IT'S A GIRL!
by Mike Colbourne

It has been a long wait, eight and a half months, to be exact, for RoRo to deliver her first baby but finally she has arrived! During a quiet morning on 31 August I was startled by our Lead Keeper, Lee Butler, knocking on my front door with the information RoRo had given birth overnight and so far she had not let the baby suckle. It always amazes me that great apes do not instinctively know how to look after their newborn babies. First time mothers sometimes reject their offspring simply through lack of experience, often learnt by watching other females with their babies. And as RoRo was herself an orphan that was stolen away from her mother at a young age, we did wonder if she would care for her first born.

The birth appeared to have gone well as Jeremy found RoRo tucked up with her baby on that first morning. She had cut the umbilical cord, cleaned the infant, and settled down with it facing forward so that the baby's back was against her belly. There was no chance that the baby was going to be able to suckle or cling to her mother's chest. Jeremy spent hours that morning watching RoRo to see if she was going to feed her baby. After several hours it did not appear that anything was going to change and then RoRo made the decision for us. She grabbed hold of a blanket and swaddled her newborn infant. At this point it was clear that while RoRo liked the baby she had no intention of letting it feed - it had become a toy.

By the time I arrived at Monkey World Jeremy had removed the baby. That was my cue to step in as foster mum and set up a temporary home on site at Monkey World. An incubator had already been warmed up in the orangutan house, so it was easy to transport the baby in the heated incubator to her new home. The baby was female and she received her first visit from the vet on her birthday, just to make sure that everything was functioning as it should. She weighed 1.78 kgs and everything was in good working order.

Then it was time for her first bottle, which can be difficult as the artificial teat can have a strange taste and feel. Normally a first bottle will be simply boiled water and a rehydration powder, which dissolves into an easily digested energy drink. It is very important to hydrate a newborn baby and then slowly move onto a milk drink. We started her first milk bottle with half strength formula to make sure it wasn’t too rich for her digestive system. Over the next couple of days her bottles were increased to full strength. The baby took 30 ml of water on her first bottle and then I began two hourly feeds, night and day, that averaged 250-300 ml per day. She is also given drinks of boiled water in between her milk drinks in case she feels thirsty.

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By mid-October she was taking approximately 350 mls of milk per day. Now her teeth are coming through which is causing some discomfort and putting her off her bottles. A small amount of Bonjela rubbed on her gums helps ease the pain. Although she has a good selection of teething toys, her favourites are her own mum for my fingers. This will soon stop once her first teeth are through. Her coordination is also coming along well and at the time of writing she is sat on my knee and trying to reach up and touch my glasses, which mostly remains in her slapping me.

PRIMATE UPDATE

RODNEY – He has been very active lately. As the youngsters in the group are growing up he has been reminding them that he is in charge! Rodney has also been playing a lot with Gypsy and Honey.

JESS – As a mature female, Jess stills with Rodney and has not been paying as much attention to Artur as she used to.

CHERRY – She has been in high spirits lately. Cherry is very playful and active but still lets the younger chimps know that she is a dominant female with power.

PEGGY – She still has Trudy's attention and enjoys looking after her. Even though Trudy is quite a big now, Peggy can still be seen carrying her around.

MONA – She is often seen standing on her head, bottom in the air, laughing and generally being silly. Mona obviously enjoys this new game and the attention, from the others, it garner her.

MARJOLINE – Whenever there is any trouble she looks to Mona for security. Mona loves Marjoline's attention so they are never far apart.

EVELINE – She has fitted into the group well and stays out of trouble. Eveline is getting all of Gypsy's attention and she loves it.

HANANYA – He is being rather brave lately. Hananya spends quite a bit of time with Rodney and on the first day they were able to play on a new tall tower, he was the first one to the top to enjoy the view.

SEMACH – He has lots of energy and enjoys showing off to people and chimps alike. Semach seems to enjoy leaping about in a wild and crazy manner, as well as practicing his unique "frog" leaps.

ARTUR – He still looks out for Jess although her attention is elsewhere - flying with Rodney. Artur now spends his time as one of the lads, hanging out with Simon, Tinko, Semach and Gypsy.

Letter from the Editor

This year has gone by so quickly, we can hardly believe it. Over the past few months Jim and I have spent a lot of time in SE Asia collecting evidence of animal smugglers in Thailand (see Thailand Update) and working together with our Vietnamese and Taiwanese colleagues to set up an endangered primate rescue centre in Vietnam. It would be great to help establish a centre in southern Vietnam where confiscated golden-cheeked gibbons could go - hopefully before they were smuggled out of the country. Negotiations are going well and we should be able to fill everyone in on the details by the time of the next ARC.

Meanwhile at the park all is well and we have been expanding everyone's climbing frames. Without your support we would not be able to continue rescuing and rehabilitating so many monkeys and apes. Over the past few months supporters have sent in donations, birthday presents for the primates, bread, baby formula, fruit, vegetables, nuts, dried fruit, rice cakes, vitamins, towels, blankets, and heavy duty dog toys and fire hoses. Thanks for all your support, it is greatly appreciated by the monkeys and apes. In particular we would like to say thank you to the Co-op in Swangon for donating porkpains, Poole Harbour Commission for steel rope, Bridport Aviation for cargo nets, The Fellowship of Animal Lovers for a generous donation, the Endoscope staff at Poole Hospital for the proceeds of a dinner dance, the Cardiothoracic Centre at Liverpool NIB for a large donation of medical supplies, Group Accounts at BP for donations from a quiz evening, Mr and Mrs Harris for the proceeds of a blouse sale, Amanda Grant for getting sponsorship for the Great Scottish Run, Andrew Blackmore for sponsorship for the Bristol half marathon. Others sent in collections boxes, asked for donations instead of presents, had car boot sales, and sent on left over foreign money. Well done and thank you to everyone. Mrs Joy Walker brought us a beautiful memorial stone for the passing of our precious monkeys, Arthur and Shaboh, and we would like to send our condolences to the families of Miles & Dadwelly, Mr Derek Vince, Ms Terene Baker, and Mrs M Price. They will be missed by family and friends alike.

Over the winter we are moving ahead with plans for our new hospital, we are finishing off the first stage of the new orangutan enclosures, which will also be home to two pairs of gibbons. And more importantly we are making arrangements for the arrival of a new orangutan, a couple of gibbons, a woolly monkey, and hopefully a couple of chimps! We are all very excited but none of this could be achieved without your support. Thank you again.

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

_chris cromie_
**ORANGUTANS**

TUAN - For a short period of time Tuan was separated from Gordon as he got angry with Gordon tried to stop him making Amy. Tuan couldn't understand why all the others were not with him but is happy that everyone is re-united now. He has recently become much more confident as he has taken charge of his territory and family.

RORO - She didn't take long to get over missing her baby. RoRo sticks to herself and is most often seen with Tuan. The two have been spending much time together that it is possible that RoRo is already pregnant again.

AMY - She still doesn't really like Tuan but allows him to make her from time to time. Amy is only ever close to Gordon whom she grooms from time to time. We are still monitoring Amy's weight but she is looking pretty fit now.

GORDON - He is now living with all the others, all the time, but still takes a wide berth around Tuan. Gordon is at the stage in his life when he is making the transition from childhood to adolescence and when he is feeling like a baby he heads straight for Amy. Gordon still loves playing with everyone, but it has become less physical, and his hair is now getting quite bushy.

HSIAO-QUAI - Tuan is her hero and she loves him. Hsiao-Quai is always busy sorting things out, such as the bedding, the food, toys, branches, and the others! She is a real organiser.

LUCKY - She is starting to mature and her character is developing. Lucky is having more fun now and seems to be appreciative of her stable home and family.

HSIAO-LAN - Since arriving at the park she has grown a lot. Hsiao-Lan is not a trusting individual and is sceptical of everyone, human or orangutan, at all times. She is very active, like RoRo, and is often seen striding around the enclosure.

**CAPUCHINS**

Tom - He has only lost all his excess weight and he looks a bit saggy. Tom is over nine on a normal diet again. He is a very kind puppy and has become very close to TJ.

JERRY - He does not like TJ so much, probably because TJ is so much younger and less around. Jerry is a lot of a grumpy old man but very kind.

TERRI - She is a very happy individual who, like Jerry, didn't like TJ either. Terr seems to have got over this problem and is now happy to have TJ around. She likes nothing better than sitting in the sun outside.

Tu - He is growing up both mentally and physically. TJ has settled down a lot since his arrival at the park and loves spending all his time with Tom.

**RING-TAILS**

We currently have 20 ring-tailed lemurs, 13 males and 7 females. At present all of the females are on birth control as the group is so large that it continued to expand, it might fragment into separate groups. So for the time being we have stopped breeding and we also separated the ladies from the males during the breeding season to avoid aggression amongst the group.

**GIBBONS**

SIAMANG - The siamang family is getting along very well together. At three years old, baby Onion is almost full-grown and has been singing with his parents. His father Sam has a vasectomy so that there are no more babies as it is not easy to find good homes for them.

GOLDEN-CHEEKED - We have five golden-cheeked gibbons at the moment but we are busy trying to make arrangements for some makes to come to the park to pair with our ladies. The females Zoey and Peanut still have a mother/daughter relationship but Peanut is growing up and needs a bit of time on her own now and again. Alex and Pung-Yo have a close mother/son relationship. They are together in evenings and at night but during the day Pung-Yo is let through to play with Paul, the agile gibbon. While Pung-Yo is off during the day, Alex is left through to Vette. The two ladies enjoy each other company and spend most of their time sitting together, sometimes grooming.

MUELLERS - Fox and Nini are great together and are seen playing from time to time. Nini has grown a lot since he arrived at the park and he enjoys calling most every morning. Fox is an indoor person and cannot take his eyes off the adoring public. Adidas and Dallume are a very tight knit pair and do lots of time together playing and grooming. Adidas has finally got the idea about mating.

AGILE - Paul clearly missed Puma when she was put to sleep but he is doing well with lots of attention from the keepers. He also spends his days with Pung-Yo playing and he will of course be looking for a mate for him.

LAR - The family group, of Ella, Mike and Kitty are doing well together. Mike loves being with her two ladies and even with a huge diet, he remains slim. Ella had medical problems, with broken teeth and a piece of wire trapped in her hip, but the vet and dentist have repaired all the damage from her previous life. At three groom each other even though Kitty is closer to Ella than Nini.

**SQUIRREL MONKEYS**

We have eight squirrel monkeys, many of which are getting quite old now. There are a few youngsters in the group but we have put them on birth control as they are related to the dominant male Joey. The whole group loves spending most of their time outside catching insects in their beautiful enclosure.

**WOOLLY MONKEYS**

We now have two groups of woolly monkeys in the park. There have been many changes in our existing group and we have swapped individuals with other wildlife parks. In our original group we have a new male coming from Holland named Mendez, and he will be in charge of the four females, Xuxy, Milagra, Willy, and Chica. This group will soon have a separate outdoor enclosure in the coming weeks. We have a second group of woolly monkeys at the park that have just been moved to the third playroom in the stump-tail building. The group of four really enjoy their new home and love flying through the high climbing frames and ropes. The dominant male is called Levar and he is with three females named Lorna, Kuna and Variana.

**BARRABY MAQUACES AND RUFFED LEMURS**

Both of these groups have only two individuals remaining, May and June, the barbary macaques, are now sharing their house and enclosure with Blue and Inky, the ruffed lemurs. The two groups have been introduced together and while they are not socialising, they appear to accept each other's company. We want the two groups to go together so that no one individual is left alone when anyone passes away.
Thailand Update

Some of you may have seen reports about Monkey World’s undercover investigation of orangutans that are being used in the entertainment industry in Thailand. We first revealed some of our findings last year but this information was part of an ongoing investigation. After two and a half years of investigation of wildlife markets and wildlife parks in Thailand, Jim and Alison Cronin are meeting with and presenting their findings to the First Secretary of the Thai Embassy in London. At Safari World the Cronin’s were shocked to see young orangutans dressed up and forced to perform a Thai boxing match yet the greater concern was where the park had acquired so many young orangutans? Jim and Alison were able to identify that the amusement park had up to 40 orangutans yet reports from local papers are now indicating that 116 babies have been found at the park. Monkey World will be calling on the authorities to confiscate and re-home the illegal orangutan babies.

Please help us in our campaign to stop this barbaric illegal trade which will contribute to the extinction of orangutans in the wild. Please write to:

The Ambassador
The Thai Embassy
29 - 30 Queens Gate
London, W1X 7DX

LET HIM KNOW THAT:

1. You were shocked to find out that orangutans, and other wild animals, are being smuggled into his country illegally;
2. That you demand that Thai authorities prosecute smugglers and confiscate illegal animals;
3. And that you support Monkey World’s campaign and that you will not travel in their country until you know that something is being done about the illegal wildlife trade.

Please send us a copy of your letter and any response that you receive. Please help us to help the orangutans.

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 been making arrangements for another female orangutan to come to the park from Pingtung Rescue Centre. Her name is A-mei and she will be joining Tuan’s group while final touches are just being made on the first part of the new orangutan complex. It will house two adult males and two pairs of gibbons so we are planning to bring the males in sometime during the spring. The new complex would be a state of the art ape building, covering 8-acres, will have several buildings, and will be developed bit by bit.

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. Any type of melon is particularly good as all the monkeys and apes love them and they are not too fattening! The primates also need vitamins and minerals such as Primrose Oil, chewable Vitamin C, and Acidophilus. We can also use thick ropes and heavy-duty dog toys. At the moment we are particularly low on either heavy “feeding balls” or “kong” toys. The keepers fill them with food that the monkeys and apes then have to work for to get the hidden treats.

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

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

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