

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It has been a busy summer with many developments and renewals occurring throughout the park. Every year we like to expand the monkey and ape climbing frames and this year has been no different. Hundreds of 10m+ telephone poles have been placed into the chimpanzee enclosures – especially in Hananya and Paddy’s enclosures. These two outside areas needed to be expanded as they are home to large chimp groups and they were in need of refurbishment. In addition to expanding the basic climbing frame we have also added high-rise shelters, huge pipes they can run through and over, long suspension bridges connecting towers, and we have resurfaced their shallow pools. The chimpanzees have been very excited about the changes and there have been two noticeable benefits: first they have become more active playing and exploring and secondly they seem more relaxed as there are so many different areas for sub-groups to break off and spend time out of sight of the others. Chimpanzees are volatile animals and in the wild their communities show fission/fusion. That is to say the super-group will fragment into smaller sub-groups during the day. This type of behaviour allows tensions to subside and the whole of the group gets along better. At Hananya’s house we have also gutted and re-done both indoor playrooms. The floors have been re-surfaced and sealed, the walls painted and protected with vandal-proof



paint, extractor fans put in to improve ventilation, and new climbing frames with recycled plastic lumber platforms secured into place. It has been hot and heavy work but it is great to see the group of 18 enjoying their new home.

At Monkey World we are always striving to create the most natural environments possible for our rescued primates. At the Macaque Rehabilitation Centre a big effort has been made to expand the bachelor boys climbing frame so that they continue to exercise and recover from their agoraphobia. In order to encourage the stumpies to use the new and expanded climbing frame, areas where food can be hidden as well as a variety of puzzle feeders have been incorporated into the design. Some may think that stump-tailed macaques are mostly a ground dwelling species, however, in Vietnam we always see the stump-tails travelling and foraging at mid-canopy level in the forest. They are good climbers and even our overweight lads are getting the hang of it!

Over the past few months, many people have helped with our rescue and rehabilitation work by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, herbs, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, garlic bulbs, rice cakes, bread, vitamins, dog toys, dog biscuits, blankets, sheets, towels, hessian sacks, un-used stamps, foreign currency, heavy duty baskets, plastic bottles, ropes, fire hoses, supermarket vouchers, and excellent photos they have taken at the park. As ever, we really appreciate everyone’s help and assistance and every item is used and enjoyed. We have received several generous donations and some have raised money by sponsored activities

such as walks or sponsored silences. Other fund raising activities included cake, drinks, toys, or book stalls, coffee mornings, donations instead of presents or parties, and the donation of hand made cards for our shop. Thank you all so much, your contributions are a big help. **Michael Atkins** and **Grant Bain** got sponsorship for marathons, **Lawrence Page** completed the Hastings 1/2 marathon, **Rebecca Spain** completed a triathlon, while **Karen Wade** completed the Tough Guy Course. Well done! Special thanks also should be given to **Vertigo Night Club, Spicer Driveshaft, Hang About Baskets, Riverside Hotel, Virgin Mobile Charity Team, and Healthspan** for donations of goods, services and finances. 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 **Robert Burns, Marjorie White, Audrey Pitman, Jim Fulford, Sheila Reynolds, Lee Leeo-Whitehead, Pauline Dunning, Rosemary Harris, Sylvia Charn, Jack Plumb, and Pat Neaves**. They will all be greatly missed.

After the last edition I received many letters about Julio, the tiny baby woolly monkey (Lagothrix lagotricha) I was caring for. Just to let everyone know, he is doing great and at 6 months old, weighing just 1.07kg, he is now spending his days with the other woolly monkeys even though he still comes home at night. Special thanks need to be given to Budapest Zoo and their staff for being so helpful with Koko’s move to Monkey World. It required a lot of time and effort on their part, especially as it was their 140th anniversary celebrations, but we were all working on Koko’s behalf. I hope that in the next issue of the Ape Rescue Chronicle I will be able to report about Brian’s successful journey from the beaches of Cancun, Mexico!

Olivia Cronin

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 - **NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED**. Monkey World is not a registered charity but we have just established a charity, EAST, to support our overseas rescue work (See page 5). We are just finalising the international paperwork and organising the details of how Brian will be transported to Monkey World. Brian is a young chimpanzee that was smuggled from the wild to be a beach photographer’s prop in Cancun, Mexico. He will be able to join our Nursery Group just as soon as he gets to the park and have the chimpanzee family he so desperately needs! And we have begun work on a monkey and ape hospital. The foundations have now been laid and the drainage put in so building works should move along swiftly now. We are now pricing all of the equipment that will be needed in the hospital such as x-ray facilities, microscopes, haematology machine, endoscope, ultra-sound, surgery table and lights... and the list goes on and on.

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, bread, strands of garlic, or chewable Vit. C tablets (60 mg). Any type of melon is good as all the monkeys and apes love them yet they are not too fattening! Our small monkeys need some small to medium sized baskets that



would be good for the squirrel monkeys and capuchins to nest inside but they need to be quite robust. We can also use more, sheets, blankets, and towels. The monkeys and apes simply love them and we can never have enough. Heavy-duty dog toys, hessian sacks, un-used stamps, and thick ropes are always used while “feeding balls” or “kong” toys keep the monkeys and apes busy trying to get the hidden treats from inside.

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. Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the primates and be remembered in our memorial garden. Help us to help them.

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APE RESCUE CHRONICLE



Issue: 33 Summer 2006 £1.00



DINDA & THE ORANGUTAN

NURSERY



On July 6th RoRo gave birth to her second baby at Monkey World. The labour progressed very quickly and before any special arrangements could be made, RoRo delivered the healthy baby girl in the outside enclosure during one of the Primate Care Staff's talks! You may recall that she was not a very good mother the first time around and that Hsiao-ning had to be looked after by the Primate Care Staff when mum swaddled the newborn in blankets and set the baby down. This time however, RoRo was an excellent mum, carefully holding the baby and keeping it close to her chest most of the time. The day of the birth we all waited anxiously to see if the baby would start suckling. By dusk, the infant still had not latched onto a nipple and RoRo did not show any signs of wanting to take her little girl indoors. The decision was made that Jeremy would create a small shelter around RoRo and give her plenty of bedding and blankets to bundle up. The weather conditions were very warm but nonetheless Jeremy decided that he too would tuck up along side RoRo and make sure all went well through the night!



to go inside where she was sedated and the baby removed. At 1.97 kg the infant was in good health, although a bit dehydrated, as she had not fed. We started the first feed with re-hydration fluid and then slowly moved onto diluted milk formula. RoRo did not seem too depressed and was re-united with the other adult female orangutans.

What became clear was that the baby was quite "lazy" and did not take the nipple unless it was placed in her mouth. The plan now was to feed the infant for a week, get her strong and enthusiastic about feeding, and try and give the infant to Hsiao-quai who had already proven herself to be an excellent mother with loads of milk. Hsiao-quai

was still caring for Kai but he is a very independent young man and we were confident that Hsiao-quai could easily handle both babies. July 12th was the big day. The infant was named Dinda, meaning 'darling' in Indonesian and it was her second

chance to have an orangutan mother. The introductions went well with Jeremy taking the tiny infant in with both Hsiao-quai and Kai. First of all we wanted to see what Kai's reaction would be to ensure he did not get jealous but he was gentle and caring with the new baby. Then Jeremy offered Dinda to Hsiao-quai whose maternal instincts were strong. She immediately took the baby, cradling her gently against her chest. After a few minutes Dinda began crying and rooting for the nipple. Finally the baby did latch on and took several big sucks before pulling away with a grimace on her face. It appeared she did not expect the different taste of the milk. After that the baby gave up, stopped rooting for the nipple, and just cried. We had to take Dinda back again.



Regardless of her initial difficulties, we are confident that Dinda will grow up being cared for by other orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). You may remember that Monkey World has been made the European crèche for orphaned orangutans. Already at the park are three-year-olds Aris and Hsiao-ning as well as the most recent arrival Joly who is a year old. They are all being cared for by adoptive mum A-Mei who is doing an excellent job. Not only does she carry babies, but she steps in if squabbles arise, and encourages the youngsters to play and be confident. During the next couple of months Mike Colbourne, as well as other members of the Primate Care Staff will care for Dinda, and she will start meeting the Orangutan Nursery group. No doubt A-Mei will adopt and carry her just like she has done with little Joly from Moscow Zoo.



By the next morning the baby still had not fed even though RoRo carried the baby in the proper position and was very attentive. At this point we made the decision to wait for 24 hours from the time of birth before the infant would have to be removed to be hydrated and fed. We all waited, desperately hoping that the baby would start feeding from her mother...sadly it was not to be. A full day after the birth, Jeremy gently encouraged RoRo



PEANUT, PUNG-YO, AND THEIR BEAUTIFUL BABY

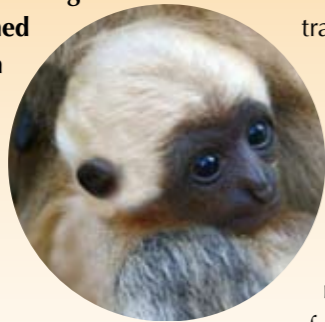
Currently at Monkey World there are four pairs of golden-cheeked gibbons (*Hylobates gabriellae*) – Zoey and Rafael, Alex and Jake, Vietta and Tito, and Peanut and Pung-Yo. This species is part of an international breeding programme and as such we had expected that one of the two most mature pairs would be the first to give birth at the park. At the beginning of July we all began to wonder when Peanut, our youngest female, started looking particularly plump and seemed more sedate and grumpy than usual. Sure enough, on July 18th the Care Staff's suspicions were confirmed when they spotted the tiny infant first thing in the morning clinging tightly to Peanut's fur.

Best of all, Peanut has turned out to be an excellent mother. Knowing how to be a good mum is not a straightforward process – part of it is instinct and part of it is learned behaviour. In the wild young gibbons will stay with their mothers and fathers long enough to see their younger sibling(s) being cared for. These early memories will have a significant impact as to whether or not a female becomes a good mother or not. However, maternal instinct also has an impact upon parenting skills and this is why Peanut has turned out to be an excellent mum. When Peanut was a baby, her mother was shot and killed by poachers who took her as a tiny baby and smuggled her to the illegal wildlife markets of Bangkok. In Thailand, Peanut was purchased by a bird smuggler and illegally transported back to Britain to be an exotic pet

for the smuggler's wife. The bird dealer was finally caught and when UK Customs raided the house they found more than 100 illegal birds of prey, several slow loris (*Nycticebus coucang*), and the golden-cheeked gibbon Peanut.

Pung-Yo, the new father, had an equally tragic background when he was smuggled from the wild as part of the exotic pet trade in Taiwan. Jim and Alison Cronin were at Pingtung Rescue Centre in 2000 when Pung-Yo was seized from a boat carrying all kinds of illegal wildlife in Kaoshiung Harbour. He is still a very immature male, preferring to spend most of his time playing silly games, but clearly there is a more serious side to him as well! Pung-Yo has settled into his new role as father very well and has been seen gently grooming the infant's head.

Peanut keeps the infant tucked up close to her chest at all times making sure it stays warm and has regular feeds. At two months old the baby has started to reach out and touch things and has started to make little calls when mum and dad sing or when it is their feeding time. Although the baby's sex is unknown the Primate Care Staff think it is boy and have named him Tien after the National Park in Vietnam where his parents may have been poached from and where Monkey World is beginning a new project for the protection of golden-cheeked gibbons.



GO E.A.S.T!

Monkey World has been working in Vietnam since 2001 when, together with our colleagues from the Pingtung Rescue Centre in Taiwan, we started tracking the illegal trade in golden-cheeked gibbons (*Hylobates gabriellae*) out of southern Vietnam. Since this time we have confiscated and rescued smuggled golden-cheeked gibbons in Taiwan, Britain, the Russian Federation, and France. It is our goal to stop this illegal trade BEFORE this species is in terminal decline in the wild and the best way to do that is to assist the authorities in Vietnam to catch the smugglers and seize the gibbons prior to them being smuggled out of the country.



On July 5th Monkey World and Pingtung Rescue Centre signed an agreement with Cat Tien National Park that brings our three organisations together to establish wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and education facilities on Tien Island. Tien Island is 57 ha and lies at the entrance of Cat Tien National Park on the Dong Nai River. This is a long-term project and the first phase is the development of an Endangered Primate Rescue Centre that will be able to house confiscation golden-cheeked gibbons and black-shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix nigripes*) while they are accessed, treated, and prepared for release. The agreement is the first of its kind in Vietnam to be approved at Ministerial level. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) approved the agreement and Dr Le Van Minh, Director General of International Co-operation, MARD came from Hanoi to attend the signing ceremony.

It is a very exciting time for Monkey World as this will be our first insitu project. In order to help support this and other conservation work in Southeast Asia, a charity has been set up. **The Endangered Asian Species Trust or EAST (Charity No. 1115350)** was approved in July and will support wildlife rescue and rehabilitation as well as academic studies. EAST is in its infancy but has big plans for the future of wildlife conservation in Asia. If you would like more information about Tien Island and/or EAST please contact Monkey World.



Hungarian Koko



During the spring of 2006 Monkey World received a report of a chimpanzee being kept in a pet shop in Budapest, Hungary. As it happened a Hungarian member of our Primate Care Staff, Rita Takacs, was just on her way home for holidays and offered to check up on the report. It turned out that the “chimpanzee” was actually a female stump-tailed macaque named Koko. Koko had lived in a small cage in the shop for the past 20 years after being smuggled from the wild in Vietnam. The conditions were not good for Koko with the cage too small, no outdoor enclosure, and no companionship of her own kind. In any event the owners of the shop loved Koko and wanted to do the right thing for her.

Monkey World approached the Hungarian authorities who take a very strong position in enforcing the laws to prevent the illegal smuggling of wild animals into their country. They knew about Koko but could not find a zoo that was willing to take the anti-social, aging macaque. Of course Monkey World was the perfect solution with our award winning Macaque Rehabilitation Centre and the three geriatric stump-tails, Gerald, Roland, and Erika who had been rescued from a British laboratory. All parties agreed that it would be best for Koko to be re-homed at Monkey World – including her previous owners.

With an agreement in place, Jim and Alison Cronin, along with Rita, flew to Budapest to have meetings with government authorities, to make contact with Budapest Zoo who offered their help with paperwork, veterinary support, and anything else we may need, and most importantly to meet Koko and her owners. On August 9th the team went to the shop and saw Koko for the first time. She was quite relaxed and even greeted Jim when he ‘lip-smacked’ hello to her. The two seemed to hit it off until their eyes happened to make direct contact, a standard macaque threat! Koko let out a loud bark and shook her cage to let Jim know that she meant business. It was good to see that she still had some instinctual macaque behaviour.



Koko’s travelling box had been sent ahead so that she could get used to it and the plan was to return to Dorset with her on August 10th. As it happened the morning of the 10th, London Heathrow was shut due to a terrorist threat so Koko and the team would have to wait one more day for the big move. On the 11th everything was back on schedule and that evening Koko arrived at Monkey World. Being severely overweight and having never left the shop in 20 years we were a bit concerned how Koko would make the journey but typical macaque style she was hard as nails and seemed to enjoy the change of scenery.

Koko’s first day at the park was a fresh start with a new healthy diet to start her weight loss programme, medical attention to treat a rash under the folds of fat on her stomach, and breath of fresh air wandering free in a natural enclosure. After a week of treating her skin rash it was time to start introduction to her new family at the park. Elderly male Gerald was let through into the back bedrooms to see what he would think of the new arrival. Just like with Jim, Koko greeted Gerald with lip-smacks and even turned around and presented her bum (a submissive gesture). The first meeting went well until Gerald went too far and picked up a sunflower seed. Koko was enraged that he would take any of her food and promptly shouted at him. It was not a serious disagreement so in the following days we moved Koko to the large playroom where the introductions could continue with more space. Since August 29th Koko has been living full time in the playroom with Gerald and May, our remaining Barbary macaque. Over the next week or so she will also meet the other two elderly stump-tails, Roland and Erika. It has been more than 20 years since a young stump-tail macaque was stolen from her family and the forests of Vietnam but finally Koko has been given some of that natural life back again.

ILLEGAL APES LANGUISH IN THAILAND

In the last edition of the Ape Rescue Chronicle there was an update on Naree, the chimpanzee in Thailand that needs urgent medical care. Her story has now moved on, but not for the better. In a bid to encourage the development of a new safari park, the Thai authorities have sent Naree and five of the 53 orangutans from Safari World that were meant to be repatriated to Indonesia, to Chiang Mai Night Safari Park in Northern Thailand. Leaked documents indicate that Chiang Mai Night Safari is intending to export Naree and other illegal wild animals to Guangzhou Panyu Xiangjiang Safari Park in China in exchange for rare Chinese species. We are very concerned for Naree’s health and welfare and are trying to stop the transfer to China. Indeed it is unlikely that the Chinese even realise that they are about to be sent an animal that has severe medical problems. It would appear that this is the latest attempt by Thai authorities to make Naree disappear.

Meanwhile, five of the illegal orangutans from Safari World that Monkey World uncovered in 2003 are now being used as photo props with tourists at Chiang Mai Night Safari. It has now been over three months since the Department of National Parks in Thailand promised to send back 53 illegal orangutans to Indonesia and over the last three years 41 illegal orangutans have either died or disappeared in Thailand. When will CITES, the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species that is based in Switzerland, demand that Thailand stop the illegal trade in apes in their country or face international sanctions?!!

This information has come from our colleague **Edwin Wiek of Wildlife Friends of Thailand (www.wfft.org)**. Edwin continues to follow the case and make public the developments in both Naree and the orangutan’s case.

