

UGLY AND PROUD!

Last Autumn Monkey World was asked if we would be able to re-home a group of 19 stump-tailed macaques (*Macaca arctoides*) from a British laboratory. Jim and Alison Cronin went to the laboratory to check out the monkeys and the conditions in which they were being kept and found that all but four of the macaques were individually housed. The macaques had been kept in research facilities for many years and some of them had been born in the laboratory.

These monkeys had been used for asthma research but new techniques meant that the animals were no longer required for research.

The lab decided that the macaques should be retired so that they could live the rest of their days with others of their own kind in a more natural environment.

A couple of weeks later the Monkey World team agreed to take the monkeys as long as a new home and the cost of caring for the animals was covered. With all arrangements made, Jim, Alison, and Monkey World's vet, Dr John Lewis, returned to the lab to health

check each individual and get them into transport boxes ready for their journey to a new life! After initial examinations, all of the monkeys were found to be in relatively good condition. However, all of the macaques were excessively overweight. In the wild a male stump-tailed macaque would weigh approximately 10kg but these guys averaged 20kg.

Many had dental problems and all were physically unfit from their sedentary lives. Their weight and dental problems combined with their red blotchy faces made them some of the ugliest monkeys we had ever seen. Out of the 19 only four were female. Checking each individual took all day and it wasn't until late afternoon that the 19 boxes were loaded into a van heading for Dorset.

Earlier in the day, Alison had spent a great deal of time watching and identifying the individual monkeys in their old cages. It was important to try and get an idea of what each individual was like; were they shy, aggressive, or friendly. The rehabilitation process was not going to be easy as most of the macaques had been kept individually with a glass barrier in-between them. Over the years the stump-tails had learned that they could "fight" through the glass without getting hurt. Surprisingly a very rigid hierarchy had developed in the corridors where the macaques lived. One or two individuals were able to dominate the others in the room even though they were not able to physically contact each other. Even in the most difficult circumstances, the macaques found a way to express their natural social instincts.

Once at Monkey World, the macaques were unloaded in two different groups. Ten of the older animals were unloaded into bedrooms in the Templer Pavilions while 9 younger



Scott and Johnathon enjoy grooming each other



Scott like many of the others was very overweight

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It has been a long and wet winter but we have been busy building new houses and enclosures for our rescued primates as well as modifying and redecorating old enclosures. The new house for the stump-tailed macaques is almost finished and the ugly monkeys should be able to move into their new house by Easter.

Our work in Southeast Asia continues and Jim, Kurtis Pei, and I have been tracking smugglers in Vietnam. We have also been making arrangements for the next shipment of and orangutans from Taiwan and they should be arriving very soon! Other recent arrivals include a young pair of goeldi monkeys (*Callimico goeldii*), named Oberon and Juliette. They are part of the European Breeding Programme for Endangered Species as are our orangutans, golden-cheeked gibbons, and woolly monkeys. Sadly Milagra, our pregnant woolly monkey gave birth to a stillborn baby boy. It was her first pregnancy and she carried the baby full term so we are hopeful that her next pregnancy will develop and be delivered without a problem.

Over the winter we have received a great deal of support from many individuals and organisations. Money was raised for the monkeys and apes from sponsored walks and runs, collections in place of Christmas cards, Christmas card sales, dress down days, craft fairs, charity boxes, concerts, and discos. We have also received many kind donations of vitamins and minerals, baby milk, knitted jumpers, jewellery, and heavy-duty dog toys. Generous donations were also given from **Attila Frozen Foods**, the customers and staff of **Vertigo Nightclub**, the **Fellowship of Animal Lovers**, **Commercial & General Interiors Ltd**, and the **Five Rivers Dog Agility Club** and all the cast of the **Reduced Shakespeare Company**. All your help has been greatly appreciated and will assist in rescuing and rehabilitating more primates.

Thank you!

Alison Cronin

Undercov

On February 7th Jim and Alison Cronin and Dr Kurtis Pei from Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals travelled to Vietnam to see how common the trade in wild caught gibbons and other primates was. Last year our two centres joined forces to rescue and rehabilitate Asian apes and it was not long before we realised that illegal, wild caught primates were flooding out of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. In particular they were interested in tracking golden-cheeked gibbons (*Hylobates gabriellae*) in order to find out if the smuggling ring was a well organised system or if the trade was simply a hit and miss operation.



The team first travelled to Hanoi in the North where they visited Cuc Phuong Endangered Primate Rescue Centre (EPRC). The Director of the centre, Dr Tilo Nadler, explained that EPRC have been taking in gibbons, langurs, and lorises for many years. However, in the past year the illegal trade in primates had declined and the centre only receives approximately one primate per month now. Dr Nadler suggested that this might be because wild primates are declining in numbers and they are more difficult to hunt and trap in the wild. The EPRC team follow up on reports of endangered primates that they hear about and work with the Vietnamese Authorities to confiscate illegally held primates. EPRC is a beautiful centre that is doing a wonderful job caring for some of the world's most endangered primates.

From Hanoi the team headed for Saigon where, posing as potential buyers, they hoped to find primates in the animal markets. On the first day of searching the traditional medicine stalls and meat markets they found ivory, tiger paws, bear bile and claws, stuffed wild cats and binturongs, and wild animal meat openly for sale. In the live animal markets were thousands of snakes and birds but you had to look a bit closer to see live wild cats, large birds of prey, martins, civets, and flying squirrels. Finding larger primates was not so easy. However, there were hundreds of pygmy lorises openly for sale, for US\$10, in many shops and on street corners. With a bit of



EPRC has bred Douc Langurs in captivity

ver in Vietnam



s Pei at Cuc Phuong Rescue Centre

searching Jim, Alison, and Kurtis finally found a market with many different wild and domestic animals. In front of several of the stalls were small macaques in tiny cages for sale for US\$30. Many of the animals looked in very poor condition, under weight, dehydrated, and over heated. Finally in the back of one of the stalls, Alison spotted a small face staring out from the back. Checking a bit closer, it turned out to be a very young gibbon that was tied to the top of some chicken cages. The lady who was in charge of the stall was quite friendly and said she wanted US\$250 for the baby gibbon and that it would take one week to get another gibbon as a mate.

At another market, that had many wild animals, a shop assistant said that the owner had three gibbons at his house if anyone was interested in buying them. Arrangements

were made and everyone agreed to meet again the next morning when the gibbons would be brought to the shop. Sure enough the assistant was correct and three baby gibbons were at the shop the next day. They were all together in a tiny cage, just like the gibbons that were confiscated off the Vietnamese boat in Taiwan last year. Two were male and the one female was extremely quiet and withdrawn. The owner wanted US\$250 for each gibbon. Amazingly, the owner brought another primate on offer in case anyone was interested in buying. It was a black-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nigripes*) which is extremely rare and endangered. This animal was for sale for US\$300. While the Monkey World and

Pingtung team were looking at the primates, the shop owner would not allow any photos or video and he had five people standing outside the shop watching for police.

In Vietnam most people know that trading in wildlife is illegal and they are very sensitive about it. In a couple of days Jim, Alison, and Kurtis were able to find gibbons, langurs, macaques, and lorises for sale. All of the traders said that they would be able to get more primates if more were wanted. Sadly the trade in primates out of Vietnam is still thriving and it would appear that it is a fairly well organised market. After collecting this information, Alison sent a full report to EPRC and is hopeful that they will be able to convince the Vietnamese Authorities to confiscate these rare primates to take to their centre. Monkey World and Pingtung Rescue Centre will continue working in Southeast Asia to save more Asian primates.



A baby golden-cheeked gibbon that is for sale looks very sad



In place of it's dead mother, the baby gibbon clings to the shop assistant for comfort



Pingtung Keeper Exchange Programme

by Lee Butler

Last November I met up with our veterinarian John Lewis and we headed off to Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals. Fourteen hours later we arrived in Southern Taiwan. Now that Monkey World and Pingtung Rescue Centre are working together to save Asian apes, part of the on-going project involves a keeper exchange programme. My task was to work with the keepers in Pingtung, teaching them the different husbandry techniques we have developed at Monkey World. I planned to work with their keepers to develop hygiene and animal welfare standards as well as give a slide show about enriching and improving animal enclosures.

Pingtung Rescue Centre has many different species that we do not have at Monkey World such as tiger, leopard, sun bear, birds of prey and reptiles. I was more familiar working with orangutans, gibbons, and macaques but in Pingtung there were different aspects to consider. The weather is hot and humid, there is a greater variety of fruits and vegetables, and some of the snails and slugs can carry a parasite that is deadly to primates. I started by taking photos and jotting down ideas of what we could do for the different species at the centre then it was off to get materials, such as wood, mesh, plastic piping and fire hose from the local fire department.

We started by making nets out of fire hose for the orangutans. With lots of teamwork and enthusiasm we soon had enough fire hose nets to furnish two or three orangutan cages. I also brought with me some feeder balls, which we use at Monkey World to keep the monkeys and apes busy. We filled the balls with nuts, seeds, and dried fruit and gave them to the

orangutans and the macaques. The macaques enjoyed the puzzle feeders for several days and were seen rolling the balls around their enclosure. However, the orangutans solved their feeding puzzles very quickly by cracking them open on the concrete floor!

Over the next couple of days I worked on improving cages for the tigers, bears and a leopard cat. For the leopard cat we found a much bigger cage with branches to climb and a nest box where he could hide during the day. For the tigers and bears we found branches large enough for the cats and bears to climb and use as scratching posts. We also put shelves in up high so that the cats and bears could rest in an area with a view. The keepers were rewarded for their efforts as the tigers and bears inspected and used the branches and shelves.

During the two weeks that I was at Pingtung Rescue Centre we modified and enriched at least one cage for each species that was kept at the centre. This way, when I had to return to England, the keepers at Pingtung could continue the enrichment and cage improvements for the other animals at the centre. On March 3rd I returned to Pingtung to see how things were getting on. I was stunned to see how much had been accomplished in such a short time. Many new large enclosures have been built and many of the old cages have been modified. This work is critical as many more primates are still arriving at the centre day by day. It is great to see the animals at Pingtung enjoying their new enclosures and I hope that Monkey World and Pingtung Rescue Centre will continue working together to rescue more Asian apes.



國立屏東科技大學保育類野生動物收容中心

PINGTUNG RESCUE CENTER

The keepers in Pingtung get busy making hammocks



Lee gives the keepers a talk about Monkey World



A macaque enjoys playing with a food ball

David like all the others lived on his own at the lab



boys were settled in to a house behind the café. Everyone was fed and watered and left to settle down for the night. The next morning we decided to embark upon the first of the introductions. Nobody really knew what to expect from animals with such limited social experience. Starting with the older individuals, introductions went very well and within one hour all adjoining slides had been opened and most of the macaques were wandering around lip smacking and grooming each other. A couple of the older monkeys appeared to be a bit shell shocked by all of the commotion and just sat quietly in a corner trying to keep a low profile. The group of elderly macaques remained together for a couple of days before it became clear that the more quiet individuals were getting picked on by the others. At this point we decided to separate the group in two so that the sedate macaques could have a bit of peace. After living in such a controlled environment for so many years, we were aware that we would have to be cautious about over stressing any of the monkeys. Even so one of the older males, Jack, went very quiet one day and appeared to give up the will to live. Our veterinarian gave Jack the once over but there was nothing physically wrong with him. He passed away the following day and we can only assume that he was just too institutionalised to adapt to a new way of life.

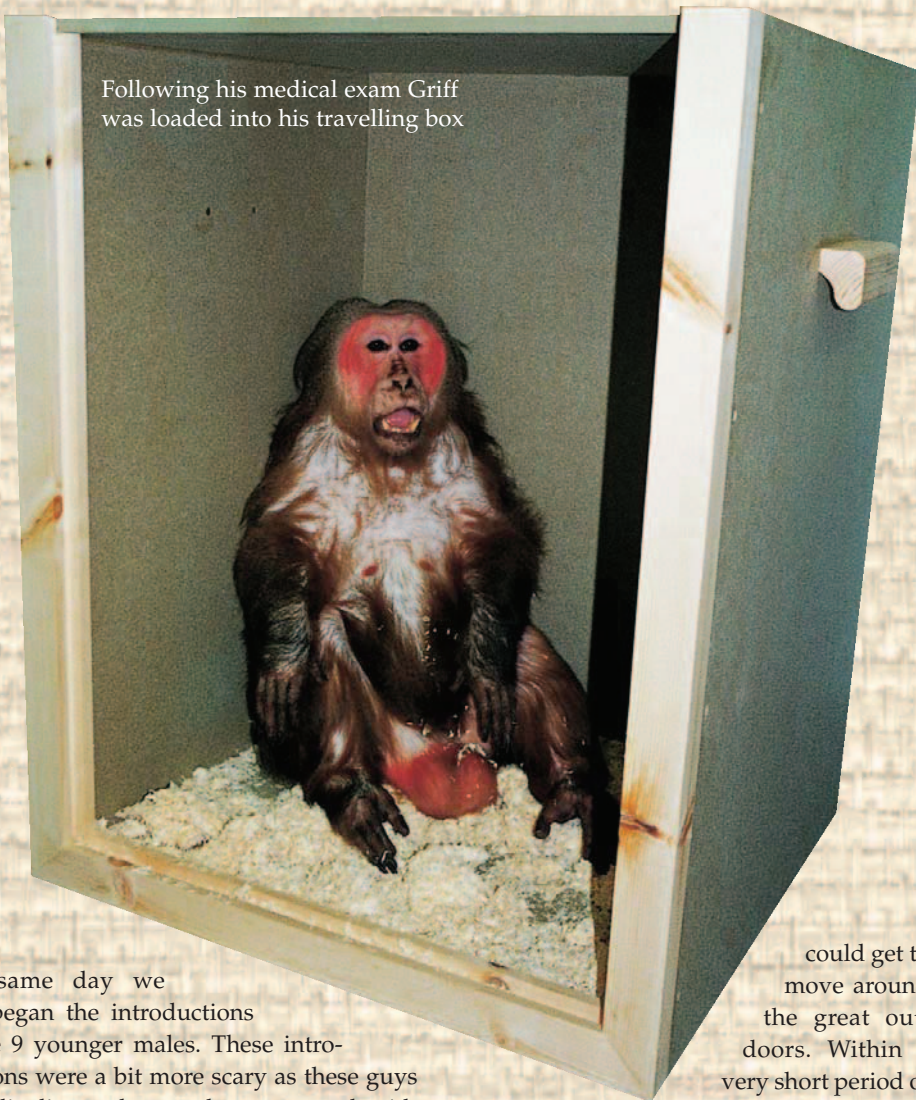


19 macaques in 19 boxes were ready to head for Dorset

The same day we also began the introductions of the 9 younger males. These introductions were a bit more scary as these guys were livelier and several were armed with large, sharp canine teeth. The first couple of meetings went well with some individuals behaving submissively, accepting the pushing, shoving, and mounting by the more dominant animals. On two occasions a submissive individual was singled out, so much so, that we separated him and introduced him to another monkey so that when he re-entered the group, he had a friend with him. This seemed to work and after two hours all 9 male stump-tails were together with only a few scratches. The macaques seemed to appreciate each other's company even though their social skills were very limited and rough. For the first time the macaques could move from room to room at their own will, they could interact with each other in a meaningful way, and forage for food that was hidden throughout there new home.

After a couple of weeks of settling in, the bachelor group was given a large out door cage to play in during the day. At first they were all too scared to go outside but after a couple of days they began to venture out. The keepers did an excellent job fitting in pallets, shelves, and branches in their enclosure. This was very important as the macaques were not very agile or fit and needed all the help they

Following his medical exam Griff was loaded into his travelling box



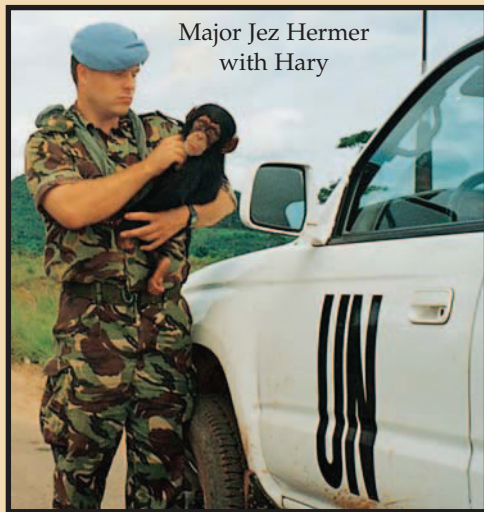
could get to move around the great outdoors. Within a very short period of time a dominance hierarchy was established in the group and we began to see the stump-tails playing with each other.

As it stands today, we have rehabilitated the ugly monkeys into three groups:

Bazak	Gerald	Scott
Nick	Jason	Sammy
Roland	Erica	David
Lea	Effie	Fred
	Louise	Phil
		Griff
		Jonathan
		Tim
		Paddy

All are doing very well but this is only the beginning of their new life. The finishing touches are just being made to a new purpose built house in the first phase of Monkey World's expansion. Soon the stump-tails will have a 60 metre diameter house that is 7 metres tall with large outside enclosures. The half way accommodation has served it's purpose by helping the macaques develop their agility and fitness. They have lost a great deal of weight in past couple of months and most importantly they have learned to live as a group again. They are well on the road to recovery. Ugly and Proud!

HARRY'S STORY



Major Jez Hermer
with Hary

At the end of last year Monkey World was contacted by a Major in the Royal Marines who was stationed in Sierra Leone with the United Nations. On his travels Major Jez Hermer came across a small chimpanzee in a northern village that was literally being kicked around by the village children.

The Major took hold of the chimpanzee and asked to speak with the village head. It turned out that the chimpanzee's mother had been shot and eaten and the infant was left for the children to play with.

The Major had a serious discussion with the leader of the village and told him that if he ever found wild animals there again that he would return and confiscate guns and weapons in the village. In a war zone, this was a serious threat that was not taken lightly. The two men agreed and the village was given £70 for the baby chimp. Major Hermer then contacted Monkey World to find out how to look after the baby that he named Harry.

In the capital, Freetown, the Major contacted a rescue centre that was already full of chimpanzees. Sadly the centre does not have regular funding and thus their resources are limited. Major Hermer was not happy with the conditions and asked the Minister of Agriculture in Sierra Leone if Harry would be allowed to come to Monkey World. The Minister agreed but at the last minute the Department of Agriculture contacted Monkey World and made it clear that papers would not be issued unless money was paid to them.

Monkey World encounters many sad situations but this was one of the worst. In Freetown today there are 20-30 chimpanzees being kept in terrible circumstances illegally that need rescuing NOW. Sadly this is not going to happen. Since Monkey World refused to give

out bribes the Major was set up as a scapegoat and Harry had to be left in a small cage, on his own, in Freetown. Several organisations have criticised Major Hermer's act of compassion and his desire to send Harry to a safe home, where he could live with others of his own kind, outside of a war zone. In Africa today, there are thousands of orphan apes in need of homes. To ensure the survival of great apes in Africa, there will need to be many different solutions to many different problems. Simply insisting that any one ape must stay in an African war zone is naive.



There are still many more chimps that
need rescuing in Sierra Leone

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Gamba enjoys making a snowball

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

Our negotiations are continuing in order to rescue chimpanzees that have been smuggled into Turkey and there will be more apes coming from Taiwan in the Spring. 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, vegetables, 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 remembered in our memorial garden.

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