



IPPL

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League

News

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Photo by Shirley McGreal

Say hello to Scrappy, one of the “Texas Twelve” gibbons!

A Letter From IPPL's Executive Director Shirley McGreal

Dear IPPL Member,

During June 2007, IPPL was represented at the fourteenth Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference in the Netherlands by me and IPPL Board Member Dianne Taylor-Snow. I have attended every CITES meeting since 1979. Among the primate items on the agenda were the proposed upgrade of the slow loris to the treaty's Appendix I (*see page 15*) and acceptance of a committee report about the bushmeat trade.

Unfortunately, the conference organizers handicapped all delegates and observers by producing name badges that were impossible to read! The lettering was really small, and the badges were attached to the cord at the middle (rather than at both ends) and swiveled round. In addition, no list of participants was issued—and, with 1,500 people in attendance, it was almost impossible to locate delegates one wanted to meet.

However, we did manage to meet the delegation from Nepal to discuss the monkey trade there. We also met one of two Dutch Members of Parliament who, after being elected in November 2006 as members of the political Party for the Animals, now represent animal concerns in that country. How wonderful it would be if all political systems made room for animals!

We were also pleased to meet Fidelis Omeni, a member of the Nigerian delegation who serves as Nigeria's Chief Wildlife Officer in the Federal Ministry of Environment. This gave us a chance to discuss the subject of gorilla smuggling. We were glad to learn that several Nigerian government and zoo officials involved in the "Taiping Four" gorilla smuggling case, which IPPL initially exposed and publicized in 2002, were prosecuted and/or dismissed from their posts.

All of us at IPPL hope you and the animals in your life are well and happy.



At the CITES meeting last June, IPPL Board Member Dianne Taylor-Snow (*right*) and I pause to pose with Fidelis Omeni, one of Nigeria's delegates to the conference.

Shirley McGreal

Primates! Primates! Primates!

IPPL, in cooperation with Second Nature Software, is pleased to present a collection of 22 wonderful primate portraits by award-winning nature photographer Michael P. Turco. Second Nature Software sells electronic images of the work of professional artists and photographers that can be used to beautify your computer screen—and also helps support nonprofit environmental organizations. IPPL's high-resolution collection of primate photos can be used as a screensaver or desktop wallpaper. Primates in the series include IPPL's beloved blind gibbon Beanie (who lived with us from 1991 until he passed away in October 2004) as well as a "baby picture" of our dear little five-year-old gibbon, Courtney, whom we are still hand-raising. You can go to www.ippl.org for a "sneak preview" that links to Second Nature's Web site to purchase the "Primates! Primate! Primates!" collection.

In addition, for a limited time, friends of IPPL can get the series for **50% off the listed price of "Primates!"** To take advantage of this offer, enter your special coupon code (**ippl50off**) when checking out. **This offer will expire December 31, 2007**, so hurry—I'm sure you and all the primate lovers in your life would love to turn your computer into a "primate portrait gallery"!

The “Texas Twelve” Gibbons Come to IPPL!

On 31 March 2007, 12 white-handed gibbons arrived at IPPL’s Headquarters sanctuary in Summerville, South Carolina. They came to IPPL from a troubled sanctuary in San Antonio, Texas, known as Primarily Primates, Inc. (PPI). This brings the number of gibbons at IPPL to 38.

After years of complaints against the sanctuary, PPI was placed under receivership following a petition submitted on 13 October 2006 by Gregg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas. The court selected Lee Theisen-Watt, a wildlife rehabilitator from Texas, to serve as receiver—a court-appointed manager for the sanctuary’s affairs.

The grounds for the suit against PPI included alleged negligent animal care (including “cruel and overcrowded” housing, inadequate veterinary care, and inappropriate diet) and mismanagement of donors’ funds. The complaint itself was 34 pages long, supplemented by multiple attachments. Ms. Watt decided to help relieve the overcrowding by finding more suitable homes for over 200 of the more-than-700 animals that the owners of PPI

had acquired over the years. She asked IPPL to give a home to 12 PPI gibbons, and IPPL agreed.

Concerns about Primarily Primates

There was concern about the conditions under which the gibbons were living at PPI. Gibbons are tropical rainforest apes and in nature inhabit the tallest treetops. In Texas, the 12 gibbons had access to outdoor cages that were long but only about eight feet high. This meant that any time the gibbons wanted to brachiate (their natural arm-swinging style of locomotion) from the underside of their cage tops, they would come quite close to the ground. In addition, there were no runways or other additions to these cages where sick animals could be captured and isolated if medical care were needed.

In contrast, IPPL’s outdoor enclosures are 15 to 20 feet tall and 40 or 50 feet long, and many have jutting observation towers that extend the gibbons’ vertical space even further. Our enclosures are connected by aerial runways made of strong galvanized

wire that extend the gibbons’ usable space even more; these runways are fitted with doors at regular intervals, such that segments of each tunnel can be blocked off as needed, a feature that comes in handy when a gibbon must be confined for medical or other care.

Each outdoor cage in Texas was attached to a cinderblock night house, but these small, windowless structures would not have been very inviting for the gibbons. PPI’s night houses had no space for these normally highly active animals to swing and play. The gibbons had to enter these inside units by crawling through a ground-level entryway covered by a hard rubber flap—an unnatural act for gibbons, who are almost never found at ground level in the wild: they only go to ground to cross from one forest patch to another.

Gibbons, as native tropical animals, need heat. No gibbon in nature gets exposed to ice and snow. Like Summerville, San Antonio has cold spells, and it is essential to protect these tropical animals from the misery of feeling cold and suffering the potential perils of frostbite. During



Erin, one of the “Texas Twelve” gibbons, huddles on the ground during an ice storm last winter at the troubled Primarily Primates sanctuary in Texas.



At Primarily Primates, the gibbons (who are naturally arboreal animals) could access their indoor quarters only by crawling through a ground-level hole covered with a hard rubber flap if they wanted to seek shelter from extreme weather. Their only source of water, the lixix nozzle (*circled at the bottom of the photo*), is placed so that the animals had to come to ground whenever they were thirsty.



A windowless night house for gibbons at Primarily Primates.

a storm in Texas last winter, a number of the gibbons remained outdoors in the ice and snow rather than go inside their unwelcoming indoor quarters. At IPPL, there are spacious, heated gibbon houses, where the little apes can be comfortable and active even on cold days.

Finally, IPPL was concerned about the gibbons' access to water at PPI. Many animal facilities (including IPPL's and PPI's) use "lixit" nozzles to ensure a supply of clean water whenever an animal nudges the watering mechanism. However, the lixits in Texas were positioned only about 12 to 18 inches above ground level and were installed outdoors. IPPL's lixit waterers are placed indoors and high off the ground—gibbons at IPPL are not forced to come to ground level whenever they're thirsty. In addition, there is no need to worry about IPPL's indoor lixits freezing up during a cold snap.

For these reasons and more, everyone at IPPL was happy to welcome the "Texas Twelve" to IPPL's Headquarters sanctuary. But the gibbons had a long journey to make first.

The long trip from Texas

IPPL is nervous about sending animals by plane. Far too many things can and do go wrong. San Antonio is 1,450 miles from

Summerville, South Carolina, but instead of flying the gibbons in, IPPL arranged to have two of its animal caregivers, Hardy and Danielle, fly one-way to San Antonio, accompanied by long-time IPPL volunteer Rebecca. The PPI receiver, Ms. Watt, also located a qualified out-of-town primate veterinarian and experienced local animal handler to help out.

The IPPL team flew down on Wednesday, 28 March. They picked up a special rented truck that had been reserved (only one company rents air-conditioned trucks with a pass-through doorway between the driver and cargo compartments and with air flow in both front and rear). The team purchased carrying cages (sky kennels), assembled them, and tagged each cage with an animal's name, sex, and other characteristics, so there could be no mix-ups. The IPPL team also spent most of Thursday getting to know the Texas gibbons, to help make the animals

Memories of an Eventful Trip

Rebecca Austin, IPPL Volunteer

Rebecca is a long-time IPPL volunteer who had visited Primarily Primates twice before going as part of the IPPL team to bring the gibbons to South Carolina. Here, she recalls that exciting road trip from San Antonio to Summerville:

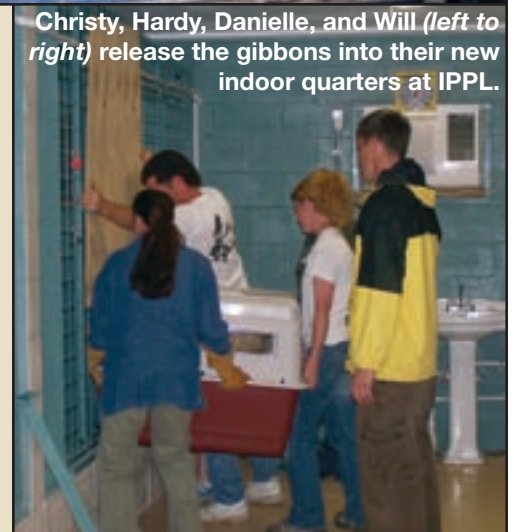
Once on the truck and on the road, the gibbons were remarkably calm, as if they knew they were going to a better place. I spent a great deal of time "in the back" reassuring them and handing out treats like grapes, kiwi, and oranges. Each gibbon took the food that was offered. Most would come to the front of their kennel to get their treats. Ziggy and Cathy were exceptions. Each time I would offer a treat, all I saw was an arm quickly flying out from the depths of the kennel, retrieving the fruit. I am sure they thought it was funny—this woman wobbling all over trying to stand up in the back of a bumpy truck attempting to give them treats!

Chloe, Gibby, and Scrappy also wanted individual reassurance in the form of back scratches. The air mattress was located right behind the cab. José-Marie and Scrappy were in the two kennels closest to the mattress. Each time I tried (in vain) to lie down and get some rest, I would open my eyes to see José-Marie and Scrappy just staring at me. It was really cute.

None of us slept. We felt too much responsibility for the gibbons' well-being to sleep—and in addition, the truck ride was bumpy! The gibbon's ride was much smoother than ours, as their kennels were securely strapped down. When we arrived at IPPL, we all felt such a sense of accomplishment on the safe completion of our mission.



Rebecca checks on one of the "Texas Twelve" gibbons.



Christy, Hardy, Danielle, and Will (left to right) release the gibbons into their new indoor quarters at IPPL.

feel comfortable. There were three family groups (two pairs and a mother, father, and child). In addition, there were five singletons, four of them male and one of them female.

On Friday, the excellent team, including the receiver and her staff, worked efficiently throughout the day to catch the gibbons. Each animal was administered a TB test (all were TB-free when the tests were read by our own vet three days later), and all were vaccinated for tetanus. Blood was drawn from each animal and sent for laboratory analysis. The gibbons were observed till they had fully recovered from the low dose of tranquilizer.

By 6:30 Friday evening, the truck was on the road to South Carolina. An air mattress had been placed between the rows of crates (six on each side) so that one person could drive, one person could navigate (and keep the driver awake), and the person in the back could observe the gibbons, offer food, and take an occasional nap. No overnight stops were made. The team took only brief rest breaks. They were in constant touch with IPPL Headquarters on cell phones.

The gibbons arrive at IPPL

Around 7 p.m. on Saturday, 31 March, the truck came rolling down IPPL's long tree-lined driveway. All of IPPL's animal caregivers were there to welcome the newcomers. No one wanted the gibbons to stay in their shipping crates one minute longer than necessary. All 12 were released by the animal care team into their spacious new indoor units in less than an hour. They were fed, and all ate well. Then

they started to explore their indoor houses and pick sleeping areas. The staff stayed late to monitor the newcomers.

Fortunately, IPPL had just finished building a brand-new, spacious four-unit gibbon house with long runways connecting to outdoor enclosures. It's called Gibbon House 7, and it is now the home of three incoming families and also one of IPPL's best-behaved pairs, E.T. and Donny, who indeed served as "mentors" to the newbies. When E.T. and Donny came indoors at night on schedule, the other families did the same thing!

The first gibbons to be released from their shipping kennels were the family of three: these consisted of Ziggy, a blonde adult male, his mate, Erin, a black female who had lost half her lower right leg at a zoo where she formerly lived, and their gorgeous blonde daughter, whose crate was tagged as "Baby." The family immediately started to explore their new surroundings and ate their dinner. They had no trouble locating their lixit waterers high on the front of their indoor sleeping quarters.

Next to be released were two gibbons whose crates were marked "No Name 1" and "No Name 2." They are now named Ann and David. Next door, Baba and his mate Uma were released into a third unit. Then each of the five singletons

was released into his or her individual unit in other gibbon houses around the sanctuary, and the caregivers who had made the long trip left for a well-earned rest. Rebecca stayed with us for a week to provide extra help with animal care.

However, the rented truck had to be returned to San Antonio, since trucks with pass-through doors are not available for one-way rentals, and there was no way for IPPL to negotiate an alternative to that rental agreement. There had to be a way to get that truck back to Texas! On Sunday, the morning after the gibbons' arrival, IPPL's part-time animal caregiver Noreen came to work as usual, but as soon as she learned of the situation with the truck, she offered herself and her friend Benny as drivers to take the vehicle back right away, to save IPPL extended rental costs. She went home to collect a few belongings, and within half an hour Noreen, Benny, and the truck were on the road back west. They flew home on Monday, so they didn't even get to do any sight-seeing in San Antonio!

Meet the "Texas Twelve" gibbons!

The "Texas Twelve" are doing well in their new "incarnation" as South Carolina gibbons. Unfortunately, information about their background is incomplete, since very few of them came with any history or medical files, and much of the existing documentation is many years old. But they are still interesting, beautiful, and unique animals.

Erin, Ziggy, and little Cathy

Erin is a black gibbon who used to reside at Hattiesburg Zoo, Mississippi. While living at the zoo, she lost her right foot and lower half of her right leg after receiving "multiple lacerations,"



Ziggy and Erin in their turret at IPPL. Their daughter Cathy (left) perches outdoors.



IPPL's vet examines Scrapy and Uma shortly after their arrival at IPPL's gibbon sanctuary.

apparently the result of being severely bitten by another gibbon. She reached PPI in the mid-1990s. Erin lives with her mate, a blonde male named Ziggy, and their daughter, who arrived as "Baby." Baby is now around four years old, and we call her "Cathy." She has a lovely honey-blond coat and is quite a "brat;" she even steals food from her parents! They have all gotten familiar with IPPL's staff, so that even relatively shy Erin accepts food from the animal caregivers now.

At first the family seemed rather dysfunctional, and family members did not relate much to each other. Now the trio spends a lot of time in the high turret mounted on the top of their outdoor enclosure. From their vantage point, they can observe all the activity in the nearby woods. They like to play in the water from the sprinklers used on the new plantings all around Gibbon House 7. Cathy is even interacting more with her dad—she sleeps next to him at night.

Baba ("Scrappy") and Uma

Baba and Uma have lived together for many years. IPPL volunteer Rebecca has

a special fondness for Baba and gave him the nickname "Scrappy." The two gibbons were kept as pets by a man in Illinois who had reportedly bought them from an animal dealer in Florida. Wildlife authorities confiscated the animals in March 1993 and sent them to a zoo in Illinois, which sent them to PPI in April 1993. Scrappy has badly stained teeth. He is very gentle with most people, and whenever an animal care staff member enters the gibbon house, Scrappy runs inside to get attention. Uma tolerates Scrappy's fraternization with human friends most of the time! He is a little submissive to Uma on occasion, but is now standing up for himself more. Scrappy and Uma spend a lot of time indoors, especially when the air-conditioner is running. Scrappy loves to drink water from the hose as his unit is being cleaned, while Uma likes to run her arm under the stream of water and licks it off her fur.

David and Ann

The gibbons now known as David and Ann were not accompanied by any documents and were identified only as "No Name 1" and "No Name 2." Both are a lovely honey-gold color. David was extremely thin when he arrived, but he has put on some weight. Ann used to get more than her fair share of the food, but

IPPL caregivers have made sure David gets enough. Now David has gained in strength and he won't let Ann get "first dibs" all the time—in fact, he is often first at the food bowl. Bananas are their favorite food. They have become closer and they love to play together in their turret. Ann likes to sit out in the rain, and this helps keep her coat soft and shiny.

Gibby

Gibby was extremely skinny on arrival at IPPL. He used to live at a university in New York State before being sent to Texas. Rebecca had first met him during her Texas visit in December 2006, and he looked very thin then. IPPL staff handled him for his first few days at IPPL. He has gained some weight and is extremely friendly with his preferred caregivers (and with Shirley). He sings a great deal. During the hot days of the South Carolina summer, Gibby goes out to play in the morning and comes indoors for an afternoon siesta!

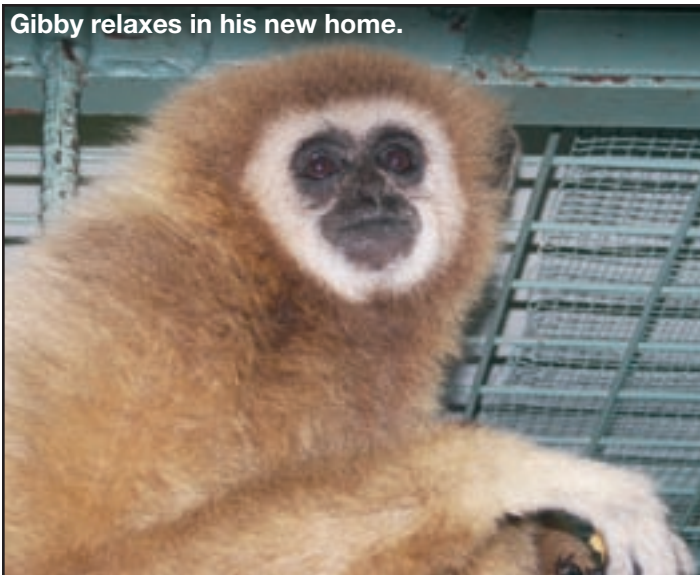
Whoop-Whoop

Whoop-Whoop is a beige male gibbon with several toes twisted out of place and a missing right thumb. Sadly, he arrived without a companion—except for his soft little green toy "alien" that he refused to be parted from. IPPL staff and Whoop-



David (left) and Ann arrived at IPPL without documents—and even without names.

Gibby relaxes in his new home.



Whoop's friends have since provided him with a whole array of additional "greenies," often cloth hand-puppets, including beavers, raccoons, frogs, and even an "Elmo." This enables the staff to wash them regularly—a good thing, since they get a lot of use. He likes to turn his greenies inside-out: if a caregiver turns it right-side out, he will quickly turn it inside-out again! He also likes to toss them in the air and chase them. He's not keen on his morning vegetables, but loves his afternoon fruit and slices of raisin bread. He is very gentle and has a sweet face.

Last June a local reporter wanted to write a story about unusual hurricane forecasts, since IPPL Headquarters is located in a hurricane zone. He wanted forecasts of the number of

Whoop-Whoop clutches one of his growing collection of little green friends.



named hurricanes this year, the number of severe hurricanes, and the number that would make East Coast landfall. He asked if a gibbon would help. IPPL never wants gibbons to "perform," but Whoop-Whoop's insatiable appetite for bananas is well known. So Whoop-Whoop was offered a basket of bananas, each numbered with a non-toxic marker. Whoopie picked Banana 12 for the total number of hurricanes and Banana 5 for the number of major hurricanes. When asked how many would make landfall, he grabbed his greenie and hid behind a post! The *Post and Courier* took an online public opinion poll as to whether Whoop-Whoop, a woman trance medium, a darts player, a hurricane expert, or the reporter



Chloe enjoys a sunny day at IPPL.

Photo by Noreen Laemers

himself had made the best estimates. Whoopie won by a large majority!

Chloe

Chloe is an elderly female gibbon who used to live with a human family. Unfortunately, her canine teeth were extracted during her days as a pet, but this does not interfere with her food consumption—she is always hungry! She loves greens and vegetables, especially celery. Sweet potatoes and peaches are other favorites. On arrival, she had chronic diarrhea, which has now disappeared. Chloe thinks ahead and stores leftover food on her sleeping shelf, maybe for a midnight feast! Chloe likes to spend a lot of time indoors, where she swings round and round the poles, singing all the time.

Chloe likes to put her arms out and hug favorite staff members. Rebecca recalls, "When I met Chloe in Texas,



Gus enjoys a snack in one of IPPL's aerial runways that criss-cross the sanctuary.

she immediately hugged me and would not let go! She still loves hugs from me, although she is particular about who she likes. Blackie fell for Chloe on the spot.” Blackie is a veteran lab gibbon who has lived at IPPL since 1984. He and Chloe live alongside each other.

Gus

Gus is a handsome beige-colored gibbon. He was reportedly born in Thailand. He’s the “dentist” of the group. He’s really curious about people’s teeth and loves to peer into their mouths. He has access to a long runway leading from his living area over to the IPPL office building and likes to come as close to the office as possible for visits. Jade and Palu-Palu, two gibbons from Maui Zoo, have access to a runway from the other direction, so they can get within about eight feet of Gus. Palu-Palu has always loved coming down the runway to watch the office staff working, but now Jade comes down more often, too. However, she still has little interest in the office staff—instead, she seems to have developed a soft spot for Gus! She calls to him even when he’s far away, and he hurries down the runway for

a visit and conversation. Jade even jumps right over Palu-Palu to be closer to Gus! Fortunately Palu-Palu doesn’t seem to be jealous at all.

Gus loves the days when our caregiver Hardy does the “night run,” the time at which all the gibbons are brought into their indoor sleeping quarters and fed their dinner. Hardy comments, “He usually meets me at the entrance to his house with a mischievous look on his face, only to let out a ‘whoop’ and run all the way back down his tube to the office, making little whoops the entire way—which I’m sure translates into ‘You can’t catch me!’” Once he sees the dinner basket, though, he goes inside!

José-Marie

José-Marie is the wildest of the Texas gibbons. This striking black male likes Hardy, too, although he is inclined to grab at people (and even Hardy, now and then). He loves to torment our animal caregivers by grabbing the hose from them when they are cleaning his area.

José-Marie’s canine teeth were extracted, probably during the time he spent as a pet. As he has settled down, he has become less aggressive. He loves his high tower, from



José-Marie is one tough customer—he makes sure our caregivers know who’s really the boss!

where he can see the whole sanctuary. He climbs up there and sings “This Land is My Land!” He lives alongside a fruiting fig tree and reaches out to pick figs as they ripen, but his favorite food is probably watermelon: he eats the luscious sweet fruit and then proceeds to eat the rind, as well.

Ongoing litigation

Many things have happened since the

gibbons’ arrival. On 25 April 2007, the Texas Attorney General suddenly settled the case and ended the receivership, returning control of PPI to a board of directors that included several of the same individuals who had run it before. However, IPPL believes that the Texas gibbons are happy here in their new home. Hopefully, they will never again have to endure ice and snow and what IPPL

considers to be unsuitable housing for gibbons. Therefore, IPPL has joined with Chimps, Inc. (which cares for two former PPI chimps named Emma and Jackson and has integrated them into a larger group at its Oregon sanctuary) and Ms. Marguerite Gordon (who takes care of a rescued steer from PPI at her facility in New Mexico) in a lawsuit seeking permanent care of the “Texas Twelve” gibbons.

Arcus Grant Benefits Overseas Sanctuaries and IPPL

Six overseas ape rescue centers will share a one-year \$184,000 grant award, thanks to the Arcus Foundation’s Great Apes Fund, as announced by the foundation this past June. IPPL applied for the funding on behalf of the six partner sanctuaries and is grateful that the Arcus Foundation has chosen to continue supporting the important ape protection work being done in Africa and Asia. This grant marks the fifth consecutive year that Arcus has helped support rescue work in ape-habitat countries via IPPL. This long-term financial commitment is vital for sanctuaries that not only are trying to plan for the well-being of long-lived animals but are also attempting to do so under the unstable political and economic conditions typical of developing countries.

In addition, this year Arcus has generously awarded \$50,000 over two years to IPPL directly. These funds will be used to support IPPL’s own ape advocacy work, including the thrice-yearly production of *IPPL News*. In previous grant applications, IPPL had not asked for any funds for overhead expenses or special projects but had sent the entire grant amount overseas. This new arrangement will enable IPPL to more effectively educate and advocate on behalf of apes—thereby (one can hope) leading to increased numbers of people who are informed about the rights and value of apes as individuals.

The six well-established sanctuaries with which IPPL has partnered for this grant award all have fine reputations. Many are using innovative approaches to the problem of apes orphaned by the bushmeat and pet trades, including extensive educational outreach to local youth and people in neighboring communities. The

six participating organizations are:

- **The Endangered Primate Rescue Center**, Vietnam, where 22 gibbons belonging to three endangered species have found sanctuary in their native land.
- **The Friends of Bonobos Association**, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which runs a unique rescue center that now cares for 53 confiscated bonobos (or pygmy chimpanzees) and welcomes many school groups for educational tours.
- **HELP Congo**, Republic of the Congo, which has been monitoring a group of previously-orphaned chimpanzees since 1996, (when they were released into a protected park), especially the females as they mature and begin to reproduce in the wild.
- **Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary**, Thailand, which is home to 42 gibbons, about 25 percent of whom have need of special care.
- **Kalaweit Gibbon Sanctuary**, Indonesia, which cares for about 200 gibbons and 60 siamangs while actively doing outreach by broadcasting pro-wildlife messages via “Kalaweit FM” radio and (coming soon) television.
- **Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary**, Sierra Leone, which houses nearly 90 chimpanzees rescued from the bushmeat and pet trades and which engages in country-wide sensitization efforts to encourage people not to keep chimps as pets.

The Arcus Great Apes Fund provides grants to support conservation efforts that promote the survival of great apes in

the wild and sanctuaries that offer safety and freedom from human exploitation. In keeping with this mission, this year’s Arcus grant funds will be used to provide continued quality care for apes that have been rescued from illegal trafficking and to promote the appreciation for apes by all people, both within and beyond the apes’ native countries.



The Arcus logo is proudly displayed at the entrance to Lola ya Bonobo (“Bonobo Paradise” in Lingala, a local language), the sanctuary run by The Friends of Bonobos Association in Kinshasa, DRC. This is the only sanctuary in the world dedicated to the rehabilitation of orphaned bonobos. Through IPPL, the Arcus Great Apes Fund has helped support the Association’s rescue work since 2002, when there were only 22 bonobo orphans to care for, fewer than half the current number of residents.

Malaysia Plans to Start Exporting Monkeys Again

IPPL had received many reports in recent months that Malaysia was planning to lift the monkey export ban it imposed in 1984. Now we are sorry to tell you that the reports were true. The Malaysian government announced publicly on 16 August 2007 that the ban had been secretly lifted last June. Details of how this trade in Malaysia's native macaque monkeys is to be regulated are still unclear, however, including how many animals are to be caught and where they are to be sold.

Twenty-three years ago, IPPL exposed the abuse suffered by Malaysia's crab-eating macaques who had been exported to the U.S. for testing biological and chemical warfare agents. The 1984 ban was established by former wildlife chief Encik Mohammed Khan, who was disgusted by accounts of Malaysian monkeys tortured in such experiments. Sadly, Malaysia seems ready to turn back the clock and start becoming complicit in such cruelty again.

Warning signs of lifted export ban

Malaysian animal friends become alert to the possible lifting of the ban when they read an article published in the 4 March 2007 issue of Malaysia's *Berita Harian* newspaper, which quoted government officials as saying that monkeys were to be exported "as a means of decreasing their population." Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM), other Malaysian pro-animal groups, and concerned citizens protested immediately. In a letter dated 24 March 2007 that SAM's President, S. Mohammed Idris wrote to Dato' Seri Haji Azmi Khalid, Malaysia's Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Mr. Idris stated,

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) refers to a statement by the Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Sazmi Miah regarding the export of our long-tailed [crab-eating] macaques overseas either for their exotic meats or as pets. The decision to



export our long-tailed macaques looks like a betrayal by the very people who are entrusted to safeguard our nation's wildlife.

In arriving at this decision the Parliamentary Secretary shows no concerns for NGOs and wildlife groups who are trying hard to change the mindset of the public...

We wish to recall that in May 2006 the Ministry invited NGOs [non-governmental organizations], scientific personnel and wildlife groups for a dialogue session pertaining to the management plan for long-tailed macaques.



Much time and effort was taken to come out with proposals and, after a lengthy discussion, points were noted for better management of monkeys.

However, all these will come to naught with the Ministry hell-bent on exporting the monkeys, preferring an easy solution, without any intention of taking up any of the proposals submitted by NGOs and other groups.

It looks as though the Ministry has no qualms about the horrific suffering

the monkeys will undergo at the hands of exotic food lovers in Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong who relish monkey brains.

Does Malaysia have "too many monkeys"?

The Associated Press carried a story on 17 August 2007 quoting Malaysia's Natural Resources and Environment Minister Azmi Khalid's comments at a press conference the previous day. Minister Azmi referred to "complaints that it is cruel to export the monkeys, which are destined for restaurants and research laboratories." The Minister said that these complaints were invalid, because "something had to be done to curb the monkeys' numbers in Malaysia" and that "exporting them was the best option."

Azmi claimed that more than 258,000 crab-eating macaques live in Malaysian urban areas, where they have become a "problem," snatching food from people and raiding homes and fields. He was also reported as saying that Malaysia has nearly 500,000 monkeys living in the wild. IPPL is seeking clarification regarding the source of these statistics.

Azmi did not say how many macaques the ministry would allow to be exported or explain how it would control the trade. The weakness of Malaysian wildlife law enforcement was shown when four baby gorillas (the "Taiping Four") entered Malaysia on false documents in 2002. It took months of complaints by Malaysian

and non-Malaysian NGOs to get the animals confiscated.

Minister Khalid also was unable to explain how the government would make sure the monkeys to be exported are not caught from forests, but only from cities where they are an alleged nuisance. The 10 July report by Malaysia's *The Star* newspaper on the recent confiscation of hundreds of monkeys in the south of Malaysia (see "*Hundreds of Monkeys*

Confiscated in Malaysia," page 12) reports that the monkeys were caught "in the forests of Pahang and Johor."

In the days when India exported monkeys, the country was divided into forest blocks assigned to the big dealers for their trapping activities. Foreign scientists did not want the urban "nuisance monkeys" because they often carried diseases like tuberculosis and intestinal parasites. The experimenters

and pharmaceutical companies wanted only "clean" monkeys from the jungle. Major enforcement problems are certain to arise, as government officials cannot follow every monkey catcher wherever he goes.

What makes all this even sadder is that Malaysia is a nation with a thriving economy and has no need for the "blood money" that trafficking in monkeys' misery may bring to a few greedy individuals.

How You Can Help Malaysia's Monkeys

Please mail or fax courteous letters to Malaysian authorities to express your concern at the lifting of the 1984 monkey trade ban. Request that the government reconsider its decision to expose Malaysia's native macaques to abuse as exotic pets, suffering in overseas laboratories, and death as merely pieces of "bushmeat." The cost to mail a letter from the United States to Malaysia is 90 cents.

Dato' Seri Haji Azmi Khalid
(address as "Dear Dato' Seri Haji Azmi Khalid")
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Aras 17, Blok Menara 4G3, Presint 4
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan
62574 Putrajaya
MALAYSIA
Fax: 011-60-3-6-03-88891057

Mr. Abd. Rasid Samsudin
(address as "Dear Sir")
Director General
Headquarters of the Department of Wildlife and
National Parks
KM 10, Jalan Cheras
56100 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA
Fax: 011-60-3-6-03-90803557

Dato' Suboh bin Mohd Yassin
(address as "Dato' Suboh bin Mohd Yassin")
Secretary General
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Aras 17, No 25 Persiaran Perdana Presint 4
Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan
62574 Putrajaya
MALAYSIA
Fax: 011-60-3-6-04-88895449



In addition, please contact the Malaysian Embassy in your country (go to <http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/Malaysia/malaysia.htm> for a list). The Malaysian ambassador to the United States can be reached at the following address:

His Excellency the Ambassador of Malaysia
Embassy of Malaysia
3516 International Court, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Fax: 202-483-7661

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Hundreds of Monkeys Confiscated in Malaysia

On 10 July 2007 Malaysian newspapers reported that around 950 monkeys had been seized from a wildlife smuggling syndicate on 7 July 2007. The monkeys were reportedly caught in the forests of Pahang and Johor in the south of mainland Malaysia. Their destination was suspected to be either China or the Netherlands.

The monkeys were found in a store on a plantation in Pontian. Malaysian wildlife investigators had been keeping the facility under observation for two weeks before acting. The Malaysian newspaper *The Star* reported that

The long-tailed macaques [also known as crab-eating macaques] were found in a pitiful condition in filthy cages and blue gunny sacks. Around 100 dead monkeys were piled up nearby.

The survivors were taken to the Kluang Wildlife Department office in Johor. Three of the men involved in the case were Malaysian nationals, and they were all charged with unlawful possession of wildlife and cruelty to animals. A fourth man, an Indonesian national, was handed over to immigration authorities.

Malaysian wildlife department assistant director Celescoriano Razond, the leader of the team that investigated the case and seized the monkeys, told *The Star* that he believed one of the Malaysians arrested was a leader of the animal dealing syndicate and that this was the largest seizure of monkeys ever in Malaysia.

Mr. Razond said the starving animals had started eating their newborns and injuring one another in fights. "This is highly unusual behavior among monkeys,"



he noted, "because they are [normally] very protective of each other." He added that the monkeys would be released in stages into protected forest reserves nationwide to ensure they were not recaptured by poachers.

An IPPL colleague received further information on 19 July 2007. He received from Dutch wildlife authorities a copy of an e-mail sent by Haidar Khan of the Malaysian Law Enforcement Division. Mr. Khan sent his message to a senior official of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority in the Netherlands about the monkeys. Mr. Khan stated, in part,

The Department would clarify on the

*number of primates confiscated. It was reported to be 1,000 heads in your e-mail and the exact number was 788. The confiscated species were identified as *Macaca fascicularis* [crab-eating macaques]. The macaques were captured illegally from the wild and confiscation was done on the basis of contravention of the Protection of Wildlife Act 1972 [Act 76].*

Currently Malaysia does not issue any export permit for macaques and there was no issuance of any CITES export permit for the macaques mentioned in the confiscation. Based on initial investigation, no destination of the intended shipment in the Netherlands has been specified. Officials of the Department were being told that there was a request of 3,000 heads of macaques from the Netherlands. However, official documentations are yet to be found.

After viewing the story about the plight of the monkeys on Malaysian TV's Channel 2, veterinarian Dr. Roy Sirimanne of the Malaysian organization Wildlife Solutions expressed his outrage to members of the Zoo Biology mailing list, commenting,

The TV2 news tonight showed more than 1,000 monkeys trapped somewhere in Johor, south of the Malaysian peninsula, for illegal shipment allegedly to Europe. More than 100 animals had died due to suffocation. Due to sheer hunger many infants were found half-eaten. For Malaysia in 2007 as we celebrate 50 years of our independence what happened is simply unacceptable. This day marks the beginning of the end for our monkeys in Malaysia.

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 post card with your old and new addresses. That way we can spend less money on overhead and more money on primates! (And you won't miss a single issue of *IPPL News*!)

IPPL Funds New Home for “Lucky” Gibbon

Lucky, a permanently injured agile gibbon from Sumatra (*Hylobates agilis*), has finally been moved to a larger enclosure, thanks to funds donated by IPPL. Lucky is under the care of staff at the Petungsewu Wildlife Rescue Center (known locally as PPS), a facility located in Malang, East Java, Indonesia, established by the grassroots pro-wildlife group ProFauna Indonesia in 2001. She had been turned over to PPS after being confiscated by the forestry police in 2002 from a woman in Malang. The gibbon had been rescued from miserable living conditions. Her

her new enclosure, which was previously inhabited by eagles that have now been released back into the wild. She seems to be very happy in her new home, moving about actively and enjoying a good appetite. Every day, in the morning or evening, Lucky sings loudly, competing in harmony with the leaf monkeys at the rescue center.

Lucky—another victim of trade

Sadly, Lucky is just one unfortunate illustration of the end-result of the illegal wildlife trade. Gibbons are among

to flourish. The last investigation conducted by ProFauna, done in 2004, documented that approximately 1,000 gibbons from Sumatra and Indonesian Borneo (Kalimantan) are being traded every year.

The majority of these gibbons are sold at the “bird markets” (open-air wildlife markets) around Java and Sumatra, where they fetch between one and three million Indonesian rupiah (US\$100–300) each. The gibbons that are being sold for pets are mostly babies or youngsters who have been brought into captivity after their mothers were shot. In the wild, gibbons live high in the treetops, so they are safe from most predators—except for humans with guns.

Lucky really is a lucky gibbon!

When pet gibbons grow up, they become more independent and even somewhat aggressive. The owners become reluctant to continue taking care of their troublesome animal, and in some cases, they even kill their once-beloved gibbon. Lucky is indeed lucky that she ended up at a caring wildlife facility instead.



Lucky, an abused agile gibbon in Indonesia, has a spacious new home (*right*) thanks to IPPL.

neck was chained and her arms had been injured: the poor gibbon had been run over by the many rickshaws that passed in front of her owner’s house. Her right arm is now paralyzed.

Unfortunately, due to her permanently injured arm, it is impossible to release Lucky into her natural habitat. The best that PPS caregivers can do is to give Lucky a bigger home, so she can move about more freely. Fortunately for Lucky, IPPL decided to fund the renovation of

the most popular primates traded in Indonesia, along with orangutans, slow lorises, and Javanese leaf monkeys. Even though all gibbon species are protected by Indonesian law, trade in these animals continues



Monkeys Stolen from New Cambodian Export Center

According to an *Asia-Pacific* story dated 22 August 2007, 52 macaque monkeys were stolen from a monkey farm named “Angkor Bright.” Pen Kheng, the deputy police chief of Kampong Svay district in Cambodia’s northern Kampong Thom province, told the press that a group of five or six masked men had burst into the grounds of the Angkor Bright company on 19 August and made off with the monkeys after threatening a guard. Kheng said, “This is becoming very common in this district and has happened to Angkor Bright and another company, Chen China

Group, many times lately.” According to *Asia-Pacific*,

Kheng declined to say why the company had so many monkeys on its premises, but wildlife officials have previously said they suspect Cambodia is becoming a transit point for primates destined for China and Vietnam, where animal testing is legal, monkey meat is a delicacy and animal rights protesters are virtually unheard of.

IPPL has learned from an informed source that the Angkor Bright company is

a new “breeding” farm not yet officially opened, which has plans to house up to 100,000 macaques. Another company, Golden China, is already exporting thousands of Cambodian monkeys. It is tragic that Cambodia’s monkeys should be enduring decimation at the hands of businesses run by non-Cambodian nationals. Many animals are likely to be used in research aimed at development of weapons similar to the biological warfare agents that hurt Cambodian wildlife so greatly in the past—and is so counter to Cambodia’s Buddhist traditions.

Secretary-General’s Controversial Opening Speech: A New Direction for CITES?

Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), made his traditional opening speech to delegates and observers attending the 14th Conference of the Parties to CITES in the Netherlands in June. This year, however, his remarks included comments which disturbed many of his listeners. He seemed to suggest a shift in implementing this essential international treaty away from its traditional focus on animal protection and more toward an emphasis on maintaining human livelihoods:

CITES and livelihoods will be an issue at this meeting. A proposal by the European Union and several countries from other continents builds on the earlier recognition by the Conference of the Parties, that the implementation of CITES listing decisions [determining which species should be protected from international trade] should take into account potential impacts on the livelihood of the poor. This has been misunderstood by some. It is therefore important to note that this recognition cannot and should not stop species from being listed because there is or might be a problem for livelihoods. Species are to be listed in accordance with the scientific biological criteria that have been established by the Parties, but the implementation of the relevant trade regime should take the

interests of the livelihood of the poor into account. Where, for example, a prohibition on commercial international trade in a species is necessary, there are in many cases ways to allow certain activities to continue. I think, among other things, of trophy hunting, the benefits of which should go to the local communities sharing their environment with the species concerned. Where that is not the case, other international organizations or donors will need to ensure proper compensation for the loss of income of rural communities.

I attach great importance to the role CITES can play in this context and I find it unfortunate that this role is being denied by some, who advocate that CITES should not get involved in things that are not within its initial “mandate” as they see it, that is the protection of animals and to a lesser extent plants, but certainly not people. It is surprising, though, that those involved do not want to see the bigger picture.

The cases of Rwanda and Kenya have shown that eco-tourism can be a viable alternative to trade in live animals. Tourism centered on the gorillas of Rwanda has helped greatly with the progress in the villages around the national park, and gorilla viewing fees help support the Rwandan wildlife department. The gorilla projects provide employment to park rangers, guides, and hotels within

reach of the park. The funds raised by the eco-tourism program are supplemented by funds raised by international non-governmental organizations.

There is no doubt that the humans who co-exist with wildlife should have a decent standard of living, as should all human beings worldwide. Sadly the nature of the wildlife trade has always been one of “pennies for peasants” and huge profits for big-city exporters and wildlife traffickers. A rural Cambodian may be paid \$10 for a monkey that will retail overseas for several thousand dollars. Many international safari hunting operations are run by expatriate outfitters, who hire local people as guides and pay them only trifling wages for toting the “sportsmen’s” guns and other paraphernalia.

IPPL believes that wildlife protection should remain the primary goal of CITES, as envisaged by the first paragraph of the treaty’s preamble:

The Contracting States, recognizing that wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come....

It seems that some members of the CITES bureaucracy need to think carefully about what the primary priority was of those who worked so hard to establish CITES as an international apparatus to protect wildlife from trade-related extinction.

Slow Lorises Receive International Trade Protections

Three species of slow lorises were granted increased protection from international trade at the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES COP-14), which was held in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 3 to 15 June 2007. IPPL was represented at the conference by IPPL Board Member Dianne Taylor-Snow and IPPL Executive Director Shirley McGreal. CITES is the leading international treaty governing the cross-border trade of threatened and endangered species and has been in effect since 1975. Regular CITES conferences such as this are important to global wildlife trade because it is here that decisions are voted upon that affect the extent to which legal protections are offered to particular species.

Among the species proposals was one from Cambodia seeking to upgrade the slow loris species (including the greater slow loris, Bengal slow loris, and pygmy slow loris) from Appendix II to Appendix I of the treaty. Species listed on Appendix II may be commercially traded (as long as they have been lawfully removed from the wild with no detriment to their species), while those listed on Appendix I are afforded the greatest legal protection: such species may not be traded for primarily commercial purposes (only purely scientific exchanges or other non-commercial exceptions can be made). Appendix I is reserved for species in danger of trade-related extinction; it is better controlled because both the importing and exporting countries must issue permits (on Appendix II, only an easily-faked export document is required).

The slow lorises are small, quiet, slow-moving, nocturnal primates found in Southeast and South Asia and parts of China. These animals are threatened by habitat destruction as well as excessive hunting. They are captured for use as pets (both in their native countries and in Japan, where they have become trendy) and in traditional medicines.

Many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supported the upgrading of the slow loris because, although there has been little legal trade in the species, there has been a lot of smuggling, especially to

ProFauna Stages Dramatic Pro-Loris Demonstrations in Indonesia

Last April the grassroots wildlife group ProFauna Indonesia conducted a spectacular demonstration in the city of Malang, on the island of Java, to protest Indonesia's illegal slow loris trade. ProFauna members suspended themselves from a bridge and displayed banners reading "Stop jual kukang" ("Stop the slow loris trade") and "Jangan beli kukang" ("Don't buy slow lorises"). This eye-catching protest got attention from as many as 25 journalists and resulted in generous coverage by a number of television stations and newspapers. ProFauna members also used the event as an opportunity to distribute an appeal for increasing the protection of the slow loris at the upcoming CITES conference to the Indonesian press. IPPL has helped support a number of ProFauna's activities over the years.



According to ProFauna Chairman Rosek Nursahid, evidence of the slow loris trade gathered by the group from 2000 to 2006 shows that approximately 6,000 to 7,000 slow lorises have been poached for the domestic trade in Indonesia each year. The animals, which sell for 200,000 rupiah or less apiece (about US\$20), are sold in "bird markets" (traditional open-air animal markets) and in shopping malls across the country. Indonesia's domestic slow loris trade is illegal; the animals have been protected by law since 1973, by order of the Minister of Agriculture. Wildlife traffickers may be subject to a five-year prison sentence and a 100-million-rupiah (US\$10,000) fine. Hopefully, the listing of slow lorises on Appendix I will spur greater domestic law enforcement, as well.



Japan. On 2 May 2007, just one month prior to the conference, 40 slow lorises were smuggled out of Thailand but confiscated at Narita Airport, Japan. Sadly, 12 of the animals died.

IPPL is a member of the Species Survival Network (SSN), an international coalition of NGOs that promotes the work of CITES. IPPL sponsored lovely loris pins that were handed out to all delegates, as well as "Keep Primates in the Wild" highlighter pens. Other groups, like the German organization Pro Wildlife and the Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, also worked on behalf of the slow loris.

Cambodia resisted pressures to withdraw its proposal. There were rumors that Indonesia wanted to start breeding lorises for export and would oppose upgrading. When the proposal came to

the floor on 8 June, Cambodia explained the rationale for the proposal. Indonesia called for the floor, and there was a sigh of relief when it announced its support for the upgrade. Japan also spoke in favor of it, as did India, Laos, Thailand, the United States, the European Union, Qatar, and many non-governmental organizations. The proposal was adopted by consensus.

The hard work of many NGOs, especially SSN groups, contributed to the success. IPPL members not attending the conference helped by contacting their CITES representatives (as requested in the April issue of *IPPL News*) and in response to a special e-mail action alert. You can receive future alerts by joining IPPL's E-Bulletin list. Just send us your e-mail address (to info@ippl.org).

A Visit to Stichting AAP, Holland's Premier Primate Sanctuary

Dianne Taylor-Snow, IPPL Board Chairwoman

It's always good to visit old friends.

Shirley McGreal and I attended the 14th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in The Hague this past June. There are times during these conferences that one actually wants to pull one's hair out. There is so much tension, as nations are often at loggerheads with each other over controversial issues such as ivory trafficking. Japan's constant battles to reopen the ivory trade are wearisome.

So, when we discovered that Stichting AAP had arranged a weekend day trip to visit their facility in Almere, an hour-and-a-half's bus ride away from the conference center, I was just delighted. The excursion was planned for members of the Species Survival Network (SSN), a coalition of non-governmental organizations (including IPPL) that promotes the implementation

of the CITES treaty to protect endangered species from international trade. What a relief to spend the day with like-minded people at a place I had heard so much about and always wanted to see!

I have attended every biennial IPPL Members' Meeting—except for the first one, when I was on assignment in Thailand caring for the smuggled orangutans that comprised the Bangkok Six. At IPPL, I've met our Dutch friends David van Gennep (the Director of AAP and an IPPL Overseas Representative), Hilko Wiersema (also an IPPL Representative), and long-time IPPL member Wim de Kok, who have attended most of IPPL's Members' Meetings and made presentations about their projects.

Now, Shirley and I finally had a chance to visit "their home." AAP was founded in 1972 by Okko and Riga Reussien and served as a "way station" or temporary housing for

exotic pets, mainly monkeys and apes, who had outgrown their "cute" stages. In 1996, the sanctuary moved to spacious grounds at Almere. It is now the premier primate sanctuary in the European Union.

As of 1 July 2007, AAP was home to a total of 274 mammals. The resident primates include 43 chimpanzees and 136 other primates, including Barbary macaques and hamadryas baboons. Twenty-eight of the chimpanzees came to AAP from the Biomedical Primate Research Center in Rijswijk. The rest come from assorted backgrounds, such as trade, the entertainment business, or pet situations. Ten of the chimpanzees had been experimentally infected with HIV and 18 were infected with hepatitis C. These chimpanzees will enjoy lives free from human exploitation at AAP.

Upon arrival at the sanctuary, we



Photo courtesy Stichting AAP

split up into small groups and got the grand tour of the grounds. In addition to monkeys and apes, the sanctuary takes in other exotic animals such as raccoons, skunks, squirrels, flying foxes, dingos, kinkajous and, yes, even prairie dogs! Hopefully, these unwanted creatures can be nursed back to health, both physically and emotionally, and placed in new homes where they will live out their lives in a natural, happy environment.

From the old and new office buildings and enclosures for the assorted animals mentioned above, it's a long hike through a meadow down to the state-of-the-art building that houses our chimp cousins who have been infected with HIV and other diseases. There are many restrictions upon entrance to the building, and some of the areas are completely off limits to visitors, as we did not have the protective clothing needed. But the happy collection of chimpanzees we did see was amazing. Their living quarters were spacious, both inside and out. Many of these chimpanzees had lived in restricted housing, and this was the first time they had ever seen sunlight. They were provided with special, healthy diets, climbing ropes and hammocks, grass under their feet, and a wonderful staff to tend to them. It was a heartwarming experience.

Back at the office we were treated to



Above, left to right, Stichting AAP's director David van Gennepe, AAP's co-founder Riga Reussien, and IPPL's own founder Shirley McGreal. Opposite, rescued chimps enjoy compassionate care at the Dutch facility.

a delicious lunch. David gave a talk on the progress AAP is making and talked about the 180 hectares (about 450 acres) of land purchased at Costa Blanca, in the southern part of Spain. This facility is called "Primadomus" (which means "house for primates") and will offer lifetime care for primates. Among the first Primadomus residents will be the non-infected chimpanzees.

One of the highlights of the visit was meeting Riga Reussien, one of the original founders of AAP and a pioneer in the area of European sanctuaries. It was a pleasant experience watching Shirley and Riga renew an old friendship.

Thanks to David, Hilko, Wim, Riga, and all the staff for a wonderful day. The next day we returned to the tedious conference sessions refreshed by our day off.

❧ *Special Gifts to IPPL* ❧

Given by:

- ❖ **Betty Altvater**, in memory of Susan Faith Morrow
- ❖ **Kathleen Breaux**, in memory of W.W. (Bill) Cross
- ❖ **Bonnie L. Brown**, in memory of W.W. (Bill) Cross
- ❖ **Brien Comerford**, in honor of Cesar Chavez
- ❖ **Michele Frankl**, in honor of her husband Ron Frankl (Happy anniversary!)
- ❖ **Theodore and Penelope Heavner**, in memory of Henry Heymann
- ❖ **Roy A. Heymann, III**, in memory of Henry Heymann
- ❖ **Traci B. and William Hoeltke**, in honor of their 25th anniversary
- ❖ **Dawn and R.E. Little**, in honor of the Hoeltkes' 25th anniversary
- ❖ **Larry L. Miller**, in memory of Cricket
- ❖ **Linda Ann Morton**, in honor of Arun Rangsi's birthday
- ❖ **Patricia O'Grady**, in memory of Susan Faith Morrow
- ❖ **Lisa A. Payne and Molly**, in memory of Linda Howard
- ❖ **Sergey and Olga Rakitchenkov**, in memory of Susan Faith Morrow
- ❖ **Anne Reynolds**, in memory of Henry Heymann
- ❖ **Robin Rojo-Agivs**, in memory of Susan Faith Morrow
- ❖ **Hendrika Schneider**, in memory of her sister Marie
- ❖ **Chester E. Wiese**, in honor of the Hoeltkes' 25th anniversary

IPPL Helps Abandoned Silvery Gibbons

IPPL has provided an emergency grant of \$2,000 to International Animal Rescue (IAR) to help care for a group of 19 silvery gibbons living at the Cikananga Rescue Center, West Java, Indonesia. The center is being run by IAR but has lately suffered from a sharp decrease in financial support, due to the loss of a major donor. The rare gibbons living at the center are in danger of dying from neglect, now that the former funder is no longer helping them.

Silvery gibbons, also known as Javan or moloch gibbons, belong to a species that is already close to extinction due to shrinking habitat and the poaching of mothers to get their beautiful babies into the pet trade. The survivors of the pet trade or other confiscated animals sometimes end up in sanctuaries like Cikananga.

Until recently, things looked very good for Indonesia's network of animal rescue centers. Cikananga and several other centers used to have secure and generous funding from the Gibbon Foundation, which was run by Willie Smits, a Dutch resident of Indonesia. The foundation's funds came mainly from the estate of the late multi-millionaire Puck Schmutzer and, besides funding for the rescue centers, large sums were expended to build the luxurious Schmutzer Primate Center inside the appalling Ragunan Zoo, Jakarta. Four gorillas were imported from a British zoo for the Schmutzer Center.

The foundation was incorporated in the small nation of Liechtenstein and held its money in a Swiss bank account, so IPPL was never able to locate

financial reports. Now that its funds have mysteriously dried up, the sanctuary animals are suffering.

Spanish veterinarian Karmele Llano Sanchez, who has worked in several of Indonesia's primate sanctuaries, informed IPPL that the situation for the gibbons at Cikananga is grim: "Currently, the food given to these gibbons is scarce and so they are suffering of starvation. Additionally, no enrichment is provided and they have never been socialized in couples." She said that funds from IPPL will be used to help feed the gibbons and house them in pairs (as they are in the wild) instead of in isolation. With this improvement in their health and welfare, they may be able to be transported to a more stable living situation in the future.



A beautiful silvery gibbon (also known as a Javan or moloch gibbon), native to Indonesia.



Won't You Help Nakola?

Hello,

My friends call me Nakola. I am a silvery gibbon. Life has not treated me well. I used to live in a forest in Java, Indonesia, but poachers who didn't care that I belonged to an endangered species shot my mother and took me to a market to sell as a pet. My owners didn't really know how to care for me, so I ended up with rickets, a bone disease that comes from not enough calcium and not enough sunshine.

Eventually I ended up the Cikananga Rescue Center in Malang, Java. I used to be well cared for here, but now the center doesn't seem to have enough money to feed me and my 18 other silvery gibbon friends. And I'd really like a larger home—and maybe even a boyfriend!

I've learned that there is a group called IPPL that has lots of members who feel compassion for stranded gibbons like me. Will you help me and my friends?

Please send your gift to IPPL, P.O. BOX 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA. Mark it "For the Silvery Gibbon Fund." The people at IPPL have promised to give me every dollar you send.

Love,

Nakola Gibbon

Murder in the Mountains: Gorillas Pay the Price of Human Conflict

The conservation world was shocked last July to hear the news that even more rare mountain gorillas had been killed in the Virunga National Park, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Initial reports confirmed that three adult females and one silverback male were murdered on July 22 in the southern sector of the park. Mountain gorillas, of which there are only about 700 left in the wild, lead their precarious lives in the rugged border region shared by Rwanda, Uganda, and the DRC. Nearly 60 percent of the world's mountain gorillas are residents of the nearly two-million-acre (790,000-hectare) Virunga National Park, the oldest national park in Africa (established in 1925) and a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

Six family members slain, one rescued

Congolese guards from ICCN (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, the DRC's parks authority) discovered the bodies of the three

females (named Mburanumwe, Neeza, and Safari) the following day, and the male Senkekwe on July 24, two days after reports of gunfire in the evening near Bukima, a park outpost close to the Ugandan border. Of the dead females, young Mburanumwe, was pregnant. Another female, Macibiri, and her infant had gone missing. On August 16, park guards discovered the mother's remains; her infant (who is less than two years old) is certainly dead, also. One of the few survivors of this massacre was Ndeze, Safari's baby, who was found a few days after the killings in the care of her older brother. Born only last February, she is incapable of surviving in the wild without her mother, so she was removed from her brother (he had to be temporarily tranquilized by staff of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project with the help of a dart gun) and is being hand-reared by staff of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) and the MGVP. She was initially found to be dehydrated but otherwise healthy. It is hoped that she will be able to return to the wild when she is older.

All six of the slain animals had belonged to the same group, the "Rugendo" family, which had been habituated for tourists and researchers. With the death of the silverback male, the head of the troop, observers agree that this one-time extended family is now in a very vulnerable state, with no one left to assume primary responsibility for the group's leadership and protection, and no adult females to assure the group's continuity. Of the 12 original family members, only five are now left, three younger (blackback) males and two juveniles.

Suspect in custody

These killings were not the work of ordinary poachers, as was clear from the fact that the bodies had been left virtually untouched (although one body had been burned): the animals were neither butchered for bushmeat nor mutilated for grotesque souvenirs, like severed heads or hands. Instead, it appeared that these execution-style killings were politically motivated assassinations. The likely goal: to send a political message to the



A magnificent mountain gorilla, one of only 700 left in the world.

eco-rangers, who patrol the Virungas for the protection of the gorillas and their habitat, that their interference is not appreciated.

The exact motivations and tactics involved in the murder of these six animals are still unknown, but two suspects have been identified and one is in custody and assisting the investigation. A team of experts from UNESCO and World Conservation Union (IUCN) set out on a ten-day fact-finding trip in August to try to shed some light on the situation. However, the area where the gorillas live is host to a variety of unsavory groups—rebels and other small armed forces, poachers and corrupt local officials—any number of whom could have colluded in this tragedy. Some of this endemic instability is in part the residue of the Second Congo War (1998-2003), a conflict that was born out of the political upheaval that arose following the long-awaited overthrow of the DRC's dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in 1997. It is

estimated that the widespread violence and civic disruption of the past decade has resulted in the deaths of some four million Congolese.

However, some say that the primary source of conflict in the mountain gorillas' homeland is over resources. According to an interview with *Newsweek* magazine, noted paleontologist Richard Leakey believes that, ever since Rwanda banned the felling of trees for charcoal on its side of the border in 2004, people have been coming into the park to manufacture the valuable commodity themselves. According to Leakey, who co-founded WildlifeDirect (a newly-established European Union-funded conservation organization based in Kenya and the DRC, that aims to protect the apes in Virunga Park), charcoal production to supply the nearby city of Goma is a \$30 million-a-year business, and the fuel is essential for heating and cooking in this underdeveloped part of the world. Eco-rangers interfere with the ability of

loggers and charcoal-makers to carry out their illicit but lucrative trade.

Other casualties, animal and human

Sadly, the deaths of the six family members were not the only gorilla killings in recent months. Last June, an adult female named Rubiga was also killed “execution-style.” A two-month-old infant, Kabila, was found clinging to her dead mother; this infant is also being hand-reared by staff of the DFGFI and MGVP. According to a press release, she has recently recovered from a serious bout with pneumonia and anemia but is currently doing well.

In addition, last January two more silverbacks were killed, most likely by members of a 2,000-man rebel group known as Rally for Congolese Democracy-Goma, which is led by the renegade Congolese General Laurent Nkunda, who is wanted for war crimes. In this case, the two male gorillas were

actually eaten; a farmer was forced to butcher the animals for the militia members, and some of the gorillas' remains were later found in a camp latrine.

Gorillas are not the only animals to have met their end in the troubled Virungas. More than 400 hippopotamuses were killed by Mai Mai (loosely organized peasant-based Congolese militias) in a two-week period last year. The animals' remains were sold on the black market for ivory and meat. As a result of these and similar poachings, the number of hippos has crashed 98 percent from a population of about 30,000 in the 1970s, according to Germany's Frankfurt Zoological Society, which has conducted a census of the remaining animals. And the humans in the area have suffered,

too. According to National Geographic, in the last decade over 150 rangers and guards in Congo parks have been killed by poachers, rebels, and other lawless individuals.

IPPL lends a helping hand

When a ranger outpost in Virunga Park was attacked late last year, IPPL sent funds to Robert Muir (the Project Leader and Country Representative of the Frankfurt Zoological Society in Goma, DRC, which cooperates with WildlifeDirect) to use for relief supplies, in the hope that this would be a relatively isolated violent incident. Unfortunately, on 22 May, IPPL received another worried e-mail from Robert; he wrote, "There has been another Mai Mai attack, rangers have been killed and the

Mai Mai are now threatening to kill a small population of lowland gorillas in the north of the park. ICCN is sending rangers in but they need support." In response, IPPL released additional funds to be used as needed to support the work of the elite and dedicated Congo Rangers.

Meanwhile, the fate of the remaining mountain gorillas is as fraught with peril as ever. Although the wild population has increased from just a few hundred when Dian Fossey was studying them in Rwanda in the 1960s to 1980s, there are none in captivity (apart from the recently rescued orphans). Over the years, they have managed to thrive despite the odds, but clearly the "protected" wild areas where they reside are anything but safe.

News in Brief

Thanks to LogoBee for IPPL's New Look!



Starting with this issue, you will see IPPL's new logo on the cover of *IPPL News*. It is also being incorporated into our Web site, letterhead, business cards, and all our publications. We hope you like it.

One day last December, IPPL received the news that LogoBee (a leading logo-design house based in Montreal) was again holding their Non-Profit Makeover contest. Charitable organizations were invited to compete for a full logo and stationery redesign package for FREE, so we applied—and won! Of course, we wanted to have gibbons as our theme. The folks at LogoBee were wonderful, and we worked with them for several months to make sure everything was just as we wanted. Thanks to everyone who helped make this project a success!

IPPL Awarded Independent Charities of America's Seal of Excellence



IPPL is proud to display this Seal of Excellence, which is awarded to those members of Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program utility, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the U.S. Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, the annual workplace fundraising drive for government employees. Participating charities must meet such criteria as:

- ◆ Operating overhead (administrative costs plus fundraising costs) that does not exceed 25 percent of total public support and revenue (a higher standard than that required by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance).
- ◆ Documented provision of substantive services and programs.
- ◆ Governance by a Board of Directors with no material conflicts of interest.
- ◆ An annual financial audit conducted by an independent CPA.

Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000 (or five percent) meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this seal.

Does your U.S. employer take part in an annual fall charity campaign? If so, please remember to pledge to the International Primate Protection League (also known to our friends in the Combined Federal Campaign as "Ape and Monkey Rescue and Sanctuaries") during the upcoming workplace fundraising drive! And tell your colleagues!

Recommended Kids' Reading: *Operation Orangutan (Adventures of Riley series)*

Amanda Lumry and Laura Hurwitz

Parents on the lookout for a new children's book about primates will be pleased to discover the seventh installment in the multiple-award-winning *Adventures of Riley* series, *Operation Orangutan*, which this time sends the inquisitive boy-hero to Borneo. Published earlier this year, the book shares with young readers (ages four to eight) Riley's experiences at the Gunung Palung National Park research camp with real-life primatologist Cheryl Knott and her family. On this particular expedition, Riley encounters many aspects of the island's threatened rain forests—including a baby orangutan orphaned by illegal loggers.

True to the typical format of the series, this excursion begins with an invitation from Riley's Uncle Max to take part in a new adventure: "Dear Riley, The orangutans of Borneo need your help! Illegal logging is destroying their habitat and food

resources....We will be studying figs and fig wasps to learn why they are so important to the survival of orangutans in the rain forest...." Soon, nine-year-old Riley (along with Max, Aunt Martha, and ten-year-old Cousin Alice) is ready to set off to yet another exotic destination. But, unlike other simple travel tales, this series was created with the goal of encouraging children to explore and appreciate the fragile biodiversity of our planet; as a result, the books are enriched with scientifically-based facts

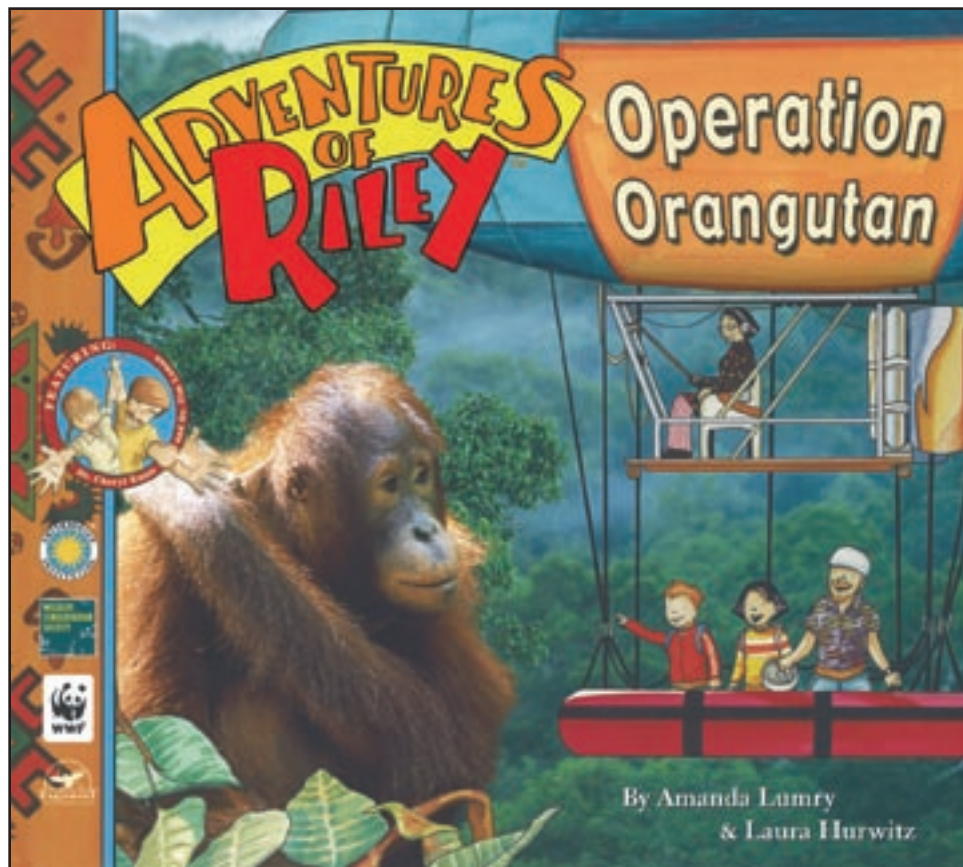
and illustrations that anchor Riley's adventures firmly in reality.

What makes the Riley books so eye-catching is that—like the best children's books—they work on different levels. In the case of *Operation Orangutan*, the backbone of the book is a simple story line: to get to Borneo and back while learning as much as possible about the unique wildlife there. But

rare gaffe, was made of white-handed gibbons, which are actually not native to Borneo, although their close relatives, the agile gibbon and Mueller's gibbon, are.) For more advanced young readers, after the end of the story is a glossary with vocabulary-building "hard words," like "pollinate" and "venomous." Finally (for this generation's media-savvy kids), there are Web extras to be

explored (at www.adventuresofriley.com), where you can play simple free video games (like getting Uncle Max's clothes away from the mischievous monkeys), watch Riley cartoons, or print out crafts, coloring pages, and puzzles.

The Riley books, which have been "wildly" popular with children and adults alike, were produced in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, Wildlife Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund.



the lively illustrations are full of detail, while photographs of actual animals and landscapes are integrated with the cartoon figures of Riley and his friends. On almost every page is a "fact box" or two; these act as a gloss on the main text and feature nature notes offered by real scientists, as on page 23, when Margaret Kinnaird (an ecologist with the Wildlife Conservation Society) tells us that gibbons' favorite food is fruit, especially wild figs. (However, it must be noted that this statement, in a

Adults will be glad to know that proceeds from the sale of the books benefit these science and conservation organizations. And as for primate-loving kids, they will be happy to learn that lucky Riley has encountered primates on several other journeys, as well, like baboons on his *Safari in South Africa* and lemurs during his *Mission to Madagascar*. "Where," the Riley stories conclude, "will Riley go next?" And will he get to see primates there, too?

Member Profile: Jake Gagnon

IPPL gibbons provide happy memories before boy's operation

IPPL often gets to make monkeys' wishes come true. But last May IPPL helped make a little boy's wish come true. Four-year-old Jake Gagnon had been learning about IPPL ever since he was old enough to sit up. His grandmother, long-time IPPL supporter Nancy Hall, would read to him from IPPL's newsletters and show him pictures of the primates IPPL has helped protect over the years (even better than a "Baby Einstein" video!). Jake loved to learn about the world's amazing monkeys and apes.

But little Jake was destined for some amazing adventures of his own. When he was two-and-a-half months old, he was diagnosed with a mild form of muscular dystrophy that affected his hips and confined him to a wheelchair. In order for him to be able to stand and walk like other children, he was going to have bilateral hip replacements—at the age of four! Jake's doctors told his family that Jake should do two things to prepare for the scheduled surgery date in early August 2007: he should gain five pounds, and he should store up lots of good memories—because Jake was going to have to spend two months in a body cast afterwards, and he was going to need a lot of pleasant things to think about to get him through.

So last May Jake and his mother and grandmother visited IPPL's Headquarters sanctuary. He has always loved watching the wild animals when visiting his grandma's house in the woods—including raccoons, opossums, and foxes—but he had never seen any wildlife to compare with IPPL's gibbons! Jake rolled all around the IPPL grounds, faithfully accompanied by North, IPPL's Newfoundland mascot, who (in an unusual burst of activity) refused to leave Jake's side for over an hour. Jake was impressed with how Northie enjoyed playing with IPPL's deaf gibbon, Blackie. The pair put on a fine show: Northie would trot back and forth alongside the cage, while Blackie would swoop down to tug on Northie's long, shaggy fur, only to scamper



Northie the Newfoundland escorts Jake Gagnon on his visit to IPPL last May.

away again. Jake was also interested in lively little Courtney, IPPL's five-year-old hand-raised gibbon. She's about Jake's age and she, too, had to have surgery when very young, to repair a broken leg. According to Jake's mother, Michelle, "Knowing that Courtney had surgery when she was little helped him not be scared, and watching her stand and walk gave him hope that one day he can be like her."

Jake wanted to know what the gibbons ate, so he had a peek into IPPL's Animal Care Cottage, where staff members prepare the gibbons' daily meals of fresh fruit and veggies. Ever since, his grandmother said, he often asks if gibbons eat such-and-such, too, and when she tells him they do, he happily munches on the new food item. After his surgery, while his tummy was

still upset, he would still eat half a banana "for Courtney."

He also liked the gibbons' songs. Jake's family is quite musical, and Jake himself likes to make up his own songs and play the drums in accompaniment (he likes religious music and the hard rock band AC/DC; he wants to play in his own church band some day). Jake's grandmother said she and Jake like to practice singing gibbon songs to each other—"Whoooooop, whoooooop...." He must have given the surgical team quite a shock when he started doing gibbon vocalizations under anesthesia! His mom had some explaining to do, but the medical staff was coming to learn about Jake's love of primates: he took a stuffed gibbon he called "Courtney-Boy" into surgery with him, and afterwards "Courtney-Boy" had

to be all wrapped up in surgical tape, just like Jake.

When he left the hospital after his successful operation, the staff gave him another stuffed monkey to add to his collection.

Let's All Wish Jake "Get Well Soon!"

Jake loves to receive colorful cards with interesting stamps, and he would love to hear from more primate fans like him. You can send a card to Jake at the following address:

4124A Shipyard Walk

Myrtle Beach, SC 29579-6929, USA

He is planning to make a scrapbook of all the notes he receives.

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.

IPPL provides loving care to all the primates at our sanctuary; above, our hand-raised gibbon Courtney enjoys some special attention from her babysitter, Karen.

Thank you for your concern for IPPL's future.

Shirley McGreal

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:

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

Card number: _____ 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!*

Adopt An IPPL Gibbon!

Each of the 38 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 biographical sketch of your gibbon.
- An IPPL sanctuary fact sheet.
- A gibbon fact sheet.
- A gibbon refrigerator magnet.
- 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): _____

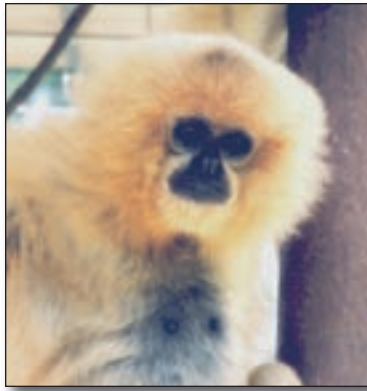
For information about adopting your gibbon through a monthly automatic checking account withdrawal, or if you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail (info@ippl.org).

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, and his daughter Speedy. 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 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.



Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder

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Meet IPPL's Michelle and Louie!



For the longest time, it seemed that Michelle (*above, right*) and Louie-Louie (*left*) were doomed to be “unlucky in love.”

Although gibbons are naturally monogamous, Michelle (a daughter of IPPL's ex-lab gibbon Arun Rangsi) is also naturally feisty, so her first relationship with a fellow IPPL gibbon did not end well. We had paired Michelle with Maui, a former zoo gibbon, in 1995. Things went fine for a while. They even produced a baby, Courtney, in 2002, despite Maui's vasectomy.

Unfortunately, when Courtney was only 12 days old, Michelle attacked and severely injured her, so the baby had to be removed for medical care and hand-rearing.

But things did not calm down. Soon afterwards, Michelle became aggressive towards Maui, too. One day she attacked him so badly that we had to have his wounds stitched up by our vet. The couple had clearly become incompatible.

In October 1991 we received three gibbons from the Lube Foundation in Florida. The family consisted of Cleon and Clementine and their young son Louie-Louie. After his elderly parents passed on, Louie was alone for several years.

We decided not to give up on cranky Michelle! We placed her alongside Louie for several weeks. There were no aggressive displays between them. Our animal care staff frequently saw them exchanging longing glances. Finally we opened the last runway barrier and let them get acquainted. Since then, life has been all hugs and kisses for this couple. They are never far apart and sleep close together, as well. Michelle has mellowed and become positively sweet-natured. And Louie-Louie seems grateful for the female companionship, too!

IPPL: Who We Are

IPPL is an international grassroots wildlife protection organization. It was founded in 1973 by Dr. Shirley McGreal. Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of *all* nonhuman primates, including apes, monkeys, and lemurs, around the world.

IPPL has been operating an animal sanctuary in Summerville, South Carolina, since 1977. There, 38 gibbons (the smallest of the apes) live in happy retirement. IPPL is also proud to help support a number of other wildlife groups and primate rescue centers in countries where primates are native.

IPPL News is published three times a year and provides information about issues in primate conservation and welfare.

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