

More Asian Apes Arrive

On July 21st two more orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and three more gibbons were brought to Monkey World from the Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals in southern Taiwan. The female orangutans, named Hsiao-quai and Lucky, are approximately eight and seven years old respectively. The gibbons are three different species and will be mates for the other gibbons that the Pingtung Rescue Centre sent to Monkey World a year ago. Puma is an adult female agile gibbon (*Hylobates agilis*) that will be paired with our male Paul, Kitty is a young female lar gibbon (*Hylobates lar*) that will be paired with our male Nike, and Pung-Yo is a young male golden-cheeked gibbon (*Hylobates gabriellae*) that will be introduced to our adult female Alex.

The journey from Kaoshiung, in southern Taiwan, was a very long one. The apes were sedated and put in their boxes late at

night on the 20th as the Monkey World and Pingtung teams had to transport them through the night to Taipei in order to catch an early morning flight to London the next day. The two orangutans and Puma the agile gibbon travelled in individual boxes while the two young gibbons were put together for the long journey. On the road trip to Taipei, the apes were checked regularly and given extra water and food. As this shipment of animals was due to land in England on a Saturday night, Jim and Alison Cronin caught an earlier flight back to London to ensure that the rare shipment passed through Heathrow with minimum delay. Meanwhile Jeremy Keeling, our veterinarian Dr John Lewis, and the Director of Pingtung Rescue Centre Dr Kurtis Pei all accompanied the animals on their long journey.

Crucial to the animal's welfare were the conditions in which they would be kept on the 14 hour flight from Taipei to London. EVA Airways, the largest cargo shipper in the world, were very helpful and ensured that the apes were loaded onto a



split passenger/cargo 747 jumbo jet. This meant that Jeremy, John, and Kurtis could visit the animals throughout the flight and make sure that they were calm and had enough food and water. The airline also ensured that the cargo hold was kept warm and well ventilated. EVA Airways not only went out of their way to care for the orangutans and gibbons but they also sponsored the animal's tickets! The apes cleared customs at Heathrow very quickly and then had a 2.5 hour journey by special quarantine vehicle to Dorset. They finally arrived at the park at 11.00 pm and were let out of their travelling boxes into their new homes. Both the orangutans and gibbons made the journey very well and appeared bright and interested in their new surroundings. Little did they know that the next morning they would have company!

The next morning we started with Hsiao-quai and Lucky. Already Gordon, Amy, and RoRo could tell that there were strangers in the next room and they were desperate to get a glimpse of the new guys through a crack in the door. First we wanted the girls to feel comfortable with their new surroundings so we let them out into the large, redecorated outside enclosure. The entire time that Jim, Alison, and Jeremy had been away, all of the keepers had been building and

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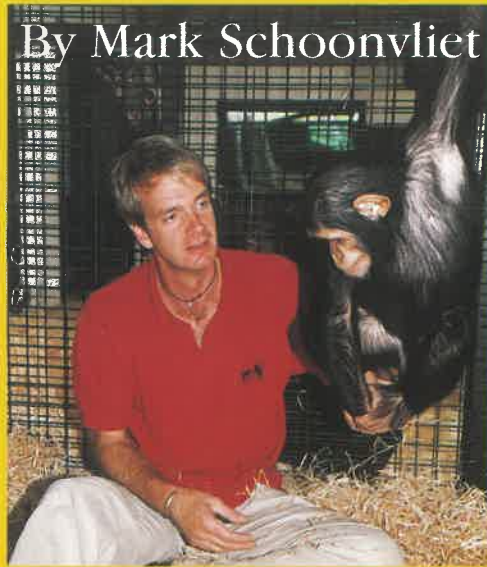


Lucky(left) and Hsiao-quai(right) enjoyed exploring their enclosure for the first time.



Borneo Adventure

By Mark Schoonvliet



The Balikpapan Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS) was founded in East Kalimantan, Indonesia to lend support to a local rehabilitation centre for orangutans, the Wanariset Orangutan Re-introduction Project (WORP). WORP are currently taking care of more than 300 orangutans and their efforts now comprise the largest great ape project in the world - a distinction that no one is proud of but which shows the importance of their work.

The current situation for orangutans is very grim: there are probably fewer than 15,000 animals left in the wild. There are numerous reasons for their precarious situation including the unstable political and economic situation in Indonesia, illegal logging (which is four times as high as the legal timber production), forest fires, gold mining, poaching and clearing of land to make way for cash-crop plantations. Over 80% of the orangutan's habitat has already been destroyed and they are critically endangered.

Before I started working at Monkey World (Feb. 2000), I had visited Kalimantan (the Indonesian part of Borneo) a few times. Thus, I was really pleased when Jim and Alison Cronin agreed for me to have all my holiday time at once so I could return to Kalimantan and the BOS-centres. The day before I was due to leave, there were once again some ethnic conflicts (Dayak vs. Madurese) in Borneo and it was all happening not far from the new Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Re-introduction Centre, where I was planning to stay for about two weeks. But first I would head to the Wanariset centre, where they currently have 198 orangutans in their care - the majority of them youngsters.

About 7 km from the Wanariset centre is the halfway house. Here the orangutans are introduced to 10 hectares of forest with 271 different tree-species. A wall surrounds this natural area and this is where the orangutans learn a lot more about surviving in the wild before final-

ly being returned to the forest. At the time of my visit, 16 young orangutans were at the halfway house. The new approach to rehabilitation is called reintroduction, and it's a slow, difficult, and expensive process with many stages: confiscation, quarantine and medical screening, socialisation and behavioural enrichment, during which every single animal is closely monitored. Finally they will be released in a forest area where there are no wild orangutans. This is to prevent the possible transmission of diseases. The weekend before my arrival they released 17 orangutans in the Meratus forest.

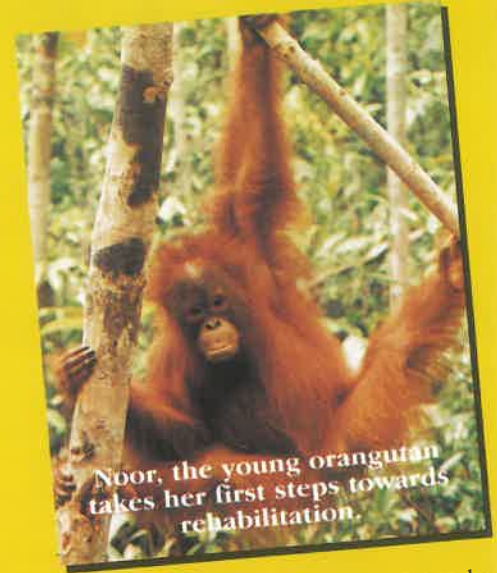
A newly started project for the centre is a tree planting programme to provide the animals with food and since this is done with the help from the local villages, the people benefit as well. I was happy to be able to put a durian seedling in the ground as orangutans adore durians. Durians are a tropical fruit that contain a lot of protein, have very sharp spines (it has sharp spines and a penetrating smell). Another newly opened part of the centre is the education centre. Since orangutan rehabilitation and tourism don't go hand in hand, the centre is actually closed to visitors, but since education is so important, WORP now have a centre where schools can come and learn about orangutans and their habitat.

Then it was time to move about 600 miles further to the Nyaru Menteng centre. It was a slow and rather bumpy process, during which I saw that there was not much forest left. On my way I stopped in Banjarmasin, where I went to a small zoo. It really was not a zoo but a collection of exotic animals in extremely poor conditions with no one taking care of them. The animals survived on what visitors gave them. Amongst the managerie were two orangutans that mysteriously overnight turned into three orangutans. The new ape had probably been kept as a pet and had become too 'wild'. It was heartbreaking to see but I realised that local people have a completely different view from my own about orangutans and animals in general. I

reported the three sorrowful orangutans to BOS and all three have now been confiscated and are on the road to rehabilitation at Wanariset.

The news about ethnic conflicts was the topic of every day conversation and the fighting was now spreading to Palangkaraya, which was my next destination! Having travelled in Kalimantan before, I felt rather safe about it all. There were not many other white people and the few I met were students who were called back by their government. The town seemed very quiet and on the way to the centre I saw burned down houses where Madurese used to live.

It was great to get back to Nyaru Menteng and see my friends Lone and Odom, who set up the centre with support from BOS. The centre lies on the edge of a 60 hectare arboretum, so it provides a forest setting for cages, a vet clinic, as well as an on-the-spot halfway house for infant orangutans. At the time of my arrival they had 66 orangutans, the youngest only two months old! During my stay another two young animals were confiscated in

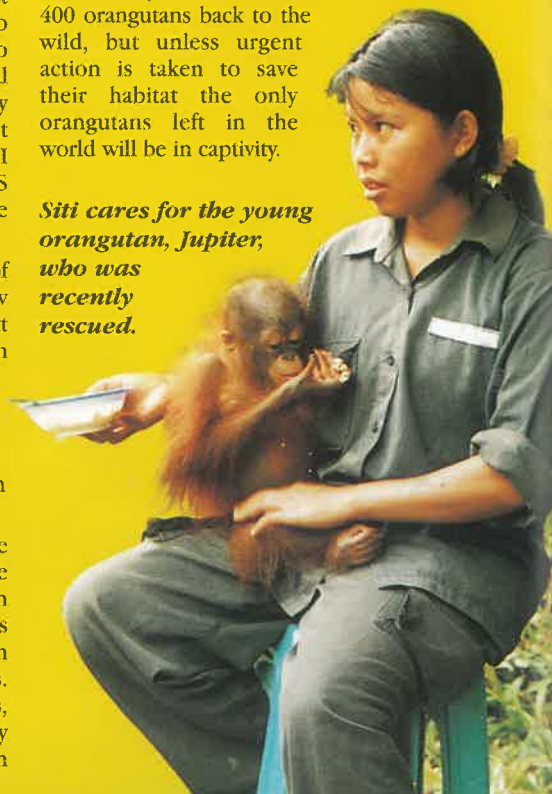


Noor, the young orangutan takes her first steps towards rehabilitation.

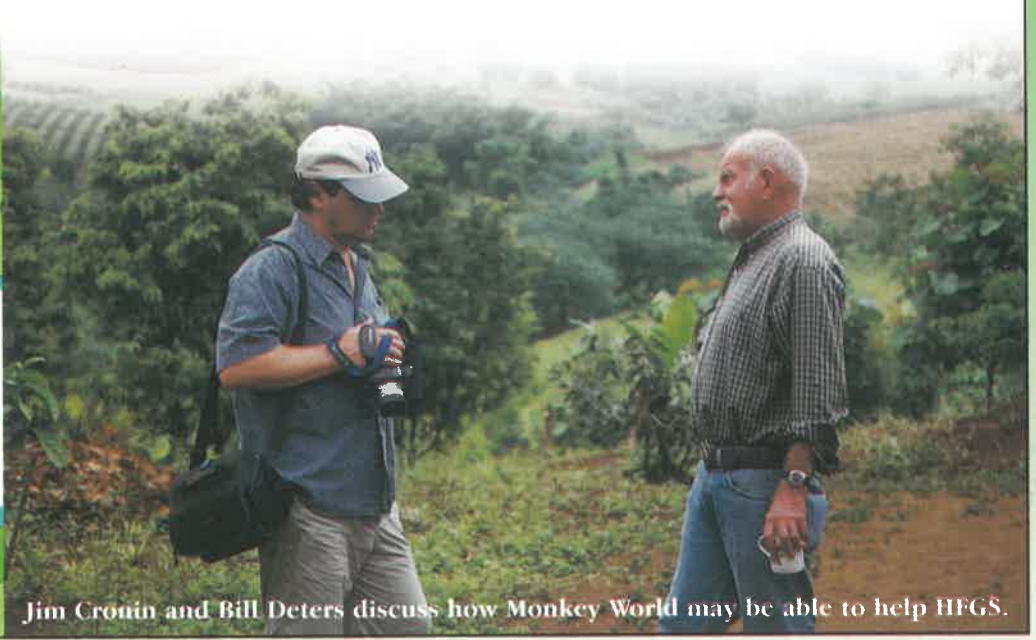
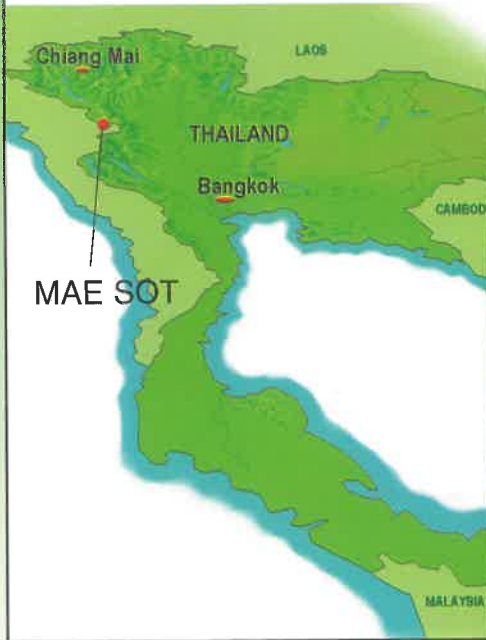
a nearby village but sadly one passed away. Almost all of the orangutans were housed in large socialisation cages, which are built several metres from the ground so they can at least see the forest from an arboreal perspective. Although the centre provides a high level of care, it is a very sad sight to see all the very young orangutans - all of them have lost their mothers and many more have died along the way. All the orangutans have a lot to learn; some of them don't even know how to build a nest and prefer to stay on the ground, rather than climbing. During my stay I made new enrichment devices for the animals out of large bamboo sticks and was busy repainting the quarantine cages, as more recently confiscated animals were expected. On a few occasions I went for a hike through the arboretum, where there is still a lot of wildlife. I even saw a wild female orangutan with a four-year old baby and every day we could hear gibbons singing. It was on my last early morning walk that I got to see the family of four Muellers gibbons!

Now there are 78 orangutans at the centre, and more will follow ... Sadly the orangutan is doomed to be extinct within in our lifetime - possibly within 10 years. To date BOS has successfully released about 400 orangutans back to the wild, but unless urgent action is taken to save their habitat the only orangutans left in the world will be in captivity.

Siti cares for the young orangutan, Jupiter, who was recently rescued.



Thailand Undercover



Jim Cronin and Bill Deters discuss how Monkey World may be able to help HFGS.

Before moving the last shipment of gibbons and orangutans to Monkey World, Jim, Alison, and Jeremy met the Director of Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals, Dr Kurtis Pei, in Thailand to see if they could find out more about the illegal trade in gibbons. Many of the gibbons that have been confiscated by the Taiwanese Authorities have come from Thailand so they wanted to see if we could find out more about this illegal trade.

There are only two species of gibbon native to Thailand, the pileated gibbon (*Hylobates pileatus*) and the lar gibbon (*Hylobates lar*). Therefore the team were interested to see if they could find any other species of gibbon for sale or used in the tourist industry in Thailand. Starting in Bangkok, there was very little trade in wild animals that was open to the public.

Reliable sources did indicate that animal dealers do still work out of Bangkok but that the trade was behind closed doors. In order to find these animals and people the team would need to return for a much longer investigation.

Next stop was Mae Sot, a town in North Western Thailand, 14 miles from the Burmese border. Here, the team had arranged to meet Bill and Pharanee Deters, a couple who have dedicated their lives to rescuing gibbons. At the Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary (HFGS) they have set up facilities to re-home gibbons many of which require intensive care. At the time of visiting, HFGS had 33 gibbons, several slow loris, birds, and one black bear. Gibbons arrive at the centre in two ways. In some instances Bill and Pharanee have convinced gibbon owners that it is not the right thing to keep wild animals as pets or the animals have been dumped at the centre after their owners have been attacked or when the gibbon became ill.

At the centre the gibbons are assessed and then treated for any medical problems they may have. Many of the gibbons at the centre have arrived with horrific injuries including broken arms, missing limbs, spinal injuries, cataracts, and limbs savaged by the effects of polio.

What became clear was that the illegal trade in gibbons in Thailand was not restricted to their native species. At HFGS they had many lar gibbons, only a few pileated gibbons, and seven concolor gibbons.

It is difficult to identify the sub-species of the concolor gibbons but what was clear is that these endangered primates were being smuggled over the borders of Laos and Cambodia for the pet trade in Thailand and for export to other countries. The sheer number of these apes at HFGS indicated that the trade in gibbons out of Laos and Cambodia is significant. If this trade continues unabated, concolor gibbons could face extinction in the next decade.

While visiting HFGS, the team accompanied Pharanee to a Temple in Don Moun.

At the temple there was a frightening array of wild animals that local people had left for the monks to look after. While the Buddhist monks gave the animals food and water, they had no understanding of the animal's needs. There were macaques, binturong, wild boar, deer, birds of prey, porcupine, and gibbons all kept in tiny crates.

The team brought the animals fruit and set about looking at each animal to see if they

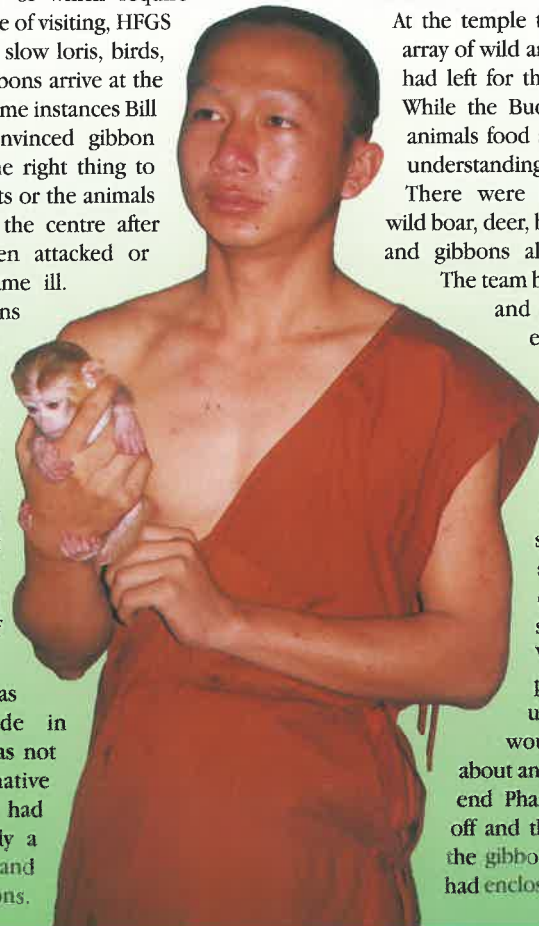
were injured or needed special care.

Pharanee talked to the monks about the gibbons and tried to convince them that such a large primate should have a bigger cage where they could swing from arm to arm. While they listened patiently, they did not understand why anyone would be so concerned

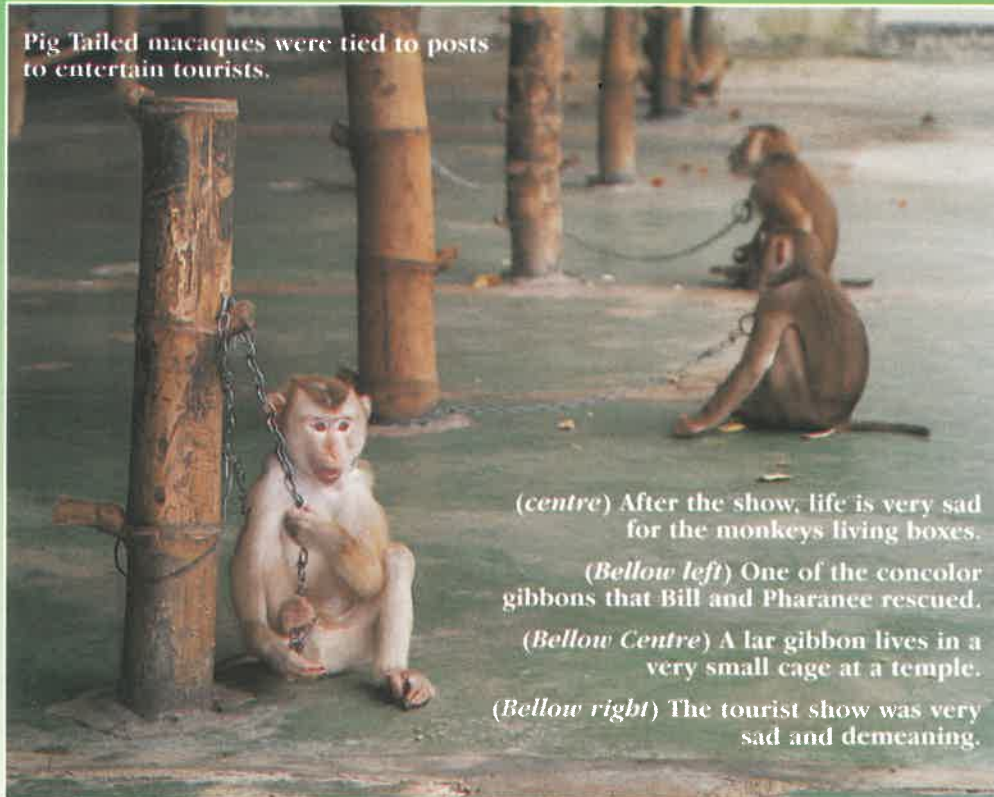
about an animal. However, in the end Pharanee's discussion paid off and the monks agreed to let the gibbons go as soon as HFGS had enclosures prepared for them.



Pharanee says hello to one of her rare pileated gibbons.



Pig Tailed macaques were tied to posts to entertain tourists.



(centre) After the show, life is very sad for the monkeys living boxes.

(Bellow left) One of the concolor gibbons that Bill and Pharanee rescued.

(Bellow Centre) A lar gibbon lives in a very small cage at a temple.

(Bellow right) The tourist show was very sad and demeaning.

Bill and Pharanee have dedicated their lives to helping gibbons and doing what they can to stop the illegal pet trade. Their resources are very limited so Jim and Alison have offered to send Wendy Durham, one of Monkey World's gibbon keepers, to help out at HFGS, to have Dr John Lewis help with veterinary matters on his next journey to Asia, and to send out supplies that are not easy to find in Thailand. Jim and Alison hope to return to Mae Sot and HFGS soon to see how Monkey World can further help this amazing couple and their family of beautiful primates.

The final destination before heading to Taiwan was Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. Chiang Mai is a large tourist destination with many activities in the surrounding area. There are elephant camps and a monkey training school. This was where the team were headed. At the "school" Jim, Alison, Jeremy, and Kurtis were

stunned to see several dozen macaques individually chained to tree stumps. The macaques were all young males and were clearly

distressed by their circumstances. The monkey school also had two lar gibbons tied to poles which were a very sad sight. The school was set up as a show for tourists to come and see how monkeys have been traditionally trained to climb trees and pick coconuts. This original idea was long left behind and now the "school" is a circus of very sad acts. Four large macaques had

been trained to throw basketballs, to do press-ups, and to ride bikes but when they were not doing the shows they sat in tiny cages all on their own. If you are ever in Thailand be sure NOT to visit these terrible shows.



Letter From The Editor

Over the past few months we have been very busy rescuing more primates and expanding existing enclosures at the park. We have moved the stump-tailed macaques into their new house and we are just starting on their outside enclosures. In the orangutans we have more than doubled their climbing frame and built a small pool. The keepers spent a lot of time on the orangutan enclosure and we have filled the new climbing frame with loads of hoses that allow the oranges to move through their environment like they would in the wild. It is fantastic to see. Meanwhile the keepers have been putting up more hoses and ropes for the chimps and other primates. And they might not know it yet, but in the next few days we are starting on a major expansion of the climbing frame for Rodney's group. Over the next few weeks Trudy and all her family will have much more space to climb and explore once a couple of hundred telephone poles are secured into place.

Many thanks are owed for all of the help and support we have received from many different organisations and people. Very generous donations have been sent in and supporters have come up with different and interesting ways to raise money to help the monkeys and apes. Collection boxes, cake sales, tea club collections, wedding present donations, tombolas, and 24-hour famines have all helped us to rescue more apes. Many of the primates had birthdays over the past couple of months and greatly appreciate all of the heavy-duty toys, vitamins, and donations that we received for each individual. Special thanks are owed to **Bird Semple Solicitors, Commercial & General Interiors Ltd, Alldays Store Eastleigh, Vertigo Nightclub, Whitstable Newsagent, Oddbins Manchester, and One-Stop Shops office staff.** Beautiful knitted items were sent in by **J Jones** and **Mrs Sayers** while **Abbie Barton** set up her own **Funky Monkey Club** to help us rescue more primates and raise awareness. **Northern Crop Driers Ltd** donated bedding material for our domestic animals, **Mr & Mrs Nolan** in cooperation with **Lloyds TSB Registrars** raffled champagne for Seamus, and all the guys at **Ferndown Firestation** brought us more used firehose. Three special mentions need to be made. First, there is **K Savage**, a London clothes designer, that has provided a great deal of support – check out his designs at www.savagelondon.com. **Walter Lewis** and his cast of the **Reduced Shakespeare Company** raised funds at the end of several evenings – it was a great performance and a lot of fun. And finally, **Grace Turner** took it upon herself to design and write a kids quiz to do while wandering around the park – it is very clever and we should have them available to our guests next year.

Our work in Asia continues with the **Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals**. In Taiwan their centre has been working very hard, building new enclosures, and improving the lives of all of their animals. Pingtung Rescue Centre now has some of the best enclosures we have ever seen for captive orangutans and gibbons. We owe a tremendous thank you to **EVA Airways** for flying the gibbons and orangutans from Taiwan to London. Their staff was very helpful and ensured that the animal's journey was as stress free as possible. We would also like to thank our **MP Jim Knight**, and the **Taipei Representative Office** in UK for their support of this valuable conservation project. As always the staff at the **Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals** have done a tremendous job preparing the animals for their long journey.

We have had several requests from adoptive parents that their primates are specifically mentioned in the newsletter. Sadly we cannot report on everyone in each issue, but rest assured that in the winter issue, everyone will be mentioned.

Thanks for all your support and help.



More Asian Apes Arrive

developing the orangutan's climbing frame so that these arboreal apes could move as they would have in the forests of Borneo. After a few hours it was time to start with introductions so Hsiao-quai and Lucky were brought back inside where Jeremy could supervise their first meeting with Amy and Gordon. The two girls were smaller than Amy but bigger than Gordon so Jeremy would have to be on his toes to make sure that nobody started any fights. This first introduction went very well and while Gordon was overjoyed with the prospect of having two more playmates, Amy was a bit put out that yet again her house was being over run by strangers. Amy chose to sit in one of the bedrooms and watch in disgust as Gordon played with Hsiao-quai. Lucky, the younger of the two girls, was a bit scared by all of the activity so we decided to call it day after an hour or so, and we moved Amy and Gordon back with RoRo.

On day number two at Monkey World we left Hsiao-quai and Lucky together all day with Gordon and Amy. Everyone got along together and the unique personalities of the two girls began to show through. Gordon had found his match in Hsiao-quai - she too loved to play very rough. Lucky, on the other hand, was much more sedate and chose to sit quietly alongside of Amy. It was great to see everyone getting along together and making friends.



Puma, the agile gibbon.

On day three it was time for RoRo. We opened the door and hoped that she would be as tolerant as Gordon and Amy. RoRo burst in and was clearly very excited to meet the new arrivals. Like Gordon, RoRo plays rough and the first thing she had on her mind was to size up the new playmates. Hsiao-quai was very forward and dived straight in wrestling and pulling hair with both RoRo and Gordon. When RoRo decided she wanted to try the same game with Lucky, she ran away into another room. Clearly things would have to be taken slowly with Lucky so RoRo returned to her game with Hsiao-quai and Gordon. Since July 24th all five orangutans have lived together with no domestic problems.

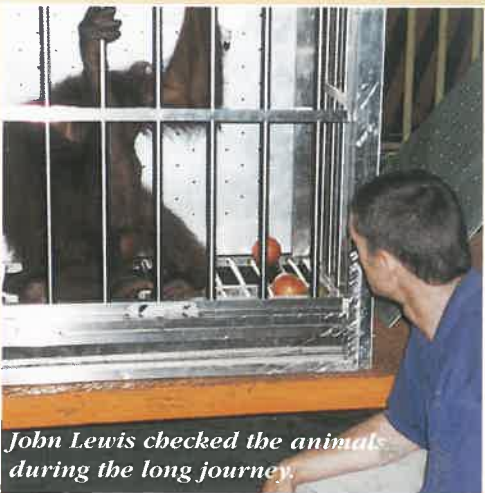
Over at the gibbon house things moved quite a bit slower. Gibbons are very flighty animals and are armed with sharp canine teeth so introductions are done over a longer period of time. So far Kitty and Pung-Yo are still kept together but we have removed the solid panels in-between them and their neighbours on either side. The young gibbons can become acquainted with Nike, the lar gibbon, and Alex, the golden cheeked gibbon, through protective mesh. First signs are good with Nike holding hands with the babies. Alex is a bit scared by the new arrivals but very interested and she keeps returning to the mesh to look at the neighbours. The solid panel between Puma and Paul has also been removed and they both enjoy chasing and playing with each other through the mesh. Another good sign that a bond is developing between these two, is that they have started singing the agile duet together. Soon it will be time to put them together for good.

Our work with the Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals continues. With our joint project in place, we will continue to rescue and rehabilitate more Asian apes that need our help. The staff in Pingtung have done a wonderful job preparing their rescued apes for a new life in England and before the end of this year we are hopeful that there will be another shipment of orangutans. This time another female and a large male named Tuan should be arriving to take over the group of women and children!

Dr. John Lewis, Jeremy Keeling and the Pingtung team escorted the apes in their boxes to the airport.



Ping-Yo the golden-cheeked gibbon.



John Lewis checked the animals during the long journey.

Kitty the lar gibbon.

Working Together



Johni and Hebe Meet the Family

By Lee Butler

In the past several months both Johni and Hebe have made massive steps in their development. You may remember that Johni was rejected at birth and Hebe had to be taken away from mum, Olympia, after her milk dried up. Both now live down at the Pavilions and can be seen in their nursery alongside of Paddy's group.

Now that the girls are getting bigger and stronger we have been pushing them forward. On regular occasions we re-introduce Johni and Hebe to members of Paddy's Group. Olympia, Peppa, Athena and Kay are the four main chimps that have been meeting the young ladies. These introductions have been going really well and it allows Johni and Hebe the opportunity to interact with older chimpanzees. This is a critical step in their development as it is very important for them to make friends and understand chimpanzee politics.

Hebe is the more boisterous and streetwise of the two, having already spent 11 months with Paddy's group. She spends a lot of time riding on Peppa's back, running back and forth, and laughing her head off. Johni does join in, but when things get too exciting Hebe is there to comfort her. It won't be too long before Johni and Hebe are ready to start meeting the rest of the group and their father Paddy.

Peppa puts a reassuring hand on Hebe's back.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways in which you can help Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre to rescue and rehabilitate more primates.

All donations go into a 100% fund.

NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED.

We are still working in Turkey to assist the government to stop the smuggling of chimpanzees from the wild for the illegal pet trade and we are still campaigning to get the British government to stop the exotic pet trade in UK. Later this year we will also be bringing more apes back from Taiwan.

You can help by adopting a monkey or ape and you will receive a year's pass to the park, a photo of your monkey or ape, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year.

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetable, or bread. The primates also need vitamins and minerals such as Cod Liver Oil, Primrose Oil, Vitamin C, and Acidophilus. We can also use thick ropes and heavy duty dog toys.

Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the primates and be in our memorial garden.

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