



APE RESCUE CHRONICLE



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RESCUE CENTRES JOIN FORCES

On 19 July 2000, the first shipment of confiscated apes arrived at Monkey World from the Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Animals. The shipment included one female orangutan named RoRo and eight gibbons. These individuals were chosen for the first group as they passed two rigorous health checks and were fit for the long journey.

The orangutan and all of the gibbons shared the same tragic

story. They were all born in the wild, they had their mothers shot out from underneath them, and then they were smuggled into Taiwan for the illegal pet trade. The Authorities finally confiscated all of the apes from people's homes in Taiwan.

We estimate that RoRo is approximately 10 years old and came from Borneo. The gibbons came from various parts of South East Asia and include:

- Three male and one female Mueller's Gibbons from Borneo. The female is called Dalumie and the males are called Fox, Adidas, and Nini. Nini is missing his left arm above the elbow.

- One male Agile Gibbon that could have come from the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, or Borneo. His name is Paul.

- One male Lar Gibbon that could have come from China, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Malay Peninsula, or Sumatra and is named Nike.

- And two female Gabriellae Gibbons that could have come from Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia. Their names are Alex and Zoey.

The Rescue Centre in Southern Taiwan was set up by the Taiwanese Authorities in 1993 to provide temporary accommoda-

tion for confiscated wild animals that had been smuggled into the country illegally. The smuggling started after 1986 when a television programme called "The Naughty Family" featured an orangutan as a family pet. Soon everyone wanted an exotic pet and the market in these endangered primates went wild. As babies, the orangutans were cute and could be kept in a house like a human baby, but in order to catch them the orangutan mothers had to be killed in order to remove the clinging babies from their chests. It is a very traumatic and bloody process and the babies, who are weak and dependent upon their mothers,

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WHEN AMY AND GORDON MET RORO

We arrived back in Dorset on July 19th and moved RoRo into the orangutan house straight away. She was clearly tired by her long journey but interested in her new house and all of the new and interesting faces. We decided to leave her alone in the big bedroom for the first day so that she could have time to rest and get used to her new home.

On the 21st we opened the slide that separated RoRo and Amy and Gordon for the first time. We have not done many orangutan introductions and everyone was a bit apprehensive about how Amy would react. When Jeremy opened the slide Amy sprinted through and stopped dead in her tracks when confronted by another adult female orangutan. Amy retreated back into the smaller bedroom and began to bark loud, deep threatening noises.



Orangutans are usually very quiet and we had never seen or heard her make such a commotion before. Amy continued barking at the stranger in her house but was not interested in coming through to meet RoRo. Clearly enraged, Amy then began to throw bedding and anything she could lay her hands on through the door.

RoRo's reply was not much better. At first she climbed for the highest corner of the house and began to snap her teeth at Amy and Gordon. Once RoRo realised that Amy was not likely to come through into her room, she gained confidence and started moving around and shaking the hammock framework to show Amy how strong she was. Amy simply continued to bark at the intruder. Gordon was braver than either of the other two and after a few minutes decided that he should meet RoRo. RoRo was not so sure and threatened Gordon by snapping her teeth at him. After an hour had passed, we decided to call it a day and leave everyone to consider their options overnight.

Over the next few days, nothing much changed. We decided that until Amy and RoRo had sorted their difference out that it was a good idea to keep Gordon out of the way. He simply did not seem to understand that RoRo could be dangerous. So while Amy and RoRo were offered the opportunity of meeting, Gordon was kept back in his old Nursery. Amy soon decided that she was dominant and could move throughout the house with impunity. Weighing 20kg more than RoRo, Amy was probably right. After several days, Amy's vocal displays started to calm down but she and RoRo were still no closer to making friends. Amy still threatened her and given the chance would swing across and swipe at RoRo. Both females were clearly full of bluff and bravado.

On July 26th Jeremy took Gordon in to meet RoRo on his own. We had come to a stand off between the females so we thought that if RoRo could make friends with Gordon, Amy might then become more accepting. This plan worked much better. Gordon clung tightly to Jeremy and slowly became more relaxed as RoRo moved around the room. RoRo was also more relaxed as Amy was shut in the other room and could not threaten her. We carried on with this plan for a couple of days until we decided to give Amy another chance. Amy had not changed her mind however, and decided to carry on with her same intimidation tactics.

The big change occurred on the 1st of August when Jeremy took Gordon in on his own once again. RoRo confronted Gordon at first with snapping teeth and started grabbing at his hands. Gordon grabbed RoRo back and both of them

suddenly realised that the other could be quite good company. We were all quite nervous that RoRo would be too rough with Gordon but he could not get enough of the new female. The two orangutans spent the next three hours wrestling wildly. Gordon found a comfortable spot, hanging upside down and RoRo lay beneath him pulling on his arms and slapping at his head. After three hours Gordon started looking tired and the floor was covered in his long orange hair. We called it a day, pleased that Gordon had finally made contact with RoRo, even if his beautiful coat was a bit worse for wear.

The next day we let both Amy and Gordon in and just like the day before, Gordon sprinted to RoRo to begin the wrestling games. Amy was stunned and watched in disgust as her son played with the new female. She soon tired of the show and returned to her room to consider what had just happened. Over the next few days Amy stopped threatening RoRo and appeared to accept that the new female was here to stay. By August 5th all three spent the night together and while Amy and RoRo are not the best of friends, they seem to be accept each other's presence now.



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Vietnamese Confiscation



While in Taiwan organising the transportation of the gibbons and orangutan, the Taiwanese Customs raided a boat in Kaoshiung Harbour on the 11th of July. The boat was carrying a huge load of animals including birds, turtles, carnivores, and primates. All the animals were confiscated and brought to the Pingtung Rescue Centre.

It was the largest confiscation of wildlife that the Centre had ever received and many of the animals were in very poor condition. There were 17 baby rhesus macaques and four baby Concolor gibbons that were desperately dehydrated and hungry. None of the primates would have been weaned and as such would have been totally dependent upon their mothers. The rescue centre staff jumped into action and starting giving all of the animals a much needed drink. When the macaques and

gibbons were doused in water, they frantically licked the water from their fur. The next step was to move the little monkeys and apes from the tiny birdcages that were falling apart, into larger clean cages.

It was a very distressing afternoon and it made us realise what a common occurrence this was. Based upon all of the animals that are at the rescue centre, it is clear that hundreds, if not thousands, of animals are being smuggled every year throughout South East Asia. The boat that was caught was owned by a Vietnamese man and was registered in Singapore. The man claimed that he was simply transporting animals from Southern Vietnam to Northern Vietnam and some how got lost. The people who are smuggling the animals are trying to make a living in a difficult world, but if this illegal trade continues unabated wild primates in South East Asia do not stand a chance of survival.



The Macaques of Punghu Island



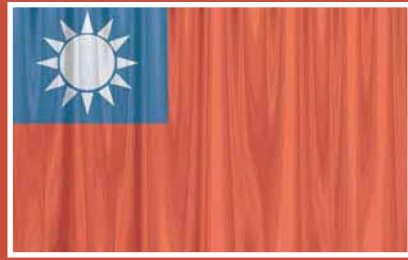
Over the past few years the Pingtung Rescue Centre have been inundated with macaque monkeys and as a result they now have over 200 macaques. Most of them are Formosan Macaques that can only be found in the wild in Taiwan. The Rescue Centre has a very difficult job introducing these monkeys back into social groups as they arrive at the centre one by one.

The first stage involved getting a small group of monkeys, about 10 individuals, together in a large cage. Then two of these smaller groups were merged together in a large open coral enclosure at the Pingtung Rescue Centre. Once the large group was stable, and any weak individuals were removed from the group, the troop was moved from the Centre to Punghu Island off the coast in Southern Taiwan. The island is approximately two acres and is home to millions of grasshoppers and other insects.

On the island the monkeys live a wild existence catching insects, eating the flowers of wild cactus plants, and kelp. They are given supplemental food a couple of times per week and at these times each individual can be observed to make sure



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

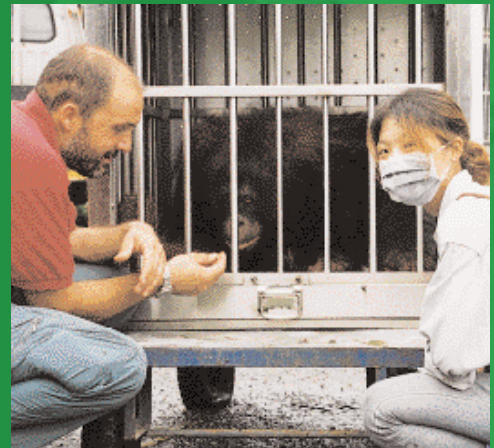
I must apologise for the delay in getting this latest issue of the ARC out to everyone but it has been a very busy summer. After five years of correspondence Monkey World has finally started a joint project with the Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals to conserve, rescue, and rehabilitate primates that have been smuggled into Taiwan for the illegal pet trade. This issue is dedicated to the incredible work the Taiwanese Authorities and the Pingtung Rescue Centre are doing to conserve wildlife.

The organisation of such a large shipment of animals was not easy. All the staff at the Pingtung Rescue Centre should be congratulated on their efforts to prepare the animals and boxes so that the journey was not stressful for the apes. In particular, Dr Kurtis Pei, the Director of the Centre, was instrumental in organising the rescue and rehabilitation of all the primates at the Centre. The Taiwanese Council of Agriculture and Pingtung University supported our joint project and British Airways flew all the apes (humans included) for free.

The park has been very busy this summer and we have received many donations of vitamins, cod liver oil, heavy dog toys, supermarket gift vouchers, medical supplies, and knitted jumpers for the shop. Donations have been collected in many different ways: at work, pennies saved at home, jumble sales, collection boxes, a 12 hour fast, wedding anniversary presents, dress down days at work, memorial donations, and carnival stalls. Over the past few months we have also received many birthday presents for the chimps. All your support is greatly appreciated as it helps us to care for the primates to the highest standard and it also helps us to rescue more.

We are awaiting two more additions to the park. In the next few weeks we are expecting babies to be born to Milagra, the woolly monkey, and Sage, the siamang gibbon. It is the first time for both mothers so our fingers are crossed that all goes well for these endangered primates. We will keep you posted of their progress. Rest assured that we have not forgotten all of the monkeys and apes here at the park; there just isn't enough room to include everybody in this issue! In the next issue of the ARC there will be a complete update on all of the groups. Promise.

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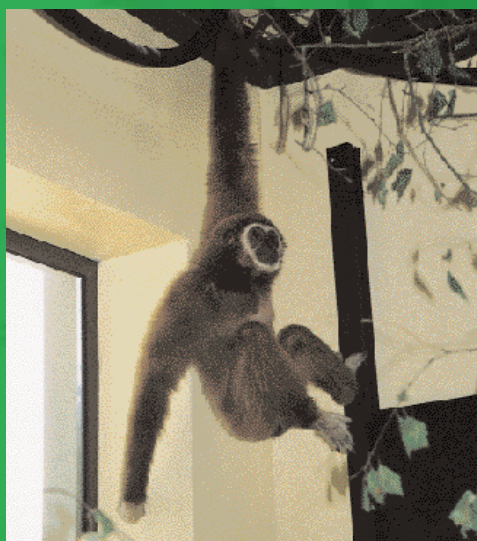
often die while being captured or subsequently from grief and loneliness. For every orangutan that made it to Taiwan alive it was estimated that five died in the process.

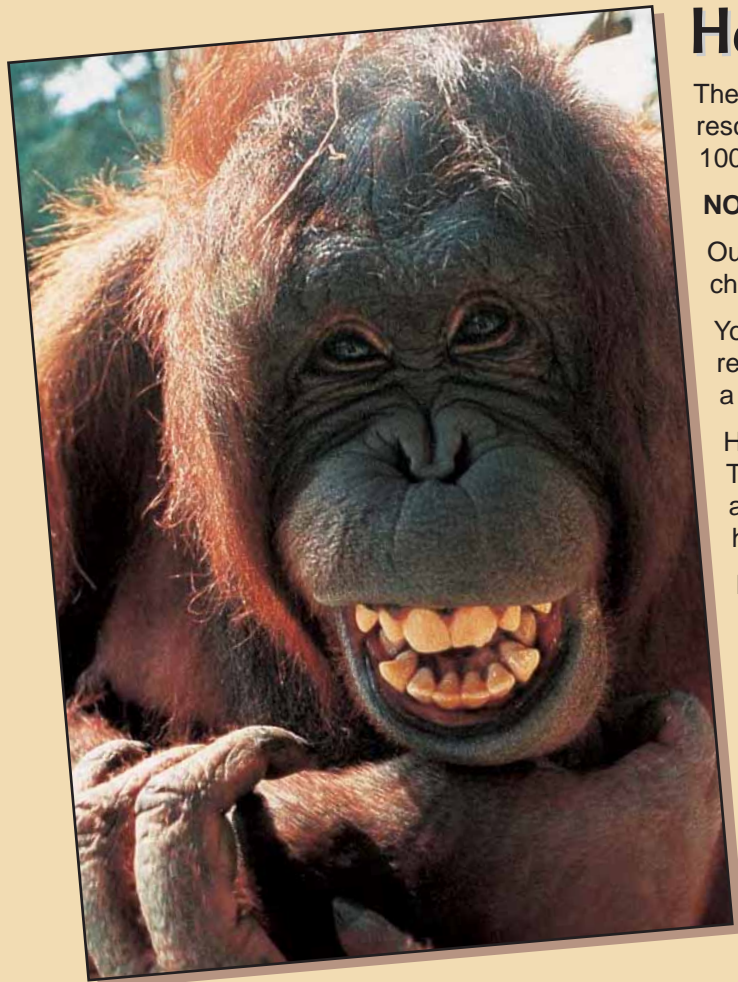


Very quickly it became clear that something must be done about the primates that were being smuggled into Taiwan. The trade was posing a serious threat to the survival of the species in the wild and future problems were expected when the tiny babies grew into 60 kg, unpredictable, dangerous adults. In 1989 the Authorities passed a Wildlife Conservation Law that effectively stopped the trade in primates and prohibited people from keeping exotic animals as pets. At the same time the law was passed, owners of wild animals were given a period of 6 months to register their animals in order to be exempt from future penalties. From this point on, Officials confiscated any wild animals unless they had been registered.



The enforcement of wildlife laws in Taiwan has been so successful that the Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals is now full to capacity. Monkey World is assisting the Taiwanese Authorities by providing a permanent home for the healthy gibbons and orangutans that are at the Centre. We are expecting that more individuals will clear their health checks shortly and we are hoping to bring some more Asian Apes to Dorset by the end of the year.





How You Can Help

There are many ways which you can help Monkey World to rescue and rehabilitate more Primates. All donations go into a 100% fund. Every penny goes to the animals;

NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED.

Our negotiations are continuing in order to rescue chimpanzees that have been smuggled into Turkey.

You can help by adopting a monkey or ape and you will receive a years 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, vegetables, or bread. The primates also need vitamins and minerals such as cod liver and primrose oil and vitamin C. We can also use thick rope and heavy-duty dog toys.

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

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