returned to the wild. Sadly, 95 percent of the lorises that do make it to a rescue center die, either from dental problems or from the consequences of improper care, since most people are not interested in giving lorises care when they need it

example, Edward and his team confiscated an illegal animal shipment bound for Jakarta that included 24 lorises, 13 of them dead, the rest traumatized. With a lot of rehabilitative care (assisted by IAR at the Forestry Department's Rescue Center in Lampung), two mothers and five babies survived. Once they had recovered their strength, they were released into the wild. According to Karmele, this is a first for Indonesia. Surely, it won't be the last!

most—at night, when the animals are active.

Edward Rahadian, an official from the Indonesian Forestry Department who came to the Members' Meeting with Karmele, added that another major challenge for wildlife officials was what to do with those animals that have been successfully confiscated. Especially when dealing with primates or other injured animals that need a lot of care, facilities and staff are limited, and release programs are few for those animals that have been rehabilitated.

Still, Karmele, Edward, and their colleagues and friends are doing what they can. In April of last year, for

The CITES Treaty and the International Primate Trade

Birgith Sloth has been a consultant since 1994 for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES—pronounced SIGH-tease), a wildlife treaty that binds 172 nations to restricting the trade in officially protected plants and animals. She now travels the world raising public awareness about wildlife issues and working with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Prior to her independent career, she spent 17 years in the Danish government, where she honed her expertise regarding this crucial treaty.

CITES, which was ratified in 1973 and went into effect in 1975, has become critical for fighting wildlife crime on an international scale. Species can be listed in the treaty's appendices (Appendix III, II, and I, known as Annex C, B, and A in the European Union), which convey increasing levels of protection.

Appendix III includes species listed at the discretion of individual countries wishing to designate plants and animals that have not yet been granted a higher level of protection from trade, as approved by the entire body of member nations. All primates are listed on either Appendix II or I—even if a new primate species is

discovered, as happens occasionally, it is automatically listed on Appendix II. Appendix II allows some international trade, but only if the transaction involves either captive bred animals or the sustainable "taking" of wild specimens. Lorises (small nocturnal primates native to Southeast Asia, who are often traded as pets) used to be listed on Appendix II, but with the help of IPPL, said Birgith, they were uplisted to Appendix I last year. Appendix I species (which include all the apes) enjoy the most official protection: species listed here may not be traded internationally for primarily commercial purposes.

Birgith shared with Members' Meeting attendees a brief film intended to educate the public about aspects of CITES that can impact people's daily lives. For example, international travelers should be wary of attempting to bring home souvenirs made from endangered plants and animals, like ivory figurines, animal pelts, or shell ornaments. The film showed incredible mounds of items confiscated under CITES regulations, and audience members wondered what happened to all this contraband. Birgith said that while some of the confiscated items made from species listed on Appendix II and III could

theoretically be re-sold (though this would set a bad example), often the stuff is simply destroyed. Sometimes, though, it is used for training customs workers or turned over to scientists for research purposes.

Although CITES is one of the few safeguards for primates (and many other endangered species) that are targeted by international traffickers, the punishments unfortunately are often not severe enough to deter smugglers. Certainly, the cost of doing business is less than for drug smuggling: mostly, the criminals just risk having the animals or specimens confiscated, and the rewards can be

significant if a smuggler slips through undetected. Small South American monkeys, for example, are popular as pets and can be bought in Brazil for \$25 and re-sold for \$2,500 in the EU. Even baby monkeys have been found smuggled in luggage or taped to passengers' legs. There is now a movement afoot to increase the fine for smuggling to two or three times the value of the animal. Maybe that will put a stop to people traveling with monkeys in their pants!

Undercover in a Primate Lab

Matt Rossell really knows what the life of a lab monkey is like. In 1998, he began a two-year stint at the Oregon Regional (now "National") Primate Research Center, which was the first of seven original primate research facilities established by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Matt (who is now on staff at In Defense of Animals) worked undercover as a lab technician to document the lives of some of the 2,500 primates held captive there at the time. This information is available in a heartbreaking documentary film called "Chattel" (2003), from which he played excerpts while narrating the scenes himself.

What he saw behind the laboratory doors: poor husbandry, lack of oversight (one U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector he knew quit in frustration in 2000, after she was told to cut her list of violations in half, then in half again), and assembly-line research, in which the primates kept there—rhesus, stump-tailed, and crab-eating macaques, as well as some capuchins—were reduced to the status of "furry test-tubes." They were often single-housed in small, barren, cages, usually for years—the equivalent of a human being living alone in a 5 x 5 foot closet. Treatment of the animals ranged from haphazard to cruel: injured monkeys were left untreated, anesthetized animals were allowed to recover unsupervised, the wrong monkeys were injected, and needlessly torturous practices like electro-ejaculation were routine.

The film's grim footage showed the



Matt Rossell, primate detective.

psychological toll taken on primates confined to such an unnatural environment: self-injurious and abnormal, repetitive (or "stereotypic") behaviors were all too common. Some had to have their bandages duct-taped to their arms to prevent the animals from neurotically biting or clawing at their self-inflicted wounds. Other clips showed monkeys repeatedly self-clutching or huddled in a corner in deep depression. One pathetically weak little monkey was given a peanut. Video footage showed him slowly collapsing to the floor of his cage—unwilling to clutch at the bars of his enclosure to steady himself rather than risk dropping his rare and precious treat.

It was hard coming face-to-face with this miserable reality. (Some audience

members had to leave the room.) Needless to say, the film was not a commercial success: it was shown on television only once, in the Bay Area. All other venues—Dateline, 60 Minutes, MSNBC, various PBS stations—backed out for fear of alienating their sponsors (especially Big Pharma).

Still, Matt has hopes that the tide may be gradually turning for the descendants of the monkeys he knew. For those monkeys still in labs, social housing is becoming more common. Recent failures of the animal model for biomedical research—as demonstrated in several high-profile drug recalls—are paving the way for reduced use of lab primates in the future, he said. And representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NIH, and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences announced just last February that live animal models for toxicology studies would be gradually phased out in favor of more advanced and humane techniques, such as computer modeling. Genetics research is getting more precise, too, with drug companies looking toward a day when individually tailored treatments, based on a patient's DNA, will be the norm. Then, maybe primate research will be seen for the crude, cruel enterprise it really is.

Limbe Wildlife Centre Greets Taiping Four Gorillas

Jonathan Kang—Animal Husbandry Supervisor, Head Keeper, and 13-year veteran employee at Cameroon's Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC)—was a particularly welcome repeat speaker at the IPPL's Members' Meeting. Along with an update on the activities at LWC and the 87 primates who call it home, he brought with him a satisfying account of the Taiping Four gorillas. These four smuggled Cameroonian orphans, whose story IPPL first encountered at the Members' Meeting in 2002, were finally successfully repatriated to Limbe last November.

IPPL founder Shirley McGreal and Board Member Dianne Taylor-Snow recapped the saga: how in 2002 an IPPL member showed Shirley pictures of animal dealers allegedly involved in smuggling the baby gorillas from Cameroon through Nigeria and South Africa to Malaysia; how Dianne had immediately done some on-the-ground sleuthing at Malaysia's Taiping Zoo, where the gorillas had mysteriously appeared in January of that year, to learn more about the origin of these apes; how Shirley had followed the paper trail all the way back to Nigeria; and how, after years of collaboration and negotiation, the animals had finally been returned to a reputable sanctuary in their homeland. Jonathan reported that Tinu, Izan, Oyin, and Abbey are doing well, and that their arrival brings the total number of gorillas at LWC to 16.

He also updated his audience on LWC's other activities, primarily rescue work and educational outreach to both children and adults. Some of his stories of confiscated primates were heartbreaking, like



Abbey, one of the smuggled Taiping Four gorillas, at the LWC: back in her homeland of Cameroon at last.

the time the LWC staff attempted to remove a chimpanzee who had been kept alone in a rusted car, barely big enough to stand up in, for 11 years. Because of opposition from the son of the chimp's owner and from fellow villagers, LWC had to get government authorization to remove the animal—but by that time the chimp had “disappeared.” It was only when the owner was threatened with arrest that the animal was finally surrendered

and could join the group of 27 chimps at LWC.

LWC staff members believe that the best way to prevent such circumstances from occurring is to show people, through conservation education, the negative impact of their behavior. LWC's Nature Club activities are popular with youth; every Saturday, children come to LWC to learn about a different species and are encouraged to go home and educate their parents. LWC also organizes plays and workshops for adults that focus on issues like conserving natural resources and the details of wildlife law.

Finally, Jonathan thanked all the members of IPPL for the \$60,000 donation sent to LWC in 2006, the final result of IPPL's fall fundraising campaign. Funding for LWC's kind of work does not come easily in West Africa, and Jonathan expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to make LWC's successes possible.

Taiping Four Gorillas Safely Re-homed

In the last issue of *IPPL News*, it appeared that the Taiping Four gorillas were about to be returned to their country of origin. These four apes had been smuggled out of Cameroon as babies, arriving at Malaysia's Taiping Zoo in January 2002; since April 2004, they had been part of the collection at South Africa's Pretoria Zoo. Ever since being made aware of their situation, IPPL has been reporting and working on re-homing the now 200-pound sub-adults.

As the December 2007 newsletter went to press, everyone hoped that there would not be a repeat of the previous year's disappointment: three days before the animals' planned departure in late 2006, South African wildlife authorities had suddenly announced that all bets were off. They had a letter from the Malaysian government, they said, requesting assurances that South Africa would not charge Malaysia for the cost of maintaining the gorillas. Nothing could be done until this bit of bureaucracy was ironed out. By that time, everyone had to wait until the next dry season, in November 2007, for the transfer to take place.

Fortunately, this time everything went as planned. Kenya Airways undertook to transport the animals free of charge from South Africa to Cameroon's Douala Airport. On 30 November 2007, the four gorillas finally arrived to the sight of banners and flowers offered by a local youth group. The South African Ambassador officially handed over the animals to Cameroon. The gorillas had come home.

IPPL is grateful to everyone who, over the course of more than six-and-a-half years, promoted the return of the Taiping Four gorillas to Cameroon.

Introducing the Primates of Malaysia

Lim Phaik Kee has been working for Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia) for about 20 years. She is consequently very familiar with the primates of her country; she was especially glad to introduce them, in all their variety, to the guests at IPPL's Members' Meeting in light of the Malaysian government's recent decision to keep in place its 1984 ban on exporting its native monkeys for food and research.

Lim began by sharing primate portraits from "Peninsular Malaysia," the part of Malaysia attached to the Southeast Asian mainland that shares a border with Thailand to the north and Singapore to the south. She showed how many different species there are: the white-handed and agile gibbons (cousins to the white-handed gibbons at IPPL's South Carolina sanctuary); the siamang (a sort of beefier and noisier gibbon); the small, nocturnal slow loris (sadly in demand for the international pet trade and for use in cures and charms by native people); and three species of leaf monkey (silvered, banded, and spectacled).

There are also three species of macaques: stump-tailed (thought to be extinct in Malaysia until spotted in the north, coming across the Thai border, in the 1990s), pig-tailed (who are popular as pets and can be trained to harvest coconuts!), and long-tailed macaques. These last have most frequently been labeled as "problem" monkeys: "They'll steal fruit right off your home altar!" said Lim.

Island Malaysia also has its share of

Malaysia Retains Primate Export Ban!

This past February, IPPL was delighted to learn that the Malaysian government had withdrawn its proposed plan to capture and export its native monkeys. As reported previously in *IPPL News* (September 2007, page 10; December 2007, page 15), Malaysia had threatened to overturn its 1984 ban and begin exporting its long-tailed macaque monkeys (also known as crab-eating macaques) to restaurants and research labs in Asia and the West.

However, this past February an announcement by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid, confirmed that Malaysia will not be carrying out this plan. The government had determined that only 20 percent of urban-dwelling monkeys, who were to be the primary victims in this scheme, were healthy enough to be exported: Azmi stated that about 80 percent of Malaysia's approximately 250,000 urban monkeys are infected with diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and hepatitis.

In fact, no monkeys have apparently been shipped out since Malaysia first announced its intentions last August to start exporting its monkeys. This means that Malaysia's monkeys have enjoyed continuous protection for almost 25 years. IPPL had strongly encouraged Malaysia's initial legislation in the early 1980s, pointing out the cruelty suffered by Malaysia's exported monkeys at that time in U.S. bio-warfare labs. Congratulations to the Malaysian Animal Rights and Welfare Society (ROAR), an active coalition of Malaysian animal protection groups that championed this cause, as well as to all IPPL members who wrote to Malaysian officials to protest the proposed lifting of the ban!

primates, particularly the Bornean gibbons, proboscis monkeys, and Bornean orangutans. However, deforestation, illegal logging and hunting, live capture for trade, and other human activities have meant that all of Malaysia's primates are under threat.

Still, she explained, the response of the Wildlife Department has been to propose a series of strategies to deal with "problem monkeys"—running the gamut from the benign (like establishing forest corridors that have been planted with fruit

trees, to encourage monkeys to detour around urban areas, and microchipping monkeys kept as pets, so that their owners will be forced to be accountable for their animals) to the severe (shooting operations).

But it seems clear that nonhuman primates are much more "inconvenienced" by the behavior of humans than vice versa. Malaysia's Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 contains a "special permit" clause that allows theme parks, zoos, and even condominium complexes to acquire and display protected species, if this will result in a perceived benefit to the economy. The result has been a carte blanche for any commercial enterprise to take advantage of "protected" animals like orangutans. Lim concluded with a plea for everyone in the room to sign a petition asking that this "special permit" option be removed; perhaps a revamped Act can finally put a halt to some of the worst offenses against the country's native primates.



Colombia's Owl Monkey Crisis

Owl monkeys are in some ways the most distinctive of Colombia's 27 primate species, or at least this is the impression one gets from listening to Juan Pablo Perea, a Colombian native who works for the DuMond Conservancy for Primates and Tropical Forests. Although there are a number of species of "primitive" (prosimian) primates that are nocturnal, owl monkeys, as their name implies, are the only true monkeys who are active at night. Juan shared with Members' Meeting attendees some facts about the animals' natural history, as well as some "unnatural" problems they face thanks to human interference.

Juan pointed out that owl monkeys (both red-necked and gray-necked species), with their large eyes and well-developed sense of smell, are well suited to their moonlit lifestyle. Unfortunately, their oversized eyes have also made them favorite targets for ophthalmological research, as well as for studies on malaria, as these species are susceptible to the malaria parasite. Owl monkeys are monogamous and territorial (like those primates at IPPL's Headquarters sanctuary, the gibbons!), living in family groups of up to seven individuals. Within the first week of life, the father is responsible for providing the majority of parental care to his infants. They are omnivores, enjoying fruit as well as small prey like lizards and birds; food sharing—a relatively rare phenomenon in the animal kingdom—has been documented in wild owl monkeys.

But in Colombia, owl monkeys have garnered most public attention, not for their family skills, but for their role in furthering the career of the country's star malaria researcher, Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo of the Foundation for Experimental



The Amazon Triangle



Three countries meet at "The Amazon Triangle:" Colombia, Brazil, and Peru. In this region, also known as "Tres Fronteras," Colombian territory juts south like the Florida peninsula, with its two neighbors playing the roles of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

In the analogous position of Miami, though much smaller, the Colombian border town of Leticia is home to Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo's laboratory, where he conducts malaria research on owl monkeys (also known as night monkeys or *douroucoulis*). Across the Colombian border from Leticia are just a few small towns and villages. The borders are not well policed at this relatively under-populated junction.

The area has long been notorious for the trafficking of wildlife, including primates and tropical fish. Starting in the 1960s, U.S. animal dealer Michael Tsalickis exported thousands of monkeys from Colombia to his compound in Tarpon Springs, Florida, for resale to laboratories and the then-legal U.S. pet trade. In 1988 Tsalickis was arrested on drug charges and incarcerated. Now in his 80s, he resides in a U.S. federal prison. Since Tsalickis went out of the monkey business, relatively few primates from Colombia, Brazil, or Peru have appeared in commercial trade to the U.S. However, this doesn't mean that all cross-border primate trade in the Triangle—legal or otherwise—is at a halt.

According to an article that appeared in the 22 November 2007 issue of the Colombian newspaper *Cambio*, some of the owl monkeys reaching Patarroyo's lab have originated in neighboring countries and belong to species not naturally found in Colombia. The story can be found online in Spanish (http://www.cambio.com.co/portadacambio/751/ARTICULO-WEB-NOTA_INTERIOR_CAMBIO-3825952.html), but even non-Spanish-speakers can appreciate the slide show of trappers at work and of owl monkeys in the laboratory, which you can access by clicking on "Imágenes del centro experimental de la Fidic, en Leticia, Amazonas" on the right side of the page. The free online translation service (http://babelfish.yahoo.com/free_trans_service) can also be used to get a sense of the *Cambio* article.

Dr. Ana Milena Echeverry Arias, Member of the Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, National University of Colombia, has expressed her concern that Dr. Patarroyo's lab is being allowed "to remove 1,500 nocturnal monkeys from the Amazon for research." She notes that the main threat to owl monkeys is "their use in biomedical research" and that the "unfortunate animals that are used for research are later released in the Amazonian forests of the triple border, despite this placing wild populations at risk."

IPPL has contacted wildlife authorities of Peru and Brazil about the cross-border monkey trade, but no replies have been received.

Immunology. Ten years ago, he claimed to have created a synthetic anti-malaria vaccine (the cocktail known as SPf 66), but clinical results have been mixed. Nonetheless, Dr. Patarroyo has been granted millions of dollars from Colombia and Spain to carry on more research (no other Colombian researcher has gotten this much funding) and has been authorized to capture thousands of owl monkeys over the years to continue his elusive quest. He has been accused but never successfully convicted of being complicit in trafficking

animals from Peru and Brazil. When he is finished with his experimental subjects (and many ex-employees have testified to the poor conditions at Dr. Patarroyo's lab), he casually releases thousands of infected monkeys, even non-native ones, into the wild: that's cheaper than arranging for them to go to a sanctuary or continuing to care for them at his own facility.

What will be the impact on Colombia's native owl monkeys of this influx of lab veterans? Unfortunately, no one may know until it's too late.

How You Can Help Stop the Traffic in Owl Monkeys

We suggest you snail-mail or fax the Colombian Embassy in Washington, DC, asking that Colombia monitor all wildlife shipments reaching the Leticia lab from Peru and Brazil.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Colombia

Embassy of Colombia

2118 Leroy Pl NW

Washington, DC 20008

USA

E-mail: emwas@colombiaemb.org

Fax: 202-232-8643

Addresses of other Colombian embassies can be found online (<http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/Colombia/Colombia1.html>).



Of Plagues and Primates: MRSA as Foe and Friend

Maybe it was the azaleas in bloom outside the window, but IPPL-UK veterinary advisor Simon Adams was surprisingly cheerful despite the grimness of the subject matter he was presenting at the Members' Meeting. He was focusing on MRSA: Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, an especially nasty bacterium that has evolved a thick coat to resist invasion by large molecules, including a multitude of antibiotics. It is an evil variant of the bug that causes our common "staph" infections.

Simon Adams, UK veterinarian.



Although people can carry this organism externally without any ill effects (it likes to live near the base of hair follicles), if it

enters the body through a cut in the skin it can kill with devastating speed, almost like venom, especially in individuals with weakened immune systems. It is one of an emerging class of bacteria (including strains of *E. coli*, anthrax, and others) whose modus operandi typically involves the production of toxins leading to "necrotizing fasciitis" (the destruction of skin and underlying soft tissues, as when infected by "flesh-eating bacteria" or bitten by a brown recluse spider), organ failure, and death.

It's tricky to treat, too. Routine antibiotics can make the situation worse by killing off any benign bacteria, reducing the competition for the MRSA bugs. Vets who encounter this organism have to test for the particular bacteria involved and treat the situation with a barrage of specific antibiotics that will wipe out everything at once.

However, it is MRSA's role as a zoonosis (an infectious disease that can be transmitted between people and animals) that particularly interested him. He shared the story of his pal Pete, a chimpanzee at the Cefn-yr-Erw Primate Sanctuary in Wales, who succumbed to MRSA. As Simon remarked, the entry point for a MRSA infection can look like "just a little bite," but the result is that the animal in front of you is collapsing as though from toxic shock.

Worldwide, Simon stated, maybe one in a hundred people carry MRSA without showing. It can be transmitted from nonhuman primates to people and

vice versa—a matter of great concern for anyone operating a primate sanctuary. Simon advised sanctuary operators to be aware of this potentially horrific danger, since prevention is far easier than a cure: eliminate contact between the sanctuary's primates and the public, quarantine and test new animals, encourage staff hygiene, and avoid immunosuppression in the sanctuary's primate residents by keeping them happy and healthy with good animal care practices.

Interestingly, Simon also felt that zoonoses like MRSA could also be a potentially powerful political tool for helping to save primates. He noted that, when promoting animal welfare, appealing to people's better nature may be less motivating than fear, for politicians as well as the public. For example, in areas where the hunt for bushmeat is devastating primate populations, it could be productive to survey local primate and human populations for potential zoonoses (with the help of funding from the World Health Organization), in order to highlight the dangers of human-nonhuman primate contact. Who knows, even a bushmeat hunter might think twice if he felt he was risking coming into contact with flesh-eating bacteria....

Introducing Helen Thirlway: New IPPL-UK Conservation and Welfare Director

Helen Thirlway has recently been hired to manage IPPL's UK programs. She has worked at the Monkey Sanctuary in Cornwall, England, and had experience in program management and fundraising. Welcome, Helen, to IPPL!

Having worked in primate welfare for a number of years, I have come to see IPPL as a beacon of hope for the world's primates through its international efforts to protect and conserve each and every primate species. So it is both a pleasure and an honor to be joining the team as the Conservation and Welfare Director at IPPL-UK.

Before starting the new position, I was invited to attend the biennial Members' Meeting at the U.S. Headquarters, and what an experience it was! There was no better way to introduce me to the amazing work that Shirley has been doing over 35 years and to hear about the many and varied projects she supports throughout the globe. From slow lorises in Indonesia to gorillas in Africa, the primate welfare and conservation projects represented at the



meeting were an inspiration. What many of the speakers demonstrated is that, with enough determination, anything is possible, and I have returned to the UK enthused with that idea.

Over the next few years, the UK branch will be looking to increase IPPL's presence in the UK and expand our supporter base, which will in turn allow us to offer more assistance both to sanctuaries in the UK and to projects overseas. I am delighted to be a part of this next stage in IPPL-UK's development and look forward to working with all these wonderful, dedicated people for many years to come.

Helen Thirlway

Youth Campaigns for Nepal's Wildlife

An energetic young Manoj Gautam, group leader of Roots and Shoots Nepal, is a pretty busy fellow, but somewhere in the midst of his eastern-U.S. itinerary he found time to stop by IPPL's Members' Meeting to share his experiences of encouraging youth to take action on behalf of the world's animals in need. He showed pictures of street demonstrations with other young folk and attempts to meet with government officials about Nepal's plans to breed and export the country's native rhesus monkeys to U.S. labs. He described how the enthusiastic kids were given prizes for making placards to use in some of the demonstrations. He is hopeful that the "monkey business" can be put to an end, but another concern remains: what will happen to the hundreds of monkeys already incarcerated in Nepal's recently-established breeding facilities?

Nepal has no wildlife rescue centers (the only animal rescue

facilities in the country are limited to care of dogs and cats). As a result, Manoj and his friends and colleagues have sometimes found themselves doing wildlife rescue work on the fly, like the time they were asked by police to care for a confiscated leopard cub for a couple of days—and wound up keeping the animal for 18 months. One sad story involved a little three-month-old rhesus macaque owned by a sadhu (or Hindu holy man). This past February, two Spanish women discovered the little monkey tied by the neck and looking in terrible shape. They managed to get the little fellow (dubbed Spikey) away from his owner and to a dog-and-cat clinic, which provided the animal with some basic care but could not keep him. Then the women found Manoj and his team and turned the little guy over to them. Manoj took Spikey to another veterinary facility, where the monkey was diagnosed with dermatitis



Manoj, from Roots and Shoots Nepal, befriends IPPL canine mascot North the Newfoundland.

and pneumonia. Manoj and his friend Rajan had no choice but to take the ailing monkey back home; they were with Spikey until he passed away early the following morning. Unfortunately, with limited resources for wildlife rehabilitation, a similar fate could await many more of Nepal's monkeys, should they run afoul of human greed and ignorance.

Stopping the Monkey Business in Nepal

Mangal Man Shakya, chairman of Wildlife Watch Group-Nepal, wants everyone to stop monkeying around with his country's native primates.

Ever since some 20 rhesus macaques died mysteriously at a temple in the Swayambhu hills in February 2003, a series of events has been unfolding that threaten to decimate Nepal's monkeys. Later that year, at the request of Nepalese primatologist Dr. Mukesh Chalise, Dr. Randall Kyes from the Washington National Primate Research Center in the U.S. and a team of fellow researchers took hair and blood samples from a number of healthy monkeys at the temple, under the pretext of helping diagnose the mystery illness. Dr. Kyes did not get prior permission from the government for his actions, said Mangal during his Members' Meeting presentation, and it eventually became clear why the researcher felt he could dispense with this requirement: in 2001, Dr. Kyes had signed a private agreement with Dr. Chalise to capture and breed rhesus monkeys, with a view toward exporting animals to research

labs in the U.S.

The true state of affairs became clear when a paper by Dr. Kyes and others appeared in the *American Journal of Primatology* in 2006, which stated that, according to DNA analysis, Nepal's rhesus monkeys would be ideal subjects for studying viruses such as HIV. Conveniently, in 2003 the Nepal government had instituted a "Wildlife Farming, Breeding, and Research Policy," which was supposed to promote the "sustainable use" of animals like macaques, but in reality just opened the door to commercial exploitation. In the wake of this opportunity, Dr. Chalise established the nonprofit "Nepal Biodiversity Research Society" and, said Mangal, has already paid for 50 wild-caught monkeys to be part of his facility, currently being built in Lalitpur. In addition, a couple of U.S. labs (including Dr. Kyes's Primate Center) started making plans to establish monkey breeding and export colonies. It was all starting to fit together.

Mangal explained that there are three monkey species that are native to Nepal:

in addition to rhesus macaques, Assamese macaques and Hanuman langurs call Nepal home. They are traditionally an integral part of temple life, either as statues or as living animals venerated as incarnations of the god Hanuman.

A coalition of animal groups has been working tirelessly since 2003 to protest this transformation of Nepal's monkeys from sacred beings to mere commodities: coalition members have written letters and press releases, marched in the streets, gathered petition signatures, and conducted other attention-getting measures. Mangal hoped that the new Nepalese government, which he looked forward to seeing elected in April, would revisit the wildlife farming policy and work with the animal coalition to close down the macaque breeding centers—and put an end to the monkey business in Nepal.

IPPL's 2nd Silent Auction Raises \$8,000 for Primates

Generous IPPL members from across the country and around the world donated over 150 items for IPPL's second biennial Silent Auction. Held in conjunction with the Members' Meeting, this fundraiser brought in nearly \$8,300, which will be sent to overseas primate rescue centers and wildlife protection groups working on behalf of monkeys and apes.

Auction items were mailed to IPPL or brought to the meeting by attendees. Some of the more colorful items included:

- A malachite necklace from Zambia.
- A case of maple syrup from Quebec.
- A trio of jungle-print thongs from the U.S.
- Several silk scarves direct from Thailand.
- A painting made by the squirrel monkeys of Virginia's Norfolk Zoo.

One of the most intriguing items was a pair of large, bright monkey figures—replicas of 100-year-old statues from an important temple in the Kathmandu Valley—donated by guest speaker Mangal Man Shakya of Wildlife Watch Group-Nepal. He explained that monkeys are an important element of Buddhist belief, often depicted in close association with humans. The Buddha himself was said to have been fed fruit by monkeys during his extended meditations in the forest, which is one reason why the



Mangal Man Shakya, of Wildlife Watch Group-Nepal, explains to IPPL member Peter Martin the significance of the Nepalese monkey temple statues that Mangal donated to the Silent Auction.

animals are so often venerated. The monkeys at IPPL were created in the posture of devoutly offering their favorite fruits to the deity.

An Australian Zoo Review

Lynette Shanley, President, Primates for Primates, Australia

The Zoo Review was started after many complaints were received about some of the zoos in Australia. During the investigation of some of these complaints, we found that some states had no regulations for the special needs of animals that are continuously on display. Many states relied on the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA), which mainly covers food, water, shelter, and exercise. The special emotional and psychological needs of these animals were not taken into account.

We decided that there needed to be national standards for animal care that are enforceable. The Australian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA) have national standards, but only for zoos that belong to ARAZPA. Many of the smaller, privately-owned zoos, which seem to generate the worst complaints, are not members of ARAZPA, so the only legislation that applies to them is the POCTA. In addition, the ARAZPA codes are not enforceable by the state governments.

To change conditions, we first wanted to bring about national codes applicable to all zoos. The states and territories within Australia are responsible for animal welfare. However the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare had previously developed codes for circuses and each and every state and territory had to adopt these codes, thus creating a national code for circuses. It is important that a national code for zoos be developed. Tackling the problem eight times for each of the eight states would be impractical.

One of the first problems was that Primates for Primates would need to retain professional people to conduct the inspections of zoos and prepare detailed reports.

This meant the complaints could not be dismissed with the words "You are just an animal rights activist." The professional reports carried out by Graeme Crook and Debby Cox made all the difference. They are just as responsible as anyone for improvements that have been made.

So why are there so many problems in Australian zoos?

- Just about anyone can open a zoo. There are no legal requirements for having experience or qualifications to care for animals that are often exotic and have special needs.
- Many smaller, privately-owned zoos have untrained staff.
- Many smaller, privately-owned zoos do not have the money for renovating and upgrading exhibits when needed or when more information becomes available about the needs of animals. Over the last ten years, many privately-owned zoos in Australia have gone broke.
- Because many smaller, privately-owned zoos do not attract the amount of visitors they need, there is a lack of money to keep up a variety of environmental enrichment and to prevent a general run-down feeling to the zoo.
- Many smaller, privately-owned zoos are off the beaten track, so serious welfare concerns can go unnoticed.

Some of our major concerns are as follows:

- Surplus animals. No matter how many new zoos open, there always seems to be animals from other zoos needing homes. Excess animals can end up in sub-standard zoos, euthanized to be used as food for other animals, sold to commercial dealers, or absorbed by the pet trade.
- In New South Wales in recent years, excess primates from over-breeding in zoos have been passed on to pet primate keepers. Many of these excess primates are macaques. Monkeys have also been passed on to private owners when zoos close down.

- Space in most zoos is shockingly inadequate.
- There is a long history of voluntary "Codes of Practice" not being effective. There appears to be little monitoring of zoos by authorities.
- Some of the zoos we visited had no regular veterinary checks carried out on animals and no regular vaccination programs.
- Too many zoos separate animals from their mothers at an age that is too early. Primates need to stay with family groups for as long as possible. In many instances, if the primate is to go to another zoo, the youngster is removed too early.

As a result of the hard work of Primates for Primates and our supporters, I am glad to report the following results:

- We have been instrumental in closing two zoos down.
- We have succeeded in getting the federal government to agree to national standards. This is now being handled by the new National Animal Welfare Strategy Committee.
- We have addressed the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare several times regarding serious zoo concerns.
- We have raised awareness in government departments about zoo issues and have been asked to give presentations to government officials.
- We have generated much press coverage regarding the state of Australian zoos.

In addition, we have written every federal politician regarding zoo problems and also contacted many state Members of Parliament, putting pressure on government officials to make sure zoos place money into education, research, and worldwide conservation. We are also distributing leaflets in Australia regarding problems in zoos.

IPPL applauds Lynette's hard work in promoting the welfare of primates and other animals in all of Australia's zoos, great and small.



IPPL's Tenth Biennial Members' Meeting was full of fun, flowers, and fellowship!



Update on South Africa's CARE Baboons

IPPL member and primatologist Dr. Carolyn Bocian updated Members' Meeting attendees on the status of a unique South African sanctuary: the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education (CARE), home to numerous chacma baboons rescued from death or worse as a result of persecution under that country's "vermin law." A number of IPPL members present recalled CARE's founder, Rita Miljo, who gave a fascinating account of her efforts to protect her adopted country's native baboons from harm at the last IPPL meeting two years ago. Carolyn had visited the sanctuary last July and was

glad to report on some recent events.

The April 2005 issue of *IPPL News* had reported on an earlier attempt to release a troop of baboons into South Africa's Vredefort Dome region, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site, in 2002. Unfortunately, landowners responded by laying out poisoned grain for the animals, and Rita was obliged to bring Tito's troop back to her sanctuary. However, by last year she had found another release site and was able to make another attempt to set these baboons free. Stephen, CARE's devoted release manager, actually camped with

the baboons for four months to help them get a feel for the new territory.

So far, things seem to be going well; although one of the 13 released troop members has died, no foul play is suspected (the cause of death was probably snakebite). And Rita, said Carolyn, is now collaborating with Arthur Hunt, director of the Vervet Monkey Foundation, whom Rita taught some of her primate rehabilitation methods. Vervet monkeys, it turns out, are also fair game under the vermin law.

A Death Sentence for Gibraltar's Monkeys? IPPL Works to Introduce More Humane Management Practices

Helen Thirlway, IPPL-UK Conservation and Welfare Director

"The Killing of the Apes." On 10 April, the editor of *Vox*, a Gibraltar daily newspaper, sent me a story with this chilling headline. It seems that the well-being of the famous Barbary macaque monkeys, also known as "rock apes," is again being threatened by poor animal management practices on the part of the Gibraltar government. Now, according to the paper, the government was apparently intending to "cull" a splinter group of 25 animals that was proving troublesome to some residents of the Catalan Bay area. In this case, IPPL eventually discovered, the term "cull" meant that the entire group of free-living monkeys would be captured and put to death via lethal injection.

The saga of the Barbary macaques has been followed by *IPPL News* for years (recent articles appeared in the May 2004 and September 2006 issues). These monkeys (not true apes) are native to North Africa, but since their presumed importation hundreds of years ago to the Gibraltar peninsula, a British territory just south of Spain, they have become the unofficial symbol of the country. They are fêted by the Gibraltar Tourist Board as "the only free-roaming primates in Europe," and many people would say that these monkeys are Gibraltar's premier tourist attraction.

However, issues of human-animal exploitation and conflict continue to arise, as unregulated feedings by tourists and monkey overpopulation (in addition to other problems) are leading some macaques to stray into unwelcome territory—like the rooms of guests at the Caleta Hotel. However, when we learned about this latest vendetta against Gibraltar's monkeys, new IPPL-UK Conservation and Welfare Director, Helen Thirlway, quickly stepped into action. Her goals: to buy time for the targeted animals and to reinvigorate the debate on how best to manage the monkeys, so that both human and nonhuman primates can live together on the Rock in peace. This is her behind-the-scenes report on what it will take to save the "Barbary apes."

Shirley McGreal

When I learned of this recent development in Gibraltar, my first step was to call Dr. John Cortes, the head of the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS), a nongovernmental organization contracted by the Gibraltar government to manage the macaques. Though clearly trying to be diplomatic, Dr. Cortes gave me the distinct impression that GONHS had only just learned of the announcement to cull this splinter group, which had been made in Parliament by Ernest Britto, the Minister for the Environment and Tourism. I was told later by a journalist that a reporter had unwittingly broken the news to Dr. Cortes by asking him what he thought of the cull, only for him to respond "What cull?"

My next step was to try to speak to the Minister himself, but since he was not in his office I called Albert Bruzon, Principal Secretary of the Department for the Environment. He confirmed that the license had already been issued and that the cull was due to start "as soon as possible."



Gibraltar's Barbary macaque monkeys are threatened by poor government management practices.

Ask the experts

To get some vital background information, I then spoke with several macaque experts, like Dr. John Fa, a native Gibraltarian now at the Durrell Wildlife Trust in Jersey, who published *The Barbary Macaque: A Case Study in Conservation* back in 1984. In fact, Dr. Fa had been submitting advice on the proper management of Gibraltar's macaque population as far back as 1982 but grew exasperated with the government's refusal to tackle the issues while he was working there. I also consulted with Professor Robert Martin, now at the Field Museum in Chicago. Professor Martin had submitted a management plan in 1997, which (although GONHS has supported most of the plan's recommendations) the government has also ignored. Professor Martin was actually compelled to pull out of his field site in Gibraltar in 2003 when half of his study group was culled.

A 2006 publication, *The Barbary Macaque: Biology, Management and Conservation*, edited by Dr. Cortes himself along with J.K. Hodges, proved to be a very illuminating source of information. In this book, Dr. Cortes listed many recommendations for future management of the Gibraltar macaques, using Prof. Martin's 1997 suggestions as a starting point. However, many of Dr. Cortes's comments make it clear that the government is ignoring his recommendations because it does not want to invest the money.

For example, the government provides piles of healthy foods (such as carrots, cabbage, onions, oranges, and potatoes) for the monkeys at a number of designated provisioning stations. Dr. Cortes suggested that feeding should occur twice a day, at 7:00 in the morning and 4:00 in the afternoon, but this practice has not been fully adopted. Funds have not been made available for the extra staff time required to carry out these duties; instead, a second feeding with seeds and grain is carried out at about 1:00 in the afternoon. This explains the complaints that IPPL has received about the feeding areas not being cleaned in the afternoons, about not enough food being supplied, and about food rotting in the sun later in the day. In addition, if an alpha male has taken



Tourists like to give the monkeys treats despite an official ban on such feeding.

sole possession of a pile of provisions, subordinate animals may welcome the opportunity to cadge treats from the all-too-willing tourists who happily flout the official feeding ban—or to steal food from the unwilling ones.

I was determined that they were not going to carry out the cull “on the quiet” this time.

The more I read about the situation in Gibraltar, the more it became obvious that the government was trying to use this cull as a quick-fix solution to a complex and multi-layered problem of its own making. I also learned some shocking news thanks to Fabian Picardo, the shadow Environment Minister (that is, the senior member of the opposition party who is responsible for closely following the official Minister's activities). He is strongly opposed to the cull. Apparently, 15 macaques were killed just last year, he told me, but although the opposition party complained about

it, the incident was not widely publicized outside of Gibraltar. I was determined that they were not going to carry out a cull “on the quiet” this time. We needed to make the government start addressing the root of the problem, to stop this practice once and for all.

A mission to Gibraltar

On 22 April, I travelled to Gibraltar, having been invited to appear on a live television debate to discuss this issue. I wanted to spend a couple of days prior to the event visiting the key areas and speaking to as many of the people involved as possible. I had also gathered suggestions from primatologists on IPPL's Advisory Board that I intended to discuss with GONHS and later present to the Minister for the Environment. I was accompanied by my partner, Keri Cairns, a zoologist who, having worked with primates for nine years, was also keen to use his expertise to help in any way he could.

Our first step was to visit the Upper Rock Reserve accompanied by our new friend Harry Parody, one of the taxi drivers who shuttle tourists to where the animals can be found. We quickly saw examples of what is wrong with the complicated Gibraltar monkey situation.

First, there is the issue of the taxi drivers. There have been complaints against some of the taxi drivers by GONHS because, it is claimed, they flout the feeding ban and may even entice the monkeys onto peoples' shoulders and heads for photos. This is true, and some I saw were treating the monkeys like nothing more than circus performers. However, there are some taxi drivers, like Harry Parody and Jason Cruz, who know and understand the monkeys extremely well and are genuine and passionate advocates on their behalf. Jason has been steadfastly writing letters appealing for wardens on the Upper Rock Reserve for at least a decade. Also, in the absence of anyone in a position of authority up there (since the government has refused to pay for any full-time macaque staff), the taxi drivers do at least have some form of control over the monkeys and will advise people on what they should and shouldn't do around them. The situation is much worse when people come up unaccompanied on the cable car or in their own vehicles.

Then there are the tourists. We saw one woman cause complete pandemonium by coming up with a loaf of bread and tossing pieces around to various members of a troop. The group, which had been enjoying a calm, leisurely grooming session in the sun, was suddenly disrupted by the excitement. Of course the woman quickly ran out of bread, but since she didn't understand anything about macaque hierarchies she ended up giving it mostly to subordinate members of the group. She was then approached by the alpha male who, upset at this violation of macaque protocol, started tugging at her clothes to demand his share; the tourist was clearly frightened by the encounter. We witnessed this scene at the Apes' Den, having only been up there for a few moments, so incidents like this must happen throughout the day. But sometimes the unthinking tourists are aided and abetted by people who should know better: we even witnessed a security guard encouraging a tourist to give his ice cream to a baby macaque. Needless to say, the monkeys there are overweight.

A study on human-macaque interactions by Agustin Fuentes, carried



Some issues that the Gibraltar government could address to reduce human-monkey conflict: *top*, monkeys, having obtained bread behind the Caleta Hotel, are enticed into residential areas; *middle*, non-monkey-proofed trash bins are everywhere; *bottom*, lack of enforcement of the feeding ban teaches the monkeys to pester humans for (often unhealthy) food.

out in collaboration with GONHS, has shown that by allowing the feeding and interaction at the Upper Rock Reserve, the monkeys are effectively being trained, not just to associate people with food, but also to act aggressively to get that food. In some cases, tourists will unwittingly "reward" aggressive behavior by dropping or handing over their food after the aggression takes place, thereby positively reinforcing this conduct.

What is so appalling about this is that the government has cited the presence of "aggressive" and "nuisance" monkeys as the reason that this cull is necessary when, through official negligence, the government is directly responsible for the monkeys' behavior. Another reason the government has given for the cull is that the monkeys pose a health risk. However, Dr. Cortes's book states that "physical contact between humans and macaques presents one of the most likely routes of transmission" of disease. Given this commonsense consideration, why is the government not acting to promote public health by discouraging human-monkey interactions?

The following day, we visited Catalan Bay, where the proposed cull is to take place, and met with Franco Ostuni, the manager of the Caleta Hotel, who has been vocal in his support of the cull. He complained that visitors staying in his hotel have had their rooms ransacked. (Although he has a sign in the lobby telling guests to close their windows, most of them ignore it.) He was particularly upset that he had spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on refurbishing the hotel exterior, which he believes has been ruined by monkeys climbing on the walls. Mr. Ostuni did agree, though, that culling is not an effective solution in the long term, because it has been tried before in the Catalan Bay area and yet the problem has once again resurfaced.

On leaving the hotel after our meeting, we saw that a number of monkeys had gathered around a particular area, so we went to have a look. It was very simple to see what was attracting them: they were hanging around the back of the Caleta Hotel kitchens where a rubbish bin was uncovered, and two of the monkeys had either stolen or been given some bread. I

later learned from Eric Shaw, head of the Ape Management Team at GONHS, that when the Rock Hotel had experienced similar difficulties, his team visited the hotel staff and advised them on how to monkey-proof the bins and scare the monkeys away; this was all it took to solve the problem. Mr. Shaw said that he had tried to do the same thing for Mr. Ostuni, but with less success. We also saw an uncovered public rubbish bin elsewhere in Catalan Bay and other people feeding monkeys in the area.

This cull should never have been contemplated until all other options had been investigated:

- all rubbish sites, public and private, should be properly covered and monkey-proofed;
- all unauthorized monkey feedings should be strongly discouraged (with the use of prominent signs, police patrols leveling fines at lawbreakers, and the presence of full-time monkey wardens at major tourist sites);
- the monkeys should be encouraged to subsist just on their healthy government-sanctioned provisions (by varying the diet frequently, by ensuring that food is spread out so that all members of the hierarchy can access it, and by planting additional fruit-bearing trees to promote natural foraging behavior);
- benign strategies should be used to discourage animals from straying where they are not welcome, like giving local residents water pistols, placing toy snakes on windowsills, or running electrified wires underneath balconies (these would deliver a mild but unpleasant shock to an inquisitive monkey and have been used successfully at other European facilities that care for primates).

GONHS also made some of these points in a statement released after the Minister's announcement. This cull is certainly not the "last resort" that Minister Britto claims, when the monkeys are still being actively enticed into the neighborhood.

Debating the fate of the monkeys

The day of the live TV debate itself, I attended a meeting with Minister Britto,

which was unfortunately not as productive as I had hoped it would be. My initial plan was to meet with GONHS first, so that they could explain their current procedures and I could discuss possible solutions with them to determine what might be feasible. I also hoped to encourage them to see IPPL as an organization that could help them by tackling the government publicly in a way that they cannot. However, GONHS cancelled our meeting, and I came alone to meet Minister Britto, only to find him flanked by Dr. Cortes and Mr. Shaw of GONHS and Mark Pizarro, the consultant veterinarian. This was a difficult environment in which to present all of my suggestions, particularly as certain elements within the GONHS team were

what has already been tried and the management plan is shrouded in mystery, it's difficult to establish what suggestions are viable.

During my attendance at this meeting Keri was back at Catalan Bay, where he had an amazing stroke of luck that might hopefully give the group a reprieve: he came across a female macaque with a newborn baby, he estimated within two hours of giving birth. He took as many photos as he could and then ran all the way back into town to get them printed before the debate. We were determined to take this opportunity to announce the birth on live television.

"Viewpoint" is the flagship political debate program of the Gibraltar



either defensive or did not feel able to speak freely in Minister Britto's presence.

As an outsider coming in to attempt to help, I certainly did not feel that they were trying to make things easy for me. When I asked to see the management plan for the macaques, I was told that this is included as part of the "Upper Rock Reserve Management Plan," but because this has been commissioned by the government, it is therefore a government document and no one else is allowed to see it! I did manage to pin Minister Britto down regarding the time by which he would make public those recommendations on which he intends to act (that will be in June), so I will be monitoring the situation closely to see what happens then. But, obviously, when there is little documentation of

Broadcasting Corporation (GBC). The panel discussing the cull featured Fabian Picardo and myself seated on one side and Minister Britto and Dr. Cortes on the other. (I believe the physical positioning was intended to demonstrate our opposing positions although, for Dr. Cortes, the situation is not quite that straightforward.) While we did not manage to cover all aspects of this complex issue, Mr. Picardo and I addressed most of the key points: that rubbish bins have still not been covered and monkey-proofed, that the feeding ban must be enforced (a position reiterated in a statement issued by GONHS a few days afterwards), and that wardens should be employed to oversee the monkeys' well-being. In addition—and of particular importance, considering that Barbary

macaques have just been reclassified as “endangered” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species—GONHS staff confirmed for me that no one has any idea what effect this cull, of about 10 percent of Gibraltar’s monkeys, will have on the genetic diversity of the wider Barbary macaque population.

“Are you going to cull this baby?”

It was thanks to Keri’s photos, though, that I delivered my most shocking point during the debate. GONHS has said that all of the females are allowed to have at least one baby before implanting them with contraceptives, because females without offspring suffer in the hierarchy and end up on the periphery of the group. This seems like a sensible management practice, but how ethical is it to permit them to breed when entire splinter groups are then going to be exterminated? This means allowing a baby to be brought into the world only to be immediately killed. Because Keri’s baby (which Dr. Cortes confirmed was the first of this year’s birthing season) was born around Catalan Bay, it is presumably part of the “nuisance” troop that is targeted for culling. I’m sure that when I asked Minister Britto, live on television, “Are you going to cull this baby?” even he became more fully aware of the stark decision he was making. His response was that they would not cull babies, and there was scope to leave some members of the group alone. But how would this work in practice, when macaques live as part of one cohesive, socially-complex

group? And if this newborn baby will get a reprieve now, will it just be culled next year when it is a one-year-old? Or the year after?

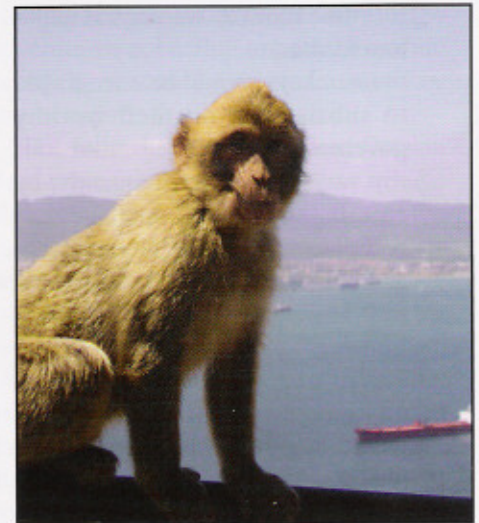


A photo of this newborn Barbary macaque, the first of the 2008 birthing season, was shown on Gibraltar television during my live debate with the Minister for the Environment and Tourism. What will be the fate of this baby?

After the debate, Minister Britto, Dr. Cortes, and I all expressed our wish to work cooperatively on improving the situation for the macaques of Gibraltar. Among the collaborative projects discussed was the production of an educational pamphlet explaining the negative impact of feeding the macaques and the sourcing of monkey-proof bags for tourists to purchase. We have also agreed to work together if the option of relocating any of the macaques to North Africa becomes feasible, as this is a

possibility Dr. Cortes has been exploring for some time. I am optimistic that the recent press coverage and attention that IPPL has generated will force the government of Gibraltar to take stock and finally start investing more resources into looking after these wonderful creatures. Visits to see the monkeys on the Upper Rock Reserve generate millions of pounds in revenue every year. If the government would just commit even a fraction of this income to establish macaque wardens and implement a comprehensive management program, the situation would be better for the monkey and human residents alike.

I would like to thank Harry Parody, Derek McGrail, and Jason Cruz for their help and support during our visit and, in particular, to commend Jason on his dedicated campaigning on behalf of the macaques of Gibraltar.



How You Can Help Protect Gibraltar’s Monkeys

1. Please sign an online petition to request that the government of Gibraltar invest in a comprehensive management plan to care for their macaques, without the use of culling. There is a link to the petition on the IPPL-UK homepage (www.ippl-uk.org).
2. Please write polite letters to the government of Gibraltar urging them to reconsider the decision to cull and stating that you will not travel there as a tourist if this practice continues. Note that the cost of postage from the United States to Gibraltar has now risen to 94 cents per ounce.

The Right Honourable Ernest M. Britto OBE ED
 Government of Gibraltar
 Office of the Minister for the Environment and Tourism
 Joshua Hassan House
 Secretary’s Lane
 GIBRALTAR

Mr. Peter Caruana
 Chief Minister
 Government of Gibraltar
 No. 6 Convent Place
 GIBRALTAR

Uganda: 300 Monkeys Illegally Exported to Russia

According to the 3 February 2008 issue of the Ugandan newspaper *New Vision*, over 300 vervet monkeys have been exported to Russia by a private company named Navina Exports, using an expired export license.

On Wednesday 30 January Ronald Sendagire, a primate trapper, was arrested with 16 monkeys at the Gerenge landing site on the shore of Lake Victoria in Wakiso. The monkeys were loaded in sacks and some were kept in cages, which attracted the attention of residents.

A witness said the trapper, after

realizing that he was in danger, called Yekoyada Nuwagaba, the managing director of Navina Exports.

In 2007 the Navina company was licensed to export 300 monkeys to Chumakov Institute of Poliomyelitis in Moscow, Russia. As evidence to prove the legality of the transaction, Nuwagaba produced a letter indicating the export was approved by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). However the letter had expired on 31 December 31 2007.

In January 2008, Nuwagaba exported 300 monkeys to the Russian institute using

the expired permit.

The acting chief of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, Sam Mwandha, said Nuwagaba erred in exporting monkeys using an expired license but added that the wildlife authority had verbally cleared Nuwagaba to collect more monkeys after the expiry of the license, pending approval of his written proposal.

The Wildlife Act says trading in wildlife without a license is an offense attracting a penalty of US\$1,800 or imprisonment of not less than three months, or both.

Ask Uganda to Protect Its Wild Monkeys

Please send a courteous letter requesting that Uganda extend full protection to its wild monkeys and take strict action against violators of wildlife laws. Note that the cost of postage from the United States to Uganda has now risen to 94 cents per ounce.

The Director
Uganda Wildlife Authority
Plot 7 Kira Road, Kamwokya
PO Box 3530
Kampala
UGANDA
Fax : +256-41-346291
E-mail: uwa@uwa.or.ug

His Excellency the Ambassador of Uganda
Embassy of Uganda
5909 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011
USA
Fax: 202-726-1727

His Excellency the Ambassador of Uganda
Embassy of Uganda
Uganda House
58/59 Trafalgar Square
London WC2N 5DX
UNITED KINGDOM

For the addresses of Ugandan embassies in other countries, check the Web site:
<http://www.ug.embassyinformation.com/list.php>.

CITES Monkey Export Quotas for 2008

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, all primates listed on Appendix I are banned from international trade. Trade in primates listed on Appendix II is allowed, unfortunately. The exporting nation is supposed to make a finding that removal of primates from the wild will not affect the status of their species, but it is seldom known what basis, if any, there is for the "no-detriment" findings. Many countries have placed quotas on primate exports, both live animals and skins. You can find them online (<http://www.cites.org/common/quotas/2008/ExportQuotas2008.pdf>).

Regrettably, many major primate exporting nations such as China, Vietnam, and Cambodia have not set quotas. Quotas are useful because they set a top limit on the numbers of the different species that can be

exported, and the CITES Secretariat can find out from national reports whether animals are being exported above the quota maximum.

The CITES quotas for 2008 permit large numbers of primates to be exported from Tanzania as well as a heavy trade in squirrel monkeys. Most of the squirrel monkeys, vervets, and macaques end up in research laboratories.

Ethiopia:

Eastern black and white colobus: 25 hunting trophies, 320 skins

Gelada baboon: 30 trophies, 10 skins

Gabon (live animals):

Angolan talapoin monkeys: 5

Guyana (live animals):

Golden headed tamarin: 200

Brown capuchin: 600

Wedge-capped capuchin: 242

Common squirrel monkey: 2,200

Mozambique (live animals):

Sykes monkey: 100

Vervet monkey: 2,000

Surinam (live animals):

Golden-handed tamarin: 320

Brown capuchin: 114

Common squirrel monkey: 1,000

Togo (live animals):

Potto: 25

Lesser bushbaby: 25

Demidoff's dwarf galago: 25

Mona guenon: 25

Lesser spot-nosed guenon: 15

Talapoin monkey: 25

Patas monkey: 15

Tanzania (live animals):

Vervet monkey: 5,000

Olive baboon: 2,000

Yellow baboon: 3,000

Good-Bye to Old Friends

Shirley McGreal

One Last Song for Bonnie Brown

Bonnie, standing, with senior IPPL member Kitty Weaver.



A long-time supporter of IPPL, Bonnie Brown passed away on 14 December 2007 after being diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). She had not missed a single one of IPPL's nine previous Members' Meetings, so her absence at our most recent one this past March—our tenth—was sadly felt. After our Saturday evening banquet, I asked the Plantation Singers, who had delighted all of us with several traditional spirituals, to sing "Amazing Grace" in honor of Bonnie and our other absent friends.

Bonnie is survived by her mother, Millie Brown, and two sisters, Debra Bruegge and Beckie Toney, as well as her dear cats Sunny Delight and Mr. Beautiful. We will miss her greatly. As her sister Debra recalled, "Bonnie devoted much of her life to the benefit of all sorts of animals, including volunteering

at the National Zoo, spending countless hours caring for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife through the Wild Bunch Wildlife Rehabilitation organization in Virginia, serving on the Board of Directors of the International Primate Protection League, and in so many other ways."

Bonnie had a long career as a staffer on Capitol Hill, becoming an expert in social welfare issues and health policies. When she retired, she turned to helping wild animals in need, specializing in the care of rabies-vector animals, including foxes, bats, and raccoons. She loved to share stories of her experiences as a wildlife rehabilitator, like the one about "The Little Girl," a spunky raccoon baby who recovered from hip surgery to become a veritable "Raccoon Houdini," or the one about "Lawny," a boy raccoon who miraculously survived being hit by a lawnmower and was eventually released back into the wild.

Bonnie will live on in the memories of her many friends, animal and human.

Violet Soo-Hoo—Gone at 91 Years

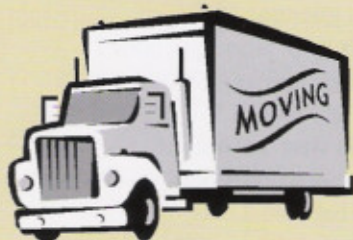
Violet Soo-Hoo died peacefully at her home in San Francisco on 11 March 2008. During IPPL's early days, I met Violet Soo-Hoo and her husband Carroll. I had just founded IPPL. The Soo-Hoos were among the first members of our organization.

The Soo-Hoos had bought many animals, including great apes, for the San Francisco Zoo, but later they became more interested in protecting animals in the wild. Every time I

visited San Francisco I would stay with Violet and Carroll at their lovely home, which was decorated with all kinds of primate photos and other items and was always home to several rescued cats. I'll always remember the framed photo of a baboon in the living-room. It was a wonderful photo taken on one of their trips to Africa. Violet and Carroll were so close, like peas in a pod. Life was difficult for Violet without her husband and soulmate, who left us in 1998.

Later, Violet also became friends with IPPL Board Member Dianne Taylor-Snow, who lives in California. Dianne would often take Violet out for meals in nice restaurants. As she always did when we went out with Carroll and Violet (and later just Violet), Violet ordered grilled cheese and French fries! Not very healthy food, but what can one say? Violet made it to 91 years of age. We'll miss her and her delightful sense of humor.

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*!)

Good-Bye to Stella Brewer Marsden

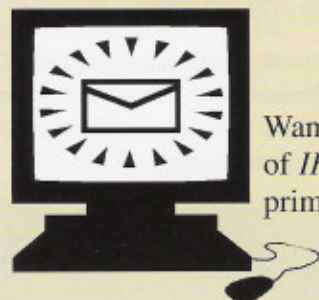
Stella Brewer Marsden died of cancer on 24 January 2008, at the age of just 56. Stella founded the world's first chimpanzee sanctuary in 1969. The sanctuary, the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Trust, was located in the small nation of The Gambia in West Africa, and chimpanzees confiscated from poachers and smugglers were sent there.

An attempt was made to release the chimps in Senegal, but sadly the newcomers were attacked by resident chimps and were recaptured and relocated on large islands in the River Gambia National Park.

The project has continued and will be continued under the guidance of Stella's family who share her love for animals.

In 1978 Stella's book *The Forest Dwellers* was published in England. It was published under the title *The Chimps of Mount Asserik* in the United States. The book is a wonderful read and you can get used copies at www.alibris.com.

Stella with one of the many chimps she loved.



Join IPPL's E-Bulletin List!

Want to learn more about what's going on in the world of primate protection between issues of *IPPL News*? Want to receive timely action alerts on issues that are vital to the world's primates? Sign up for IPPL's free E-Bulletin! Just send an e-mail to info@ippl.org and ask us to add your name to our E-Bulletin subscriber list.

Dutch Party for the Animals Launches Worldlog

On 17 March 2008, Marianne Thieme, leader of the Dutch Party for the Animals (the first animal party in the world to be represented in a national parliament), launched a "Worldlog" with the help of a team of 24 translators. Her goal is to inform kindred spirits across the globe about her work both within and outside of the Dutch parliament. The Worldlog will appear every week, first in Dutch, German, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Turkish. Other languages will soon follow. The Worldlog is part of the Party for the Animals' new international Web site. The Web site and the Worldlog have been set up in response to increasing foreign interest in the Party.

In the Worldlog, Marianne Thieme will report on the pioneering work of the Party for the Animals. Nowhere else in the world is there a political party

in parliament that does not primarily represent human interests. In the meantime, Parties for the Animals have been set up or are in the process of being established in numerous other countries. In the Worldlog, Marianne Thieme will share her experiences with other proponents of animal rights. She also wants to inspire others to develop similar political activities and thereby ensure that justice is done to the world's animals.

The Dutch Party for the Animals was established in 2002 and now has two seats in the House of Representatives, one seat in the Senate, and nine seats in the Provincial States parliament, which represents the Netherlands' 12 provinces. The Party for the Animals is currently the fastest-growing political party in the Netherlands. In addition, the Party now also has its own youth organization and a scientific bureau. The latter recently produced

Meat the Truth, a documentary on climate change. On the basis of scientific reports, this film demonstrates that the livestock industry worldwide is responsible for the emission of more greenhouse gasses than all the cars, trucks, trains, ships, and planes added together. The documentary will be screened this summer in, among other places, Brussels, London, Dresden, New York, Madrid, Sydney, Sao Paulo, Beijing, and Singapore, and can shortly be seen in Dutch cinemas.

The nine language Worldlog will appear every Monday around 3:00 p.m. (15:00 CET) on the Party's Web site (www.partyfortheanimals.nl).

The success of the Party for the Animals results from the Dutch system of government, which is based on proportional representation. This allows members of minority parties with considerable public support an allocation of seats.

Meet the “Camp Uganda” Project

“Empowering Youth To Save Endangered Chimpanzees” is the primary aim of the Camp Uganda Conservation Education Society (CUCES), a small non-profit organization based out of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. It is managed by Haida Bolton, who has ten years of management experience in children’s camps in Canada.

Bolton, the president and founder of Camp Uganda, is motivated by her conviction that every baby, whether a human, chimp, or other animal, should be able to grow up with her mother in her natural home. She also believes that the future of Africa’s wild chimps and other wildlife lies in the future decisions of today’s African children:

We bring children entering grade 7 who live near wild chimp habitats on this life-changing experiential educative trip to foster a greater care and concern for their primate cousins.

The children travel by bus across Uganda viewing their country’s geography, which they had only ever heard of in their classrooms. For five days they live with other Ugandan children at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC), learning about chimpanzees and all of the center’s animals. They get to care for and feed animals like chimps, monkeys, rhinos, and buffalo, watch a lion feed on meat, interact with a white rhinoceros, celebrate each other’s cultures, and learn about living forests and their importance to humans and to animals. Bolton adds:

What was really exciting about 2007’s camp was that the children went home with tree seedlings in their hands so that they could practice what they had learned.

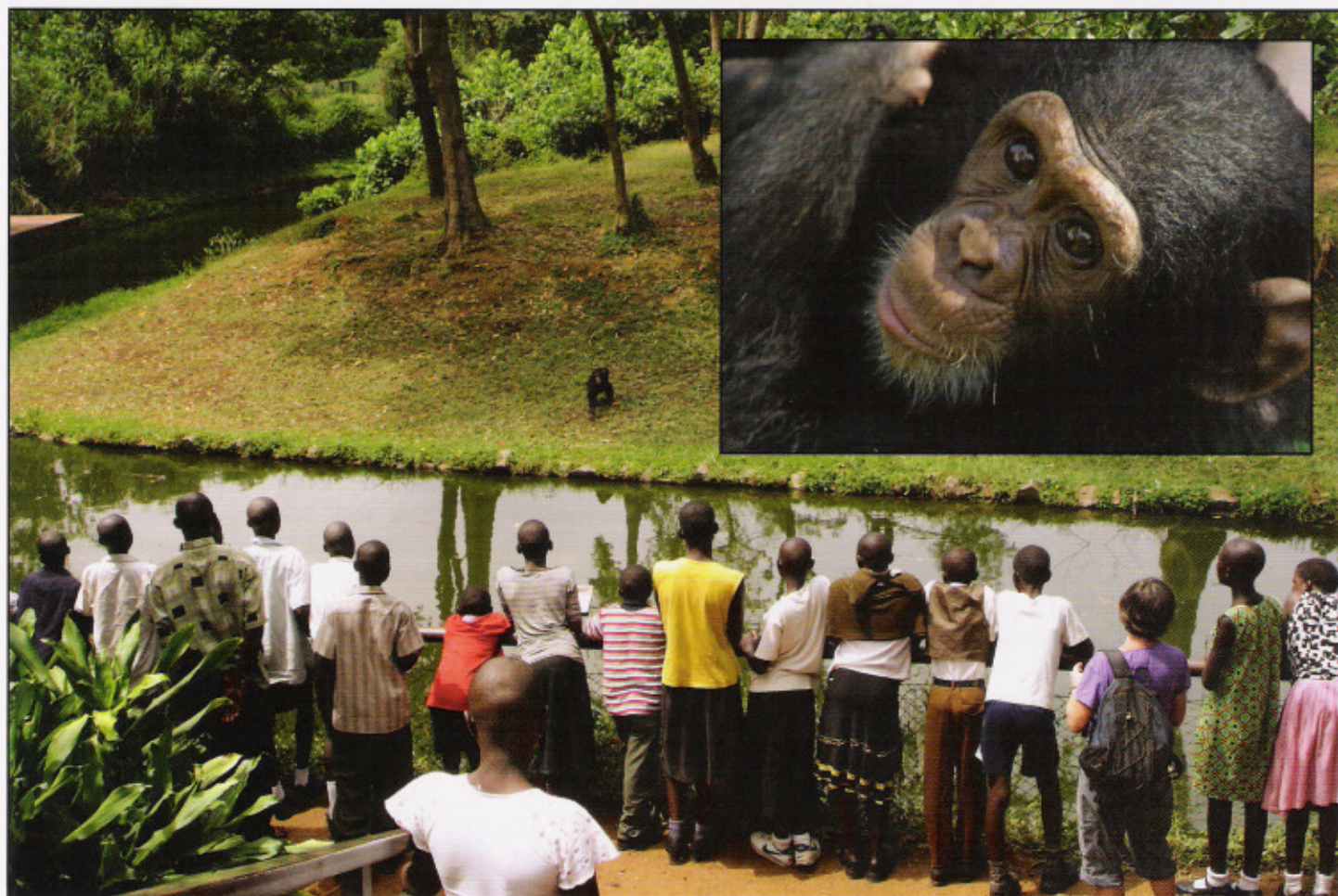
Ugandan educators at UWEC instill the message in the campers that if you must cut down a tree, you must also plant many more trees in its place. Bolton reports that five campers from the project’s first camp

in 2007 have already written her in 2008 asking for funding to go to a wildlife park. She feels that this shows that the camp influenced their appreciation and concern for nature.

CUCES sponsored 24 children and four teachers in one five-day camp this past January. Their goal is to sponsor 30 children and six teachers in three five-day camps by 2010. To do this, their funding needs to increase so they can reach out to more youth. Bolton comments:

Camps benefit children in so many ways: increased self-esteem, confidence, independence, and compassion. Camp Uganda also benefits children’s conservation education. The chimpanzees and other animals will benefit from these future leaders in their communities.

To learn more about Camp Uganda, view a slideshow, or help sponsor a child to camp, visit their Web site (www.campuganda.org).



A Refuge in Argentina for Black Howler Monkeys

Aldo Mario Giudice, the University of Buenos Aires and the Howler Monkey Rehabilitation Center in Córdoba, Argentina

Argentina is wealthy in natural resources and wildlife, harboring more than 350 mammal species. Among these, five are the primates: the black howler monkey (also known as the caraya), Azara's night monkey, the black-striped capuchin, the black capuchin, and the brown howler monkey, all of which play a major role in the subtropical forests where they live. The night monkey (the only nocturnal South American monkey) and the brown howler monkey are threatened species. The Paraguayan capuchin and the black howler are, at the moment, the most abundant monkeys in the wild.

The black howler monkey, one of the nine living monkey species known as howlers, is distributed over northern Argentina, Paraguay, southern Brazil, and eastern Bolivia. Howlers, together with spider monkeys and woolly monkeys, are among the largest primates of the New World tropics. The black howler is one of the two species of howlers where the males and females have different colors: the male is black and the female is yellowish brown. They are commonly called black howler monkeys, black-and-gold howler monkeys, or simply carayas.

Their diet consists of young and mature leaves, buds, flowers, fruits, seeds, and stems; insects are generally consumed inadvertently with fruit. Carayas have long daily resting periods and are extremely peaceful at times of social stability, but very aggressive during social transitions, when both males and females can inflict severe damage on their opponents. In general, they live in harems consisting of a dominant male, two to four females, and a variable number of infants and juveniles.

Black howlers face the same risks as other primates. Most of the forest harboring wild howlers has been heavily degraded due to ongoing deforestation, man-made fires, and cattle ranching activities. In addition, the high susceptibility of howlers to yellow



A family of black howler monkeys (the females are brown) at Caraya's Refuge, a sanctuary for these sensitive primates in Argentina.

fever is a serious further threat to their survival, with populations being decimated during outbreaks in the past. Blood tests have indicated that yellow fever reappeared in populations from the northeastern province of Misiones after an absence of fifty years, in October 2007, and was responsible for the deaths of many monkeys.

In Argentina the bushmeat trade is rare, but mothers are often shot to snatch their babies. Sometimes monkeys are used as targets in shooting "games."

Illegal howler trade takes place stealthily because of lack of adequate trade controls and educational campaigns to discourage this activity. Carayas confiscated from illegal trade and others donated by owners are generally sent to traditional zoos, but these facilities are seldom up to the challenge. Carayas kept in cages often have high mortality and rarely breed successfully, even when they receive good care and regular medical attention, because of the difficulty in managing their complex diet and because of their notorious vulnerability to stressful situations. However, it is paradoxical that howlers maintained in natural environments can reproduce successfully, even in apparently unsuitable habitat. So what can be done with these traumatized monkeys?

The Black Howler Monkey Rehabilitation Center (or simply Caraya's Refuge) in La Cumbre is an alternative to traditional zoos.

Here, howlers that have lived in captivity can behave as if they were in the wild: They have the opportunity to become real howler monkeys! Alejandra Juarez founded the refuge fourteen years ago for the maintenance and rehabilitation of carayas removed from their natural habitat. The refuge is located at an altitude of 1,409 meters (5,000 feet), in La Cumbre, Córdoba, Argentina, outside of the normal range of any primate species. The climate is temperate, with minimum temperatures below 0° C (32° F), maximum temperatures

that can reach 40° C (104° F), and an annual precipitation of 700 mm (27 inches). Snow occurs occasionally in winter. The landscape consists of hills with forests of Northern Hemisphere species cultivated for ornamental purposes and forestry, and free-growing trees such as elms, cypresses, pines, robinias, and white poplars, among others.

Immediately after their arrival at the refuge, new carayas go through a phase of intensive care consisting of clinical examinations and therapy for injured individuals. Then they are divided into groups before being released into quarter-hectare forest enclosures. In these forests they find crossbars to help them move from one tree to another, platforms where the caretakers place food, and metallic drums for shelter. They receive water and food once a day, their diet consisting of green vegetables, fruits, bread, eggs, tea, and milk. Animals with signs of disease or who are rejected by the group are recaptured, and the first phase of clinical and social rehabilitation starts once more. Currently, the refuge supports several reproductive groups, which are monitored daily by the local technician Juan Heredia, assisted by local and international volunteers. Visitors are educated about the biology of the species, the harmful effects of illegal trade, and the stress and suffering of carayas kept as pets. The refuge has housed 118 carayas since 1994, and currently it harbors 75 carayas. Ten of these monkeys are undergoing the first phase

of rehabilitation and the remaining animals live in ten groups in different forest patches. The first birth took place in 1998 and 45 more babies have been born since then. None of this would have been possible without a dedicated team working hard every day.

In the forest, the monkeys display species-typical behavior, demonstrating successful rehabilitation. We have seen social cohesion, groups moving together exploring the environment, establishment of hierarchies, neighboring groups communicating by howling, mothers and aunts taking care of the young, play situations among group members, grooming sessions, and groups huddling together to keep warm when it is cold. We have also seen subordinate males taking

over the dominant position. Indeed, we were astonished to find out that carayas eat leaves, fruits, and flowers from local trees.

Among the many stories of the refuge, there is one about Bubu, a 16-year-old female who was the first resident and turned out to be the dominant female of her group. Almost immediately after she delivered her first offspring, another infant a few months old was admitted to the refuge. She not only adopted this baby and breast-fed him, but also carried both babies at the same time. The good news is that Bubu proceeded to give birth to her third infant at the refuge, and now she is grandmother, too.

When we compare the high reproductive rate in this refuge with the rare births of

howlers in zoos, we can see that carayas traumatized by humans are not lost, that they can survive in freedom, that they can adapt to exotic forests, and that they express a repertoire of species-specific behaviors similar to those described in wild howler monkeys. Although the studies in this hilly environment are in their initial phase and we have not yet determined whether these rehabilitated animals can return successfully to their natural habitat in the Argentine Chaco, the refuge represents a possible solution for the protection of carayas rescued from commercial trade.

The refuge offers new hope for saving the carayas, and its valuable activities are worthy of being expanded and supported wherever howler monkeys need help.

Los Angeles Times Exposes Horror Lab in Abkhazia

Abkhazia has called itself a nation since breaking away from the nation of Georgia. Both Georgia and Abkhazia were part of the former Soviet Union. However, Abkhazia is not recognized by the world's community of nations. The whole area was known as the Black Sea Riviera and was famous for its resorts and mild climate.

The area is the home of Sukhumi, formerly one of the world's largest primate laboratories; it had been headed by Dr. Boris Lapin, who is now director of the nearby Sochi Institute of Medical Primatology in Russia. The Abkhazia laboratory, officially named the Research Institute of Experimental Pathology and Therapy, was formed 91 years ago. It was famous for an assortment of studies and was the inspiration for the United States system of primate centers, now numbering eight facilities.

During Abkhazia's war of secession from Georgia in the early 1990s, many Sukhumi scientists moved and established a new laboratory named Sochi-Adler in

Russia, where Dr. Lapin, now in his late 80s, still works.

According to the 12 April 2008 issue of the *Los Angeles Times*, the Abkhazia laboratory has fallen into total disrepair and the surviving research monkeys "languish in a state of limbo."

Few townspeople use the fancy name anymore; they just point toward the building on the hill and speak of the "monkey sanctuary." The 286 surviving animals are descended from the thousands that populated the laboratories of the Soviet Union's preeminent primate research institute. Today, people without a country cling to the monkeys because of what they represent: the dimming memory of prestige, and the hope that better days will come.

The Institute once held thousands of monkeys, some of whom were used in space research, but now there are only between 200 to 300 animals left. It also kept 1,000 monkeys who ranged freely in the forests south of the laboratory, only a

few of whom survive.

In the days before Sukhumi collapsed, it was famous for a series of bizarre experiments conducted by Dr. Ilya Ivanov:

The driving force in a top-secret Stalinist scheme to invent a new breed of low-maintenance Soviet soldier-worker, Ivanov worked feverishly in the 1920s to mate humans and apes. Much of his research was carried out here in Sukhumi, according to institute officials and recently declassified documents published in the Russian press. According to colorful local lore, Soviet prisoners were drafted for the tests.

Research into polio and other diseases was conducted during the lab's heyday. Dr. Lapin was a fixture at international primatology conferences for many decades.

The whole story, written by Megan Stack, can be found online (www.latimes.com/news/la-fg-monkeys12apr12,0,6407441.story).

On 14 April 2008, the BBC News carried a story about the planned use of monkeys in preparation for a manned trip to Mars. The animals are being used at Russia's Sochi Institute of Medical Primatology. The institute's director, Dr. Boris Lapin commented,

People and monkeys have

Monkeys to Mars?

approximately identical sensitivity to small and large radiation doses. So it is better to experiment on the macaques, but not on dogs or other animals.

After two years of preparation at Sochi, 40 monkeys would be selected and sent to the Institute of Biomedical Problems in Moscow, a facility that specializes in aerospace

medicine. The experiments on the monkeys are scheduled to be carried out at the same time as Moscow's Mars-500 project, which will use human volunteers, starting next year, to simulate the effect of the voyage on people. According to the BBC,

In addition to the effects of radiation, space scientists want to see how the

monkeys react to prolonged weightless conditions, isolation and a special diet of juices and pureed food.

Dr. Lapin admits that his institute has received some objections from European

colleagues concerned about the animal experiments. One of the institute's scientists, Dr. Anaida Shaginyan, told the BBC,

Certainly, I feel sorry for the monkeys, they might die, but the experiments are

necessary to preserve the lives of the cosmonauts who will fly to Mars in future.

You can find the full BBC article online (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7341211.stm>).

Please Help the Space Monkeys!

Please send letters to the Russian Embassy in your country of residence protesting the use of monkeys for this Martian research project.

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Russia
Embassy of the Russian Federation
2650 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20007
USA
Fax: 212-298-5735
E-mail: russianembassy@mindspring.com*

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Russia
Embassy of the Russian Federation
13 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QX
UNITED KINGDOM
Fax: 020-7229-58-04*

Addresses for Russian embassies in other nations can be found online (<http://www.russianembassy.net/>).

The Primate Trade in Peru: A Nightmare for the Monkeys

Noga and Sam Shanee, Neotropical Primate Conservation (NPC)

NPC is a small non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of monkeys and their habitat in the tropical rainforests of South and Central America.

For the last few years we have been living in South America, volunteering at several rescue centers and primate reserves. Recently we started a conservation campaign for the critically endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey in the tropical Andes region of Peru.

Since last April we have encountered eight captive yellow-tailed woolly monkeys. All of them were caught from the wild to be sold as pets among local families. Seven of them died shortly after they were caught. This is at least half the true number since, for every one of these monkeys successfully brought into captivity, the mother had to be killed as well. From a species with such a small population—less than 250, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List—this number of wild-caught animals in less than a year can be disastrous.

"Juanito" was the first yellow-tailed woolly monkey we ever met. He was a six-month-old male tied with a shabby cord to a pile of firewood in a small back garden. He was fed on green bananas and potato peelings and had nothing to drink. When he was occasionally untied he was

only able to drink from a muddy trickle of water, which he did eagerly. We tried to explain to the family that this monkey was not going to survive and that we wanted to take him to a rescue center, but the man of the house was away for a few days and his wife was unwilling to make any decision without him.

As the local authorities were uncooperative and the area is far too dangerous for a direct confrontation, we had to leave the monkey behind. When we came back after a few days, we learned that poor little "Juanito" was dead and that the family had eaten his meat.

The last monkey we found was a sub-adult male who was chained to a stick in the middle of a big empty room, screaming from fear and refusing to move. Apparently he was brought to the house only four hours before we were called by the neighbors to see him. We could not take him the same day, but we returned after two days to find him lying on the floor of the room, untied and shaking. We noticed that his right side was partially paralyzed, as he was unable to move his leg and could barely lift his

hand. The family told us five different versions of how he was captured, so we cannot know for sure where he was caught and how he came to be injured. We believe that, while trying to catch him, they had to hit him with a stick, probably on his back. This seems to be the most likely explanation, as one of the family members also had a large bite mark on his hand.

He is now in the Ikamaperou rescue center (a rehabilitation center specializing in woolly and spider monkeys in northeastern Peru) getting the best attention, but unfortunately his limbs are still paralyzed and he suffers from severe depression. We really hope he will survive, but this species is known to be extremely sensitive to stress and solitude, so we are not optimistic for his future.

Another yellow-tailed woolly monkey was tied at the entrance to a public toilet in a central bus station in the town of Nueva Cajamarca. Ironically, from the position where he was tied he could see a poster which was calling on the public to stop the hunting of his species! With the help of the authorities, he was

also taken to Ikamaperou, but sadly he died after a few short months.

This situation is not unique to this area. We saw monkeys in the markets and houses of almost every town we have been to in Peru. Belen, the famous floating market of Iquitos, is probably the worst example. During our last visit to the market, which took place in May 2007, we found six different species of primates in less than half an hour. There was a squirrel monkey tied and held by a young boy, an owl monkey and a tamarin tied to a cage full of parrots and turtles, and a capuchin tied to a barbecue grill (fortunately not lighted). Most disturbing to see was a heap of about five roasted howler monkeys at one stall and a huge cooked male woolly monkey at another stall. This woolly monkey was being cut up and sold for meat.

There were tens of other species of animals ranging from two and three toed sloths, reptiles, birds, skins and teeth of several big cats, and caiman parts.

Another shocking find was the Royal Pool Zoo in Lamas. It is a small zoo owned by a British lady named Cristina Panduro. The animals at the Royal Pool are housed in tiny, dirty cages with no enrichment or water supply. There were two young woolly monkeys and one spider monkey, all looking starved. Most other monkeys were thin, had skin diseases, and displayed stereotypical behaviors.



A yellow-tailed woolly monkey infant at the Ikamaperou sanctuary, Peru.

We spoke to a boy who worked at the zoo, and he told us that the owners buy their animals from the market in the nearby city of Tarapoto and that they have had to replace animals regularly as, not surprisingly, they frequently die. Of course this trade is totally illegal under national and international laws but, as is all too often the case, the authorities turn a blind eye. Together with Ikamaperou, we were hoping to be able to rescue, at a minimum, the three young monkeys that lived together in the Royal Pool zoo. While we were trying to convince the authorities to help us, we learned that

all three had died.

One of the most upsetting things for us is the role that tourists play in this animal abuse. The Iquitos floating market is a tourist attraction; people come especially to see and take pictures of the suffering animals and even pay a sol (about thirty cents U.S.) for each picture. To judge by the pride of the vendors, it seems that none of the tourists had ever criticized the situation. The vendors even told us that tourists sometime buy wild animals from the market to smuggle home. Touristy restaurants and Internet cafes are often adorned by skins of endangered animals or even caged monkeys and birds. Some primates are caught especially for tourists to put them on their shoulder for a picture or to be sold to them at a ridiculously high price.

As a response to this we, NPC, have been trying to publish a short article in many of the most popular tourist guide books to inform tourists of the damage they cause by sponsoring this kind of activity and trade. We were very disappointed to find that all but one of the guide book companies refused to publish this information, and the writer of the one positive response we did get has not replied to our follow-up message.

We have encountered similar situations of pet and bushmeat trade in all the South American countries we visited, and we believe that the cause has its

Please Help Peru's Monkeys

IPPL has made a small grant of \$1,000 to Neotropical Primate Conservation and received this note from Noga in reply:

Thank you, IPPL, for your gift. We shall use the money to prepare educational materials. We also need volunteers (who speak Spanish) and can help with education. I am planning to start a network of Peruvian volunteers that will work in the cities where most wildlife traffic is happening, and we will teach them how to push the authorities to stop the traffic. We have started looking for people for the network.

Members wishing to help support this project should contact IPPL at 843-871-2280 or mail donations earmarked "For NPC" to IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA. You can also donate through our secure Web site.

roots in the general lack of respect and empathy for nature, both nationally and internationally. New mining and oil companies are appearing every day, while forests are disappearing for timber and farming. Environmental education is not available, probably as it would interfere with "development" plans dreamed up in distant capitals.

The many international conservation nongovernmental organizations who sit comfortably in the same towns where

in the markets hundreds of endangered animals are openly sold every day, seem to be doing nothing to stop this. Fancy environmental education books are printed but never get distributed to where they are most needed. National environmental authorities are under-funded and open to corruption at all levels.

Our last three months in the communities of La Esperanza have shown us that the local people here are extremely open to conservation ideas

and to animal rights. They have decided to stop all hunting of primates and are now, by themselves, influencing other communities in the area to control the hunting of wild animals. They are also proudly offering their lands to conserve the forests and wild primates and to develop ecotourism. There is a lot of work to do, but these small changes in this small area give us the encouragement to keep fighting for the future of primates.

❧ *Special Gifts to IPPL* ❧

Given by:

- ❖ **Sheila B. Ahler**, in memory of Patou
- ❖ **American Anti-Vivisection Society**, in honor of the 25th anniversary of the arrival of IPPL gibbons Peppy and Helen
- ❖ **Aspegren Charitable Foundation**, in memory of Alice R. Aspegren
- ❖ **Rebecca K. Austin**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Barry Bader**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Roberta Burleson**, in honor of Kit and Woody Woodcock
- ❖ **Nancy Carrado**, in memory of Nick Carrado
- ❖ **Douglas L. Cohn**, in memory of Pupsie
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- ❖ **Margaret and Thomas Cook**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
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- ❖ **JoAnn and Larry Hertz**, in honor of Bert and Nancy Tobin
- ❖ **Joan King**, in honor of Robert Harding
- ❖ **Barbara B. Kirman**, in honor of Shirley's Order of the British Empire
- ❖ **Ann and William Koros**, in memory of their beloved cat Buddy
- ❖ **James and Sidney Martin**, in memory of their son Sam Martin
- ❖ **Jean Martin**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Heather McGiffin**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Shirley McGreal**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Nancy Merrick and Gary Lairmore**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Judy Moresco**, in honor of Dan Dasinger
- ❖ **Claudia Morrow**, in memory of Susan Faith Morrow
- ❖ **Dr. Carole Noon**, in memory of Bonnie Brown
- ❖ **Paul and Dolores Pomilio**, in memory of Nick Carrado
- ❖ **Karen Serrano**, in memory of Nick Carrado and Kokomo Jr.
- ❖ **Ann U. Smith**, in honor of Don Dasinger
- ❖ **Wendy Solis**, in memory of Henry Heymann
- ❖ **Erica Strong**, in honor of IPPL gibbon Courtney's sixth birthday
- ❖ **Nancy Tobin**, in honor of the birthday of her son Van Leichter
- ❖ **Wendy Watson**, in memory of William Francis
- ❖ **Laura Weaver**, in honor of Mama and Aunt Winnie
- ❖ **Samuel Robert West**, in memory of his parents Clyde and Irene West
- ❖ **Woodland Park Zoological Gardens**, in honor of zoo volunteer Mary Keiter

IPPL Welcomes You to “Planet Bonehead”!

During March 2008, Planet Bonehead (PBh), an environmental Web TV production company, showcased Shirley McGreal, IPPL, and their worldwide efforts to rescue and protect primates in an episode titled “Gibbons: A Promise to Protect.” By featuring the missions and incredible results of not-for-profit groups like IPPL, Planet Bonehead is introducing children, teachers, and parents to modern day heroes and heroines of the Earth, its resources, and its wildlife.

PBh’s Feature Editor, Patti Romano, is constantly on the lookout for organizations and individuals who have made a commitment to bettering the lives of wildlife or improving the health of our planet. She said she seems to be naturally attracted to people who share the same passion, and many times the way they cross her path is uncanny. While volunteering for the sea turtle patrol in her area, she decided to produce a video that would teach others about these magnificent animals and encourage people to support the South Carolina Aquarium Sea Turtle Hospital. When the video aired on the PBh channel, a volunteer approached Patti and asked her if she had met Shirley McGreal and her gibbons. Immediately impressed

by Shirley’s passion for primates, Patti contacted her and began researching, interviewing, and photographing for the latest Planet Bonehead episode, “Gibbons: A Promise to Protect.”

Each episode requires months of research, still photography, and video. During this time, Patti collaborates closely with PBh’s Creative Director, Bob Donohue, and Producer, Dan Roeper. The PBh episodes are designed to inspire and motivate young people to learn and act on their knowledge. PBh always asks their featured organization: What message do you want to send to young people? How can kids help?

Because environmental and wildlife issues always have a serious side, Bob adds a touch of humor and lightness to each episode with the original Bonehead cartoon characters—each one with his or her own personality and environmental message. He then waves his magic wand, weaving in music and special effects to produce each spectacular Web TV episode.

During their first year, over 25,000 people viewed Planet Bonehead’s episodes free on Web TV channels and on their Web site, www.PlanetBonehead.com.

In addition to donating money to not-for-profit organizations, PBh hosts quarterly contests for schools, awarding cash and merchandise prizes for science and environmental education. All of these efforts have been self-financed by the PBh volunteer team up to this point. In order to spread their message and continue supporting not-for-profits like IPPL, Planet Bonehead is seeking corporate sponsors whose companies offer a positive message to kids and their families. You can help PBh get sponsors just by going to the Web site, signing up as a registered user, and viewing episodes like “Gibbons: A Promise to Protect.”

Patti Romano and Bob Donohue welcome your comments on the PBh episodes. If you have any suggestions, or you know of an organization that would like to be featured, they would love to hear from you. Their mission is the same as yours: to preserve and protect all that is precious here on Earth—especially the animals, like the gibbons and other primates, who cannot speak up for themselves.

After all, it’s their planet, too!

Planet Bonehead’s Feature Editor, Patti Romano, in her element—in the wilds of South Carolina!



Gibbon Overpasses in India

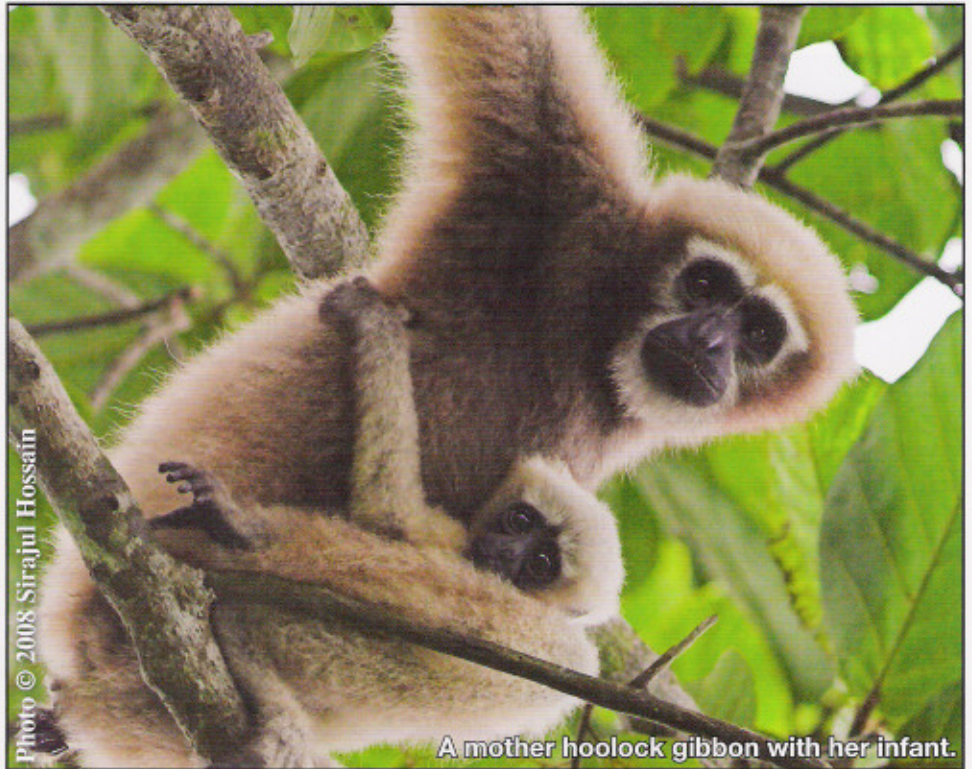
The hoolock gibbons of Assam, India, are an endangered species. In the wild, gibbons almost never descend to the ground. A problem has arisen in Assam, where in one area groups of hoolock gibbons have been separated by railroad tracks. Groups of gibbons living fairly close can just look at each other!

Like other gibbon species, hoolocks are monogamous and young gibbons seek mates from other groups. Sometimes a gibbon on one side of the tracks is interested in a gibbon on the other side. Partly as a result of this, numbers have not been increasing and inbreeding could occur.

In an effort to allow gibbons to travel across from one side of the railroad tracks to the other, the Northeast Frontier Railway in India is building two steel bridges across its railroad tracks. The bridges will be covered with branches and designed to look like trees. They are located in the Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in the Jorhal district of Assam.

According to the 4 January 2007 issue of the *Indian Telegraph*,

Gibbons are an exclusively arboreal (tree-dwellers) species and do not set foot on the ground. When laying the rail track in the thirties, nobody in the railways or the forest department possibly realized



A mother hoolock gibbon with her infant.

that the gibbon population would be bifurcated along with the stretches of forest on either side.

The sanctuary, located near Mariani along the Assam-Nagaland border, has 21 gibbon families with an average of four members in each. Gibbons are listed on Schedule I of India's Wildlife

Protection Act, 1972. Apart from the northeastern states of India, hoolock gibbons are found in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the southern parts of China. Wildlife officials feel that allowing easier transit across the railroad tracks will encourage new gibbon pairings and gene exchange.

Problems for Kenyan Colobus Monkey Project

The Colobus Trust, also known as Wakuluzu, is a Kenyan organization that works for the protection of primates like the rare Angolan colobus monkey and its coastal forest habitat in southern Kenya. The Trust was established in 1997 in response to an outcry from local residents about the high number of deaths of colobus monkeys killed by speeding drivers on the highway to Diani Beach or electrocuted by power poles or caught in snares.

IPPL made several small grants over the years to help the Trust build colo-bridges so that monkeys could safely cross the highway. We also helped with construction of a small vet clinic where injured or sick animals could be treated. Funds have also been expended on tree-trimming close to power lines and insulating lines.

Unfortunately, the recent political crisis in Kenya has affected the project severely. Tourists are avoiding Kenya and every one of the 14 volunteers scheduled to come to Kenya to work at the Trust in early 2008 cancelled their travel plans.

IPPL has sent a \$1,000 grant to the Colobus Trust to help out during these difficult times.



Member Profile: Karen McCormick

Long-time IPPL volunteer looks back on "bringing up baby"



Photo: Ali Spalter

In January 2002, a local lawyer was all set to do some basic volunteer work at IPPL's Headquarters sanctuary near Charleston, South Carolina, when a drastic event intervened: an infant female gibbon born at the facility less than two weeks previously had just been attacked by her own mother, and the entire staff was scrambling to make sure the baby survived.

When at last Karen was able to come out for an orientation tour of the sanctuary, IPPL's Founder, Shirley McGreal, suggested that she take on the role of babysitter for the tiny gibbon, Courtney, who would now have to be hand-reared. Karen had had no clear idea of how she could help at IPPL, but she thought this offer was "beyond her wildest dreams." So almost every Monday for over six years, Karen has driven from the neighboring town of Mount Pleasant to help little Courtney grow up.

One of Karen's favorite pictures (she even has it on her Facebook profile!) is this one, of her with Courtney on the lawn at IPPL.

Karen came to find out about IPPL in a rather indirect way. Although her job as a family law practitioner was keeping her busy, she has always been eager to pursue other interests. One day, she saw an ad for volunteers to participate at an archaeological dig at Charles Towne Landing, the site of the first permanent European settlement in the Carolinas over 400 years ago, situated across the Ashley River from downtown Charleston. Those two weeks of getting up early and getting good and dirty were "a blast" (at least as much fun as when she was a singer in various rock-n-roll bands and had spandex pants in "every possible color"), so she looked into getting a degree in archaeology at the local liberal arts and sciences university, the College of Charleston. She found that the best she could do was get a

degree in anthropology, a broad field that traditionally encompasses archaeology as well as cultural and biological anthropology. Although she continued to volunteer at Charles Towne Landing, she increasingly found her interest captured by her classes in evolution and primate behavior. She even went so far as to write to Jane Goodall asking about opportunities for chimpanzee fieldwork in Tanzania.

Then, by chance, a veterinarian friend of hers mentioned IPPL. Although Karen had lived almost her entire life in the Charleston area, she was unaware that a primate sanctuary had been in operation since the 1970s within 35 miles of her home. She was fascinated by the international ramifications of IPPL's mission and "thrilled" learn about all the issues Shirley was involved in. And,

she thought, volunteering there would be a lot more convenient than moving to Tanzania!

She could hardly have anticipated that she would be spending hundreds of hours being "auntie" to a gibbon. (Although Karen has plenty of practice as a real aunt, by the way. Her three nephews, ages 7, 12, and 15, live in a nearby town—they are "the loves of my life, apart from Courtney!" she says—and have all visited IPPL. The two eldest have modeled the dark green IPPL gibbon T-shirt for the newsletter and Web site catalog, and the youngest is especially fond of Courtney, who is almost as old as he is!)

Over the years, Karen has been fascinated to watch Courtney reach developmental milestones, just like a child—a "really special" experience, she says. At first, Courtney would remain essentially glued to Karen from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. without a break. Later, Courtney would permit a one-inch separation between the two of them; she might even reach out and tentatively touch the branch of an azalea bush.

Gradually, Courtney got bolder, and Karen could count out—inch by inch, week by week—how long it had been since Courtney began to explore her world. When Courtney felt confident enough to venture six feet away, Karen remembers thinking, "My, she's getting to be so adventurous!" The first time Courtney gave her first tentative gibbon call, she wasn't very good at it, like a baby starting to babble, but she continued to practice for many months. The first time Karen finally heard her try to do an entire call, Courtney's little voice cracked on the high note: "I cried with pride!" Karen says. Now, Courtney sounds just like an adult gibbon.

They also learned what to expect from each other during their hundreds of play dates. Courtney learned that whenever Karen put on her backpack, it was time to jump onto Karen's shoulder for a ride to another part of the sanctuary. And Karen learned that Courtney was (like some people) very sensitive to the weather: if it was sunny and warm, Courtney would often be very affectionate, very ready

with hugs and intent bouts of grooming ("I always leave IPPL lice-free!" jokes Karen). But if it was overcast, Courtney would seem much more discontent.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and Courtney is now ready to be pretty much on her own, like the rest of the IPPL gibbons. Karen says she'll continue to visit her "gibbon niece," but she's also looking forward to spending more time on other activities: her reading and singing (she's an alto in her church choir), her waterskiing and (recently) flying lessons, her paleontology fieldwork (she'll spend some weeks this summer looking for fossilized Eocene mammals in Utah) and her bonobo research.

Bonobos? Yes, she still loves primates, and she's hoping to arrange to do fieldwork in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a postdoctoral researcher she knows—hence the flying lessons ("What if our bush pilot got sick?"). But she'll never forget Courtney. And Courtney will certainly never allow anyone to make lawyer jokes in her presence!

One of the Best Charities in America!

As a member of Independent Charities of America, IPPL is entitled to display this Seal of Excellence, which indicates that IPPL is one of a select number of nonprofit organizations in the United States that have met and exceeded standards of excellence established by the U.S. Government. This seal means that IPPL has met numerous criteria including:

- ◆ Low overhead costs (less than 25 percent of total public support and revenue), as verified by an annual financial audit.
- ◆ Documented provision of services and programs.
- ◆ Governance by a Board of Directors with no material conflicts of interest.

This means you can be assured that your donations to IPPL
are in the best of hands!



IPPL Launches New Web Site

In March 2008 IPPL launched its revamped Web site. You can find it at www.ippl.org. We hope you will find the new site visually appealing and interesting.

One feature that you will not find on most groups' Web sites is an archive. Every issue of *IPPL News*, starting from Volume 1 Number 1, is now online, and you can read about many of the highlights of IPPL's history, such as the India and Bangladesh monkey export bans and our investigations of the Bangkok Six orangutan smuggling and Taiping Four gorilla smuggling cases.

You can also read the late Dian Fossey's amazing letters to Shirley McGreal in our April and August 1988 issues. Plus lots, lots more fascinating looks into primate history!

Taking Care of Primates—Now and Forever

Since our founding in 1973, IPPL has greatly benefited from caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills.

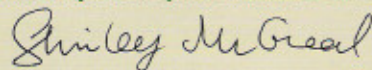
You, too, can help us ensure that future generations will also have the opportunity to know and love a world in which primates are protected—where those in the wild will be able to live free from fear of abuse at human hands, and where those remaining in captivity will have access to expert, loving care.

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

- ◆ Providing the best possible care for the special gibbons at our Headquarters sanctuary.
- ◆ Giving support to primate rescue centers overseas, in countries where primates are native.
- ◆ Assisting grassroots wildlife groups in their efforts to promote concern for primates.
- ◆ Carrying out investigations of primate trafficking and abuse worldwide.
- ◆ Doing outreach in the community and at our education center to share with others the plight of the world's primates.

By making a legacy gift to IPPL, you will ensure that IPPL can continue to protect the primates you love. I hope that you will consider including IPPL in your estate plans, to ensure that primates in need will have our hard-working and experienced organization to stand by them now and in the future. Please contact us at **IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville SC 29484, USA**, or **843-871-2280** if you would like to discuss providing enduring help for IPPL. IPPL's tax identification number is 51-0194013.

Thank you for your concern for IPPL's future.



Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director



IPPL Supporter's Membership/Donation Form



If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL member, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world's primates by contributing your financial support. By sending in a membership contribution, you will be sure to continue receiving thrice-yearly issues of *IPPL News*. You may also donate online, if you wish, on IPPL's Web site (www.ippl.org). All donations are welcome!

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

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 regular membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 sustaining membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other amount: \$_____ (membership) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 patron membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 student/senior membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Other amount: \$_____ (one time donation) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL. | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I will be paying via credit card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover | | |

Card number: _____ Expiration date: _____

Name on card: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

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



Lemur T-Shirt: 100% Cotton.
Color: Cypress green
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL
Cost: US\$14 (US)/US\$22 (overseas)

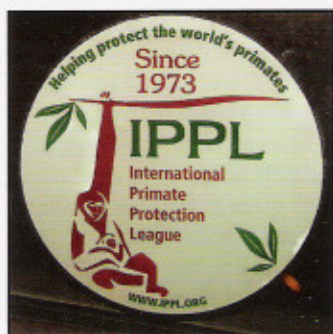
Primate Paraphernalia!



Gibbon Notecards: 12 cards plus 12 envelopes, 3 each of 4 colorful IPPL gibbon portraits.
Cost: US\$10 (US)/US\$14 (overseas)



IPPL Gibbon T-Shirt: 100% Cotton.
 These T-shirts feature drawings of three IPPL gibbons: **Arun Rangsi**, who came to IPPL as a baby from a biomedical lab; **Igor**, who spent 26 lonely years in research; and **Beanie**, who was blinded by illness.
Color: Forest green
Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL; Child S, M, L
Cost: Adult US\$15 (US)/US\$22 (overseas)
 Child US\$12 (US)/US\$16 (overseas)

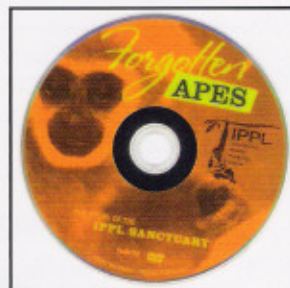


IPPL Window Clings: Reusable polyester cling with light-tack adhesive (similar to a Post-it note). Stays in place even on slightly moist or dirty surfaces, yet can be easily repositioned.
Diameter: 4 inches
Cost: US\$3 (US)/US\$4 (overseas)

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

Gibbons: A Promise to Protect DVD (by Planet Bonehead):

Released in 2008, this DVD about the IPPL gibbons is created by a company that specializes in children's environmental Web-TV.
Cost: US\$6 (US)/US\$7 (overseas)



Forgotten Apes: The Story of the IPPL Sanctuary DVD (by Wildsight Productions):
 Contains historic footage of the IPPL gibbons.
Cost: US\$6 (US)/US\$7 (overseas)

Order form:

Description	Size	Qty.	Each	Total
Order Total				

All prices include Shipping and Handling.

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Check/money order, payable to **IPPL**. Overseas checks to be drawn on US banks.

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State	Zip

For verification purposes, if credit card billing address is different from the Ship to address above, please give the billing address information below:

Address		
City	State	Zip

Mail your order to:
 IPPL • P.O. Box 766 • Summerville, SC 29484 • USA
Questions? Call 843-871-2280.

Adopt an IPPL Gibbon!

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

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

In addition, if you choose to adopt a gibbon at the \$25-per-month level, IPPL will send you one of our forest-green T-shirts featuring several IPPL gibbons. And remember: adoptions make wonderful gifts that will last all year.

Yes, I want to adopt an IPPL gibbon!

Your name: _____ Phone number: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

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

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

I would like to **pay in monthly installments** **OR** I would like to **pay in full** :

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

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

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

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

Recipient's name: _____ Phone number: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

Name (on card): _____

Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Credit card billing address (for verification purposes): _____

For information about adopting your gibbon through a monthly automatic checking account withdrawal, or if you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail (info@ippl.org).

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

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

IPPL Gibbons Currently Available for Adoption

Tong belongs to a different species from most of IPPL's gibbons. She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and was wild-born in her native Vietnam probably around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold as a pet to an American serviceman stationed in Vietnam; her mother may have been one of that nation's many wild animals that succumbed to Agent Orange or other hazards of war. When Tong's owner left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, the servants did not know much about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Eventually, in 1973, Tong was transferred to the protection of newly-founded IPPL, and she has been a part of the family ever since. By adopting Tong, you'll share in IPPL's commitment to lifelong care for beautiful apes like her.



Arun Rangsi was born in 1979 at a California research laboratory. Abandoned by his mother at birth, he was raised with a substitute mother made of wire to which he clung. Then the laboratory lost the funding for its program, and IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal, acting on a tip-off, rescued him from possible euthanasia. Once he arrived at the IPPL sanctuary, his physical and mental condition greatly improved, thanks to a good diet and lots of love. Today Arun Rangsi lives happily with Shanti, another former laboratory gibbon. To keep this sweet, gentle ape happy and healthy, we'd love for you to adopt him.



Courtney was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was just 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving the little 12-ounce infant with a terribly mangled leg. Thanks to the skill of our veterinarian and months of attention from Courtney's special nannies, her injuries have healed remarkably well. She has had minor follow-up surgery, but is nonetheless extremely active. If you saw her leaping around, you would hardly believe how badly she had been hurt. Since we cannot place her with another gibbon until she is fully mature, she will continue to need special attention from her human caregivers for several more years. We hope you'll consider adopting this spunky little ape.



Igor was born in the wilds of Thailand some time in the 1950s. Most likely his mother was shot and he himself kidnapped while still an infant. Eventually, he was sold to an animal exporter who shipped Igor to the United States to live in a laboratory. Igor spent a total of 26 years in different labs. At some point early in his "career," he developed a bizarre and distressing behavior: he became a self-mutilator, savagely biting his own arms whenever he caught sight of another gibbon. As a result, he was forced to live isolated behind black Plexiglas. In 1987, Igor was allowed to "retire" after his years of service. Since arriving at IPPL, where he lives out of sight but within earshot of IPPL's other gibbons, he has not attacked himself once. Please think about adopting this wonderful, resilient fellow.



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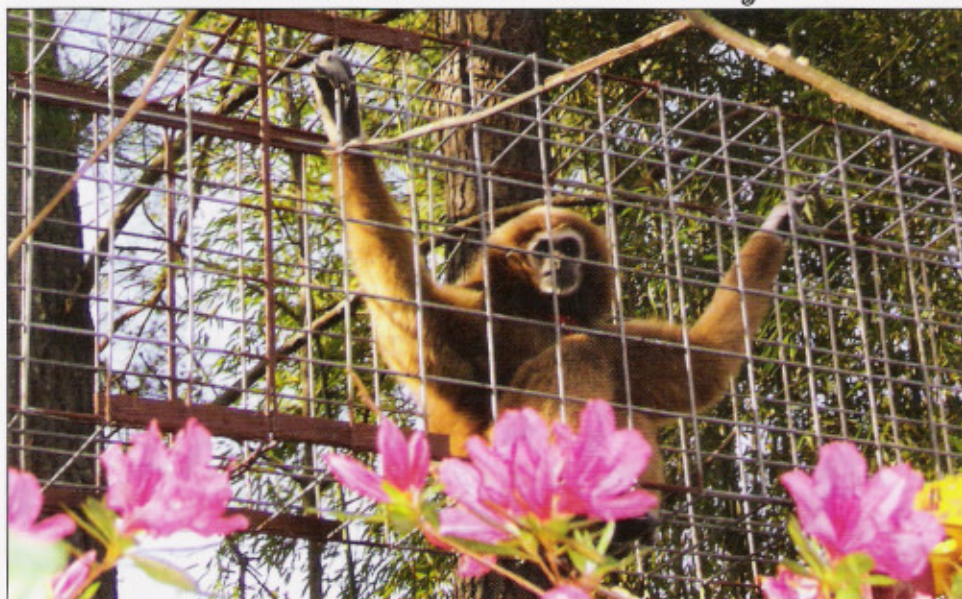
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Meet IPPL's Courtney!



"Little Miss Pooty-Toes." "Miss Zero-to-Sixty." "Miss Two-Second Attention Span." These are some of the terms of endearment we use for Courtney. At six years of age, she is one of the youngest gibbons at the IPPL sanctuary and is now considered a sub-adult, a "teenager" in gibbon years.

Born at IPPL on 10 January 2002 to feisty Michelle and laid-back Maui, Courtney is an "Oops!" baby. Her daddy had been fixed, but gibbon vasectomies are tricky and (we found out) don't always work. Also, her svelte mother never really "showed," so Courtney was a double-surprise when she was born!

We were all stunned when, at 12 days of age, she was attacked by her own mother, who severely injured her left leg. We rushed her to our amazing vet, who managed to repair the damage, and (as she could not be returned to her family) IPPL staff and volunteers were active in hand-rearing Courtney for many years. Now, watching her climb up to her favorite lookout or scamper among the swinging ropes of her outdoor enclosure, you would never guess the extent of her injuries.

Although she could not grow up in a gibbon family, Courtney benefited from the love of many human mommies. They have scratched her back and patted her (sometimes smelly!) toes. They have played chasing, wrestling, and gibbon-style patty-cake games with her (for a naturally arboreal animal with one bum leg, she can run like the wind!). They have showered her with stuffed animals and lunch bags (she simply can't resist ripping apart Velcro closures). Some folks think that many gibbons look similar, but there's no mistaking Courtney's personality!

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