Jim and Alison Cronin recently conducted an undercover investigation along with their colleagues from the Pingtung Rescue Centre in Taiwan, Dr Kurtis Pei and Ms Vivien Lin. The team wanted to find out the availability and extent of the illegal trade in gibbons and orangutans in SE Asia. This is part of an on-going investigation and as such the details of the locations are not identified as future operations are planned.

Based upon their experiences in Taiwan, the team knew that the illegal trade in gibbons and orangutans was common as they had encountered illegal apes kept as pets as well as shipments of primates that had been confiscated off of boats by Taiwanese Customs. On this trip they decided to head for Vietnam and Thailand.

In Vietnam the team started in Saigon where in the past they had been offered golden-cheeked gibbons (*Hylobates gabelii*) and black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*) for sale. Starting in some city markets, it wasn’t long before vendors were happy to offer macaques, lorises, and gibbons for sale. In one market stall three golden-cheeked gibbons were offered to the team for US $280 each. Two of the young gibbons were so small that it was clear that they had just been taken from the wild and the third was 1-2 years old. They asked the vendor if he would be able to get more gibbons to make pairs and the answer was yes, it would take one week.

Then it was onto an amusement park where there was a small walk through animal area. At first they thought that they were not going to find anything of interest at the amusement park but then the team was shocked by their discovery. As they walked through the animal exhibit they were confronted with some of the world’s rarest gibbons. To make matters worse the gibbons were chained around the neck with a one-metre piece of chain tying them to a tree. The gibbons were not able to move around, come in contact with each other, or get away from people throwing things at them. It was a desperate situation.

Then Alison spotted a shadowy figure moving around in the back of a very dark and distant cage. Upon further investigation it turned out to be two sub-adult female orangutans. At this point the team were very interested to learn more about the primates at the park and went in search of a keeper. The amusement park staff were very helpful and when asked if they could be taken to see the orangutans, the staff said no problem and brought out two more babies, this time males, for Jim and Alison to play with! There were no adult orangutans at the park yet, mysteriously they had a ready supply of youngsters.

Next stop Thailand. Prior to the journey, the Cronin’s had learned about an amusement park that had orangutan “boxing” matches. Once again the team were surprised to find more than half a dozen sub-adult orangutans (with no adults in sight) but nothing could have prepared them for the spectacle they were about to witness. In a crowded stadium, two orangutans were lead out dressed in colourful sashes to a professional boxing ring. The corner seconds as well as the round announcer jobs were given to a baby orangutan and two scruffy chimpanzees. The orangutans had a mock Thai boxing match, which was of course won by knock out, and the looser was carried away on a stretcher by the chimpanzees. Even though many in the audience thought the show was amusing, one should remember that these are endangered wild apes that are likely to have been smuggled from the wild for the entertainment industry. What looks like fun on stage should be compared to the dismal life of training sessions where animals are beaten into submission and then left in tiny barren cages to wait for the next show. Sadly for the orangutans and visiting public the great apes are also encouraged to sit with
Undercover in SE Asia (continued)

and three people after the show. This means that the orangutans are exposed to a world of dangerous chemicals such as antimalarials.

After the show the team headed for a reptile park where they had heard of rumors that primates were being exploited. At the entrance Jim and Alison were confronted with a photogenic studio that offered pictures with tigers, chimpanzees and orangutans. It was decided to come back to the studios and first have a look around the "reptile" park. Much to their surprise, the team found a huge park filled with wild animals from all around the world. It became clear that the park existed purely to exploit the animals.

- Chimp cages were two inches deep in algae and slime.
- Monkey cages were "cleaned" by throwing a bucket of disinfectant over the cowering animals.
- Some of the rarest gibbons in the world had their teeth knocked out so that eight of them could be kept in one cage without harming each other, and
- Baby gibbons, chimps, and orangutans were torn from their mothers to become the next cute photo opportunity.

It was a sadistic nightmare. As the team headed for the end one last check was made on the photo studio. The baby orangutan that had been there earlier in the day was relaxing so the team split up to find him. What they found was devastating. The reality of the situation was that the orangutan lived in an empty cage with a chain around his ankle. The cage was so short that when he was found lying down, his feet hung two feet off the ground. Out of his fancy clothing the young orangutan was totally bald and every-

PRIMATE UPDATE

By Jeremy Keeley, Lee Butler, Tim Morpew, and Paula Walling

NURSERY

Sally - She is still the boss of the group and has become good friends with Lulu. Season makes sure that she is always in on any action and can readily become a green-eyed monster if anyone gets more attention than she does.

Jolni - She is a quiet individual that never shines but has strong opinions. Jolni is very keen on the older change and makes sure that she avoids getting involved in any confrontations.

Tuti - She is the smallest chimp in the nursery yet she is very ambitious and does not give up if she wants something. Tuti is a young lady who believes there is only one rule in life - hunt!

Carl - He is great friends with Sally, Jolni and Tuti and the young ones enjoy his caring nature. Carl makes sure that Sally and Lulu are also happy with him but at the same time he cannot resist logging Sally from time to time.

ORANGUTANS

Tuan - He is the boss of the group and appears to live his life. He gets along well with everyone except for Amy. Tuan is especially close with Gordon and the two men are great friends.

Gordon - He is growing in height and maturity. With Tuan as his best friend he is learning a lot about how to get along with the big boys and generally playing with everyone. Gordon is very close with his mother Amy and they sleep together every night.

Amy - She is a very independent and does not bother getting involved with anyone other than Gordon. Amy is still not sure about Tuan and warns him most of the time.

Bolle - She has very strange personality and usually gets what she wants. When Tuan first arrived Bolle got used to being the mother figure and now seems to accept that Tuan looks at the other babies from time to time. Bolle has a soft spot for Lucky.

Hiiao-qual - He is a very quiet member of the group and is usually found off on his own lsing in their two-room enclosure. Hiiao has entered a growth spurt and is slowly getting bigger every day.

Hisao-qual - He is a very clever individual that makes sure he stays in everyone's good books. Hisao plays well with Gordon, Bolle-qual and Lucky and has become Tuan's second favorite baby.

Tuan and his new family

Ben & Pip

Sally
PADDY'S GROUP

Bhaa

Paddy - He is the alpha male of the group and everyone respects his position. Paddy is a very kind leader and rarely has to put his foot down. He has been enjoying the company of his new daughter, Eddie.

Jimmy - He is Paddy’s second in charge but is not as good a leader as his boss. After the difficulties we had introducing Jimmy to Bhaa, the two have now become close friends and often seen playing together.

Bhata - He is a very happy individual who loves playing with almost everyone. Bhata and Bhaa are very close and seem to encourage each other to be more friendly.

Micky - He is a quiet male who likes to get involved in anything that is going on. Micky’s quiet nature makes him a good observer of the other monkeys.

Gumba - He is a very outgoing individual that cannot resist teasing Paddy or anyone that thinks that they are dominant. Gumba is always on the lookout for opportunities to torment others in the group but nevertheless everyone likes his playful character.

Paco - He is a low ranking male but is developing into a large and powerful chimp. Paco is quiet, keeps to himself, and gets along well with everyone in the group.

Bha - She is the dominant female of the group and gets involved in everything.

Zoe - She is one of the most dominant females and has taken over the role of leader from Bhaa and Bhaa is now just her foster mum. As a young female, Bha enjoys playing with everyone and they all keep her loads of attention.

Sneie - She has proved to be an excellent mother to Eddie and has newfound status as a result of the baby. Sneie is one of the most important females in the group and sticks close to Paddy.

Eddie - He has settled in to be the third in charge in his group and has adopted Cindy as his foster mum. As a young female, Bha enjoys playing with everyone and they all keep her loads of attention.

Windy - She is very close to Paddy and Bhaa. Bha does not often get involved in the squabbles that may break out but once in a while she is a strong and determined chimp that will always support Paddy and Bhaa.

Bhaa - She is closest to Paddy and Bhaa and has a gnarly character. Anyone that Bhaa thinks has gotten out of order will be scolded and she can often be seen chasing Gumba when he has pushed his luck too far.

Ghubha - She is a quiet female with Gumba and is a quiet member of the group. Ghubha’s large size means that she is very protective and they often get into a bit of a tussle with each other.

Chatta - She is close to Gumba and has taken on the role of “guardian” in the group. Gumba seems out of the picture and is very protective with the youngsters Bhaa and Eddie.

Cina - She is very focused and obsessive individual. Her days in the laboratory seem to have taken their toll on her and she still holds onto food at odd times. From time to time Cina makes an eerie, haunting call that none of the other chimps appear to recognize or acknowledge.

Olympia - Even though she is Bhaa’s mum, Olympia is a young, energetic mother and does not want to have to carry or look after Bhaa all the time. She is quite happy for Gumba to help with mothering duties even though she is still very close to Bhaa.

Bha - She is also a low ranking female and spends a lot of time with Peppa. Bha is quiet and keeps to herself. She is just out of reach but not far and she is still very close to Bhaa.

Subu - She is also a low ranking female and spends a lot of time with Tony. She is quiet and keeps to herself. She is just out of reach but not far and she is still very close to Bhaa.

Rocky - He is a very nervous individual. This could be because Rocky has a lot of worries that he does not enjoy being shown off. After a lot of training Rocky has now been allowed to be part of the group.

MONKEYS & LEMURS

Windy Monkeys - These woolly monkeys have been kept in the same group for a long time and are basically playing out what would happen in a major attack. The old female Sandy remains calm and carries her cute baby on her back. Sandy is very good at keeping the young and old together and is often seen with one of the younger males.

Merry Monkeys - The male woolly monkeys have been kept in the same group for a long time and are basically playing out what would happen in a major attack. The old male Sandy remains calm and carries his cute baby on his back. Sandy is very good at keeping the young and old together and is often seen with one of the younger males.

BACHELOR GROUP

Bacha - He is the dominant male and has his hands full keeping the bees in check. Bacha can be prove to be temperamental but for the most part he is a kind leader.

Jombak - He has established himself as Bacha’s number one chimp and is very good at keeping the bees in check. Jombak is very good at keeping the bees in check. Jombak is very good at keeping the bees in check. Jombak is very good at keeping the bees in check. Jombak is very good at keeping the bees in check. Jombak is very good at keeping the bees in check.

Sammy - He is a bit of a loner but is still quite active and is usually seen interacting with the other males.

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RODNEY'S GROUP

Rodney - He is a very fair dominant male who sticks close to his adult females. Rodney will be 15 in 2003 and he is still able to maintain his total leadership over his troop. He has a big soft spot for Trudy.

Valerie - She continues to grow in stature through his confidence is building. Trudy shows a lot of personality in his voice and is very gentle and kind to the other males. She makes an effort to get along well with Rodney and will probably take over the nest some day.

Tikko - He has matured both physically and mentally over the past year. Tikko may not be as big as the other hens in his age but he is very clever and knows how to keep a low profile. When Rodney is not looking, he is very popular with the ladies.

Sema - He is one of the most.caring hens in Rodney's group. Sema always looks after the new and/or younger members of the group. Thus, he is very popular even though he is not the brightest of the hens around.

Gypsy - He is not overly bright either. Gypsy always seems to be the one that finds a way to get himself in trouble especially when he invents new ways to tease Rodney. Happily, the two get along quite well together and can often be seen chasing or grooming each other.

Rodney (right) and Valerie (left)

Trudy - She is growing into quite a large chap yet. Trudy is still holding onto her little princess position. Most of the group still view her as a baby, even though she isn't, and at six years old she can still be seen rolling on Peggy's back from time to time.

Valerie - She has become more independent this year. Valerie seems to be a very happy person and still goes back to Mona for a cuddle from time to time.

Joline - Her character has changed a lot this year. Joline has gained confidence and is more independent, though she still shares a bed with Mona, Valerie, and Magazine.

Magazine - She has always had a very rough, strong willed character. Magazine does share her softer side with Mona and often can be seen walking with one arm across Mona's shoulders. She has a great deal of fun in the group.

Peggy - She spent a lot of time with Trudy and if you see the two, you will see the other. Peggy is a very steady adult hen that is good with everyone in the group.

Mona - She still has the constant companionship of Magazine. Mona recently had a visit from an opthalmologist surgeon to see if the cataracts in both eyes were operable. We are hopeful that something can be done to increase Mona's vision but we will have to wait to hear from the consultants.

Jesse - She has changed a lot over the past year, growing in confidence and size. Jesse is not as shy as she used to be and with her newfound maturity, she is very popular with the hens.

RODNEY'S GROUP

GIBBONS

Lar Gibbons - The new arrival, Elia, has been successfully introduced to our other lar gibbons, Nike and Kitty. Nike and Kitty were an instant hit with Elia and the adult pair are now inseparable. Kitty adores both of her adoptive parents who take it in turns to groom and play with her.

Golden-cheeked Gibbons - Our other new arrival, Veeta, is slowly getting to know two of our other golden-cheeked gibbons, Alex and Ping. She enjoys her daily play sessions and it gives her a chance to bond with the very energetic Ping. It shouldn't be too long before she meets his adoptive mum, Alex, for the first time.

Zoe (right) and Peanut (left)

Jodie's Gibbons - The male Adas has recently become more confident around Jodie's who has always been the most dominant of the pair. His newfound bravery means he can spend more time together playing and occasionally even grooming!

Our two male Miller's gibbons, Nisi and Phe, are still best of friends. They enjoy the extra space of their new enclosures and test each other's strength and agility during frustal play sessions.

Siemang Gibbons - Our siemang family are extremely close and always together. Orin is becoming more independent and will swing off through the tress as fast as he can run with mum and dad trying to keep up. He still needs a lot of care and attention however, and will climb up to 15 ft before going to sleep.

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The Siemang family

SHOP TALK

For all of you that enjoy watching Monkey Business over and over again, you should be aware that Series 5 has just arrived in our shop!

It is a two video set that costs £25.00 and they are available in both European PAL or American NTSC formats. In Series 5 you can see the saga of Harry the chimp in Sierra Leone unfold as well as the dramatic arrival of Teacup, the male orangutan.

Also new to the shop are two limited edition prints of Aun and Gordon our male orangutans and Paddy, one of our stump-tailed macaques. The prints are done by wildlife artist David Dancer-Wood and are the splitting image of the models! We are offering these limited edition prints to our adoptive parents prior to anyone else so you will want to grab them quick as there are only 495 prints of each portrait. Aun and Gordon's print is £30.00 and Paddy's print is £32. If you are interested in ordering either prints or videos for Christmas, please phone the office on (01929) 490103 and we can advise if there is enough time.

The Siemang family

Peggy

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Letter from the Editor

Over the past few months we have been very busy organising new developments and future rescues. In October we had the pleasure of welcoming DEFRA Minister Mr Elliott Morley, our MP Mr Jim Knight, long-time friend and colleague Dr Kurtis Pei from Pingtung Rescue Centre for Endangered Wild Animals as well as His Excellency, Dr Tien, from the Taipei Representative’s Office. We met to discuss the future of wild and captive orangutans and our plans to build a new 8-acre orangutan complex. All parties were extremely enthusiastic and we are hopeful that we will be able to begin building in spring/summer 2003.

We have also had the team from Channel 4’s Pet Rescue down to visit the park. Wendy Turner spent two days at the park filming and learned of the tragic backgrounds that our monkeys and apes came from.

We have had a great deal of support from many people and we would like to thank everyone for their help. Other supporters have organised collection boxes, video shows, collections at animal welfare events, concerts, and donations in lieu of payments. In particular we would like to thank Sophie Ballard who made and charged people to see her underwater scene. Andrew Blackmore who ran the Bristol half marathon on our behalf, the staff at Magnox Electric who suggested that redundant fire hoses should be sent to Monkey World and Michelle Morgan of the Marilyn Lives Society for raising funding and awareness. We were greatly saddened to learn that Anne Trinder, Joy Arnold, John Baichin, and Peter Brothers passed away. They were all supporters of our rescue and rehabilitation work and will be missed by friends and family.

Thank you all for your continued support. Without it we would not be able to continue rescuing as many needy monkeys and apes as we do.

Merry Christmas and all the best for a Happy New Year.

Alison Cronin.

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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 (we are not a registered charity) and NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED.

We are currently in the process of organising the next arrival to the park! Meet Alberto a male chimpanzee that had been smuggled from the wild to work as a beach photographer’s prop in Spain approximately 15 years ago. His previous owner agreed to stop working Alberto but wanted to keep him. The photographer passed away and now Alberto is living in a dog and cat shelter outside of Barcelona. We would like to give him companionship of his own kind and hopefully Alberto can come to Monkey World in the next couple of months. We are also still raising money for the new orangutan complex so that we can re-home many more orangutans that have been rescued in Taiwan by the Pingtung Rescue Centre. The new complex would be a state of the art ape building covering 8-acres. Please help us to make all of these dreams come true.

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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