Kuki Makes it to Monkey World!

In the summer of 1999 Jim Croce had gone on a fact-finding mission to Bodrum, Turkey following several reports of a young Kuki that had been seen singing on a private boat. After days of searching Jim finally found the chimpanzee and, by chance, had an impromptu photo shoot while shopping downtown with the chimpanzee and her handler. Jim was able to find out that the chimpanzee’s name was Kuki and that she belonged to a wealthy businessman who used her to take tourists on a disused cruise ship to entertain tourists at night.

At this point however, nothing could be done for Kuki as evidence had to be collected and documented before Monkey World could approach the Turkish authorities to see if anything could be done about the chimpanzee. This would take time, so a heart broken Jim returned to Britain with nothing but photographs and videos of the chimpanzee he wanted to rescue.

Not long after Jim’s return disaster struck Turkey. On August 17th 1999 a massive earthquake hit western Turkey killing an estimated 18,000 people. Jim and the Chimpanzee’s home was hit by the disaster. Jim Croce at the moment when Jim was last seen.

Me and the Chimpanzees in Bodrum.

Kuki was 6 years old and weighed more than 30kg. She would need to have an anaesthetic in order to get her to Bodrum and then have her transferred to Monkey World.

After being airlifted into Bodrum and then taken to the hospital to be treated, Kuki was able to travel and eventually arrived in Turkey for Monkey World.

Kuki was not a happy chimpanzee and had never been with other chimps since the day she was found by her mother in Africa seven years ago. Kuki was very nervous and the interactions with would have to go slowly.

The following day or so we decided that she should meet the first of her new family and we picked Valerie as she is a female that is a similar size and age to Kuki. Everyone was surprised at the ease with which Kuki lived at the lodge and a dominant display that Valerie entered an adjoining room. Valerie was shocked and terrified by the aggressive newcomer and whimpered to Jeremy indicating that she was not sure what to do.

There were no prior interactions between them and everyone was afraid that the chimpanzee’s name was Zeynep and that she was owned by a wealthy young man that enjoyed the zoo in Bodrum.

The question was what Zeynep was doing on the boat and would he want to give her up?

It took several days to move Zeynep to her new home.

Alison first contacted Zeynep’s owner with the assistance of a Dutch partner who was the one that gave her the newspaper article about the chimps and was able to find out that Zeynep had been put on the boat as she was going to be sent to the UK.

Alison had been informed that the boat was being kept in a cage at her house. At this time Zeynep’s owner was very upset and did not care about giving her up as she thought that she might eventually calm down... but this was not going to happen.

After several weeks a British exporter had received a police report about the illegal export of chimps and a phone call from Zeynep’s owner indicated he had received a package from Bodrum.

He said that he had received a package from Bodrum and that it contained two chimps. Zeynep had been exported to the UK.

After several months Zeynep had been exported to the UK. When the owner had been informed that Zeynep had been exported to the UK he had been told that she would be put on a plane to the UK.

At this point the owner was not interested in selling the chimps and refused to have them put on a plane. He said that he would never allow the chimps to be exported again.

With everything agreed the long journey process began.

On April 18th 1999 Jim, Alison, Jeremy, and John Lewis flew to Bodrum in order to organise moving Zeynep. Her journey was going to be as straight forward as possible.

On the boat from Bodrum to Istanbul they had no problem getting the chimps to the airport. Upon arrival at the airport the chimps were put on a flight to London. On arrival at the airport they were put on a plane to Bodrum...

Zeynep was eventually flown to the UK and her story was told in the press.

As Zeynep grew up she became difficult to keep and was not allowed to be seen in the public areas.

But to no avail.

The two settled down and spent the day together before we moved ahead with other introductions.

The next morning we began with Haran and we came through the door of an adjacent badroom. Zeynep looked at us and appeared very nervous. This was a totally different reaction than Kuki got — it would seem that Zeynep’s memory of Kuki was very fresh.

Zeynep was now in the care of the Turks and was not happy with them. She was kept in a cage and hardly ever seen.

The next day we decided to try the person a little more and get a better introduction. Gypsy, the chimpanzee, made a good choice as we were both friendly and usually did not dare anything.

Gypsy was let in with the Turkish ladies and while Zeynep did not want him to touch her, she was very much in love with him. After a couple of hours Zeynep seemed enough at ease that we let the chimps into one of the large playrooms. This gave the Zeynep the needed attention and was great fun to watch.

Over the following days (Sernach, Venerio, Eve, Arka, Jane, and even the budgies) the chimps became very affectionate with each other and would cuddle up to one another.

On May 7th, Zeynep and a small group of chimps they knew were outside for the first time. It was a beautiful sunny day and it was great to see them running and playing and being cared for.

The chimps were now in their new natural home.

The introductions to the group that had been going on very well. Everyone was now very happy and looking forward to the next few years. It was clear that the chimps were very happy and were doing well.

As for the Kenya group, they seemed a lot happier. It was clear that the chimps were very happy and were doing well.

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And A-Mei Makes Nine

Preparations for A-Mei’s transportation included a couple of jobs. First we wanted to make sure the box she was to be sent in was secure, with a viewing window so that even when the box was fully closed she could see out. Our next job was to ensure that A-Mei’s journey was as smooth as possible. However, I was not too concerned as I was a small adult orangutan, approximately 1 year old, that was living in a small cage before she came to the rescue centre. A-Mei had been smuggled into Taiwan illegally for the pet trade and was confiscated by Taiwanese officials from a private home. The second job was to make sure the transport box was large enough and that the orangutan could comfortably live in it. The box was attached to the side of her cage and the door was closed. A-Mei then travelled to London for the flight.

The day after A-Mei arrived at Monkey World we began her introductions to Gordon, Amy, and Lucky. We started with Gordon and while A-Mei was a bit unsure of her boisterous behaviour she quickly realised that he was no threat and simply wanted to play and have fun. A-Mei seemed quite amused by the new man in her life and slowly but surely joined in with his wrestling games. All went well and A-Mei and Lucky and A-Mei is now happily settled in her new life at Monkey World.

SE Asia to France to Monkey World

On March 28th 2004 Cathy Goslin, another Monkey World keeper, and I got off the Monkey World quarantine run to the south of France to pick up a gibbon being transferred to us. The 7-year-old male green-cheeked gibbon was being housed at a small zoo in Belgium and was coming to Monkey World to be paired with one of our females as part of theEEP European Endangered Species Breeding Programme.

To our surprise half way through our journey we were redirected to a site run zoo in Morbihan. While on our journey the French customs officers confiscated Tito from his owner, no one quite knew why but we were assured that all was well with Tito. We arrived in Morbihan at La Pencoures, the following day only to be told that we could not take Tito as he had no paper work and was under Customs jurisdiction. After several hours of phone calls, checking and re-checking of our documents, more phone calls, and a lot of the zoo’s director released and told us the whole story it was not only Tito who had arrived from Belgium because a lot of animals had arrived from Belgium and we were told to come the next day.

The next day we arrived at Monkey World and after making sure Tito was settled in his new house we left. The next couple of weeks were going to prove busy for us. We had no medical records or history for Tito so our first task was to give him a health check and we were able to travel with us to England the following day.

Once at the park, Goslin prepared for an immediate operation to remove the infected tissue at the stump of his tail. The operation took a couple of hours as the tail was so infected that several more vertebrae and the surrounding tissue had to be removed. This was a very delicate operation as allowed to have been. We had to ensure that Tito would leave the cleanly stitched area. Tito went well and over the following days he was monitored closely.

On March 10th, 2004, before his previous owners were left by his new owners, they had covered in spider webs and dusted off. We were shocked to find that for years Tito had been kept in a garden shed with little or any heat, leaving behind his parents and the garden shed was covered in spider webs and dusted off. We were shocked to find that for years Tito had been kept in a garden shed with little or any heat, leaving behind his parents.

Britain’s Legal Pet Trade Strikes Again

Most people know Monkey World for our international work rescuing and rehabilitating primates, however year after year we are called upon to rescue any number of marmosets, squirrel monkeys, and capuchin monkeys that are LEGALLY sold as pets in Britain.

Most people who purchase these sad primates do so unknowingly and do not realise that these social animals are not happy to live with others of their own kind, they have special nutritional needs, need outdoor and indoor areas, and that captivity, for example, can live up to 40 years. The problem is so large in Britain that since the beginning of 2004 we have received requests to rescue more than 25 marmosets, 5 capuchin, 2 saki monkeys, and 1 squirrel monkey. Monkey World rescues all that it can but we cannot keep up with this overwhelming task.

At the beginning of January, we were approached by a family who had kept a single male capuchin monkey at their home for the past 35 years. His name is Le Pepe and he was purchased from a London pet shop in 1968. At the time the family was not planning on getting a monkey but when they saw the terrible condition of this tiny baby monkey in the shop they were so distressed they purchased Pepe for £35. They were told by the shop that the monkey would live for 10 years but as the years passed by their children grew up and moved away the parents found themselves with deteriorating health and difficulties in caring for Pepe who was now at least 35 years old. Monkey World agreed to re-home the monkey generally assumed he did well meeting the others at the park.

A date was set to collect Pepe from his Westminster home in March but before that day arrived, Monkey World received an emergency call from a council officer in Ipswich who had been asked to inspect a premises in order to renew a licence to keep a capuchin monkey in a back garden. The monkey had been kept in a garden shed legally for a number of years but when the officer visited she was not happy with the housing conditions or with the health of the monkey. Goslin, the capuchin monkey, had picked and chewed at the end of his tail so much that he had removed three inches of his own tail and the stump was infected and angry. As it turned out Goslin used to be nice but over the past 35 years his owner had difficulty getting inside of the cage to clean it. As a result the cage was filthy and was probably the fifth that infected his skin and caused him to start chewing at his tail.

We were shocked by Goslin’s story and agreed to rescue him immediately. On March 12th Jim and Allison Crowther went to Ipswich to collect Goslin. We estimated he was 30 years old. They were shocked to find that for years Goslin had been kept in a garden shed with little or any heat, leaving behind his parents and the garden shed was covered in spider webs and dusted off. We were shocked to find that for years Tito had been kept in a garden shed with little or any heat, leaving behind his parents. We were shocked to find that for years Tito had been kept in a garden shed with little or any heat, leaving behind his parents.

The two old boys enjoyed an intense grooming session. Tito was happy to ignore them both. Since then Pepe has also met young Tito and the two of them are living together quite happily.

In the capuchin house, Goslin and Tom are slowly being introduced together. As healthy adults, males neither want to be dominated by each other nor do they spend up to a couple of hours together every day and it has been going well. In the end we are hopeful the two new capuchins will live together but in any event Monkey World will continue to rescue as many refugees from the British pet trade as possible.
Phenom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre, Cambodia

Many of you may be aware that over the past few years Monkey World and the Pingtung Rescue Centre in Taiwan have been working together to track the smuggling of endangered primates through SE Asia. Most of our work has been in Vietnam but as more and more tourists travel to SE Asia it was only a matter of time before we started receiving reports about primates that need our help. In Cambodia. Last summer we received such letters documenting what sounded like appalling conditions of some gibbons and other animals that were kept in "floating zoos" on the Ton Le Sap River. Jim and Alison wanted to investigate the floating zoos and also visit a friend of Jim’s that he had known while working at Howletts Zoo in Kent. Nick Marx was writing at Phenom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre (PTWRC) outside of Cambodia’s capital, Phnom Penh. The centre was established in 1995 and was set up to provide a home for wildlife animals confiscated by the Department of Forestry and Wildlife and those that were kept as pets but were no longer wanted. Today there are more than 500 animals of 70 different species at the centre.

Nick Marx, an animal husbandry specialist, along with Matt Hunt now run the centre and are doing an amazing job setting a high standard of care and welfare for the animals that arrive at the centre. It is not an easy job as the centre does not have enough financial support and there are new arrivals all the time. Many of animals that are brought to the centre, such as bears, bears and civcils, have horrific injuries from snares that have left them as amputees. Then there are the birds, hoof stock, elephants, tigers, small wild cats, and primates that all require special care. Of course Jim and Alison’s main interest was the primates and in particular the pilated and golden cheeked gibbons.

The report said that Monkey World had received documented what sounded like baby pilated gibbons that had been stolen from the wild for tourism exhibition at a floating zoo. While at Phenom Tamao Alison asked about the floating zoos and was happy to hear from Nick and Matt that only a couple of weeks earlier they had gone with government officials and raided these illegal "zoos". All the wild animals were confiscated and taken to their sanctuary and the baby gibbons were well and being rehabilitated with others of their own kind. Nick and Matt are also hoping to release some of the gibbons back to the wild. Of course this is a long-term project and one that will only be pursued if certain individuals are physically and mentally ready for release. The plan is to build intermediate accommodation enclosures in the forest and see how the gibbons adapt. It is likely that some will adapt while others will need to remain in the secure enclosures at the centre. All the staff at Phenom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre should be proud to be part of an organisation that is helping to save some of the world’s most endangered wild animals.

Letter from the editor

Sorry for the delay in getting this edition of the chronicle out to everyone, but things have been very busy at the park making arrangements for all for the new arrivals. In the past few months Monkey World staff have travelled to Vietnam, Taiwan, France, Turkey (two trips), and across Britain securing the future of many different primates. All the park’s primate care staff have been working extra hard ensuring that all the new arrivals have comfortable relaxing homes to move into. Then the introductions to their new families began. For some it has been a very easy transition, and for others it is going to take some time to learn more natural behaviour and to begin interacting with others of their own kind.

The help and assistance that we receive from many supporters has been wonderful. First we would like to thank all of those who have helped rescue some of our new arrivals. Every year we receive hundreds of reports, from around the world, of primates that might need our help. The chimpanzees Kuli and Zephyr are good examples. We try to help as many as we can and we always follow up on all sightings. Others have helped our rescue and rehabilitation work by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, seeds, bread, baby milk, vitamins, dog toys, blankets, sheets, towels, and gift certificates for supermarkets. Everything is used to improve the lives of the monkeys and apes. We have received generous donations and some have raised money through running races, cake sales, sponsored swims, school carnivals, quiz nights, stop smoking sponsors, ear boot sales, tea and cake sales, second-hand dress sales, and non uniform days. We also have received offers to sell in our shop. Donations instead of Christmas, birthday, wedding, or mother’s day presents, and left over foreign currency.

Special mention needs to be given to Nadine Smeekers of Chiquita Processed Fruit for donating more than 200 boxes of banana pance, Sandra Belichemars of the Cardiothoracic Centre in Liverpool for sending us surprise surgical equipment, Diane Hunter for finding the monkeys and apes a huge Winne the Pooh to raise, Boot Scooters Dance Club for their hard raising, The Fellowship of Animal Lovers who send us regular donations, PENNI Dymond and Robin Jeffery who were both sponsored for the London Marathon, Henny Can and Lisa Harding for a sponsored half marathon, Tara and Kyrkan O’Neill who made a brilliant sponsored word search for their class, Lynn Gallagher, Eleanor Richardson, Victoria O’Brien, who all did a sponsored swim, Mr. Lyon for giltin the priso for a nice ‘neighbour’ competition, and the Arnett Family who auctioned their son’s David’s monkey collection on eBay in his memory. You have all been a great help and it is appreciated.

On a sad note, many people who regularly visited the park or were adoptive parents have passed away. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of David Arnett, Cerine Ann Carter, Mr. Wilson, Carole Innocent, Doris Dimmock, Edward Lucas, Mrs. EM Tolsdon, Alan van Saillt, Sylvia Wedge, Georgina Biles, Dan Mabey, Deena Charles Watkins, Jaqueline violet Reavock, Mrs. MG Pelce, Yeva Pelce, and Claire Liss Safdield. They will all be greatly missed.

As summer approaches, it is great to see the monkeys and apes enjoying their outdoor enclosures and more and more. There is lots of sunbathing, insect catching, and grazing on the new plants that are springing up. And of course we have a few new arrivals other than those mentioned in the articles. Lorna and Levar the wooly monkeys have had a beautiful baby girl named Lena, marmosets Harry and Louis have had a second set of twins, and of course Hesio the orangutan is growing bigger and more adventurous every day. Every year we continue to improve the animal enclosures but it also nice to know that Monkey World has been recognised by North Dorsed Disability Action Group for our disabled facilities and provision of mobility scooters as well as being listed No. 6 on the 50 Best Spring Days Out in Britain by the Independent Newspaper. Thanks for your continued support.

SHOP TALK…SHOP TALK…SHOP TALK…

You may remember some of the life-like prints that artist, David Davies, has done of some of the monkeys and apes here at the park. There was Paddy the stump-tailed macaque, Charlie the chimp, the male orangutans, Ian and Gordon, and Eddie the baboon.

David has just completed a new limited edition print entitled “The Ladies”. It is a beautiful pencil drawing of our female orangutans (except for the most recent arrivals) including Amy, RoRo, Hesio II, Hesio-Quo, and Lucky.

Of course it would make a beautiful gift along side David’s drawing of Gordon and Tuan, our male orangutans. “The Ladies” will cost £56.00 plus £5.00 postage & packing in a limitted edition of 495, measuring 203mm x 311mm.

For further information please see our on-line shop or phone the office.
Naree Update

It has been months since Monkey World and Pingtung Rescue Centre highlighted the illegal trade in primates and other wild animals in Thailand. At one of the zoos, the team investigated 116 illegal orangutans were found when Thai officials raided the zoo. At another park, the team documented, government raids discovered 100 illegal tigers, two illegal orangutans, and two illegal chimpanzees. As a member of CITES (the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species), Thailand is now obligated to do one of two things with the illegal animals: they can return them to their country of origin or send them to a recognised rescue centre. While the Thai government has had representatives from Indonesia over to consider the future repatriation of the illegal orangutans, nothing has been done for the chimpanzees. In particular we are concerned about one of them named Naree.

You may remember that at Sriracha Tiger Zoo there was a female chimp that was forced to work in the “circus show” performing silly tricks. Her teeth had been knocked out, the gums had healed over the roots, and infection was now spreading up into her face and skull leaving her very deformed. Without specialist treatment it is likely that Naree will die a slow and horrible death. Monkey World has asked the Thai authorities to release Naree into our care, especially as she is already documented as illegal, but they will not. We have received a great deal of support from many people and adoption parents who have written letters to the Thai Embassy in London and we have also had campaigns to save Naree launched at 2CR radio and the Daily Echo.

We are still actively campaigning to rescue Naree and have several plans underway. PLEASE HELP by writing at least one letter, if not a couple! In order of priority write to:

1. John Seller, Senior Enforcement Officer, CITES, International Environment House, Chemin des Anémones, CH-1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland, email: john.sellar@unep.ch
2. Elliott Morley, Minister for Environment, DEFRA, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1A 3JP, Email: morleye@parliament.co.uk

Please tell them that:
- You are aware that many illegal animals were documented on a government raid of Sriracha Tiger Zoo, outside of Bangkok, Thailand
- As members of CITES, Thai authorities should be either repatriating the animals to their country of origin or they should send them to a recognised rescue centre such as Monkey World in Britain.
- This is not being done and that since the raid, the illegal primates at Sriracha (two orangutans and two chimpanzees) have been working three circus shows every day at the zoo.
- You know that there is going to be an International CITES conference in Bangkok in October and that Elliott Morley will be attending. You may want to ask how such a conference can go ahead when illegal apes such as Naree are performing, suffering, and dying within one hour of the conference centre.

Thank you for your help and please send us copies of your letters.

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. There are still a couple more individuals that we are hoping to bring to the park and of course improving and redecorating the animal enclosures is something that we do every year.

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 apes, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year.

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, bread, or red-cap baby formula (progress). Any type of meat is particularly good as all the monkeys and apes love them yet they are not too fattening! The primates also need supplements such as Milk Thistle Capsules. Some of the older individuals have poor liver function and this natural tonic can help improve liver function. 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 in order to get at the hidden treats.

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

Help us to help them.