LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We have been incredibly busy over the past few months!! Preparing for the largest rescue operation in our history kept everyone focused over winter and spring. But the hard work and dedication has paid off and all 94 capuchin monkeys at Monkey World are fit and living more natural lives. It is amazing to see how active and happy they look. For their incredible assistance in making the impossible, possible, I want to send my sincere thanks to everyone in the Commando Sr.Manuel Zuñiga, General of Area Brigade A, Sr. Hugo Tilly Ebensperger, Colonel of Logistic Operations Director: Maj. Jez Hermer MBE  Design: David Dancey-Wood and David Lewis

Operations Director: Maj. Jez Hermer MBE  Design: David Dancey-Wood and David Lewis

and the crew, Alex Schaufler, Carlos

Tabibo, Alex Mejias, Rodrigo Carreloa, Carlos Pacheco, Alfredo Albornoz, Julio Salazar, Jose Mora, Arnoldo Ortiz, Hector Flores, Nolberto Ronno, Vladimir Lopez, were very helpful and went out of their way to help me and Jeremy make the long flight as comfortable as possible for all the monkeys. We hope that someday they will all come and visit and see how well the monkeys are doing – the ones they helped rescue. The ground crew at Bournemouth Airport also deserve a special mention for assisting us in this most unusual job. They made sure that Monkey World had as many staff on the tarmac as needed and that all of our quarantine vehicles were well positioned and ready to go when the Hercules landed. The Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) also assisted and handled all the paperwork so that we could land at Bournemouth to keep the travelling time to a minimum for the welfare of the monkeys.

Over the past few months many people have helped with our rescue and rehabilitation work by donating goods such as herbs, flowering plants, fruit, vegetables, nuts, dried fruit, seeds, garlic, honey, bread, vitamins, dog biscuits, blankets, sheets, tower, hessian sacks, ropes, large cardboard tubes, baskets, unused stamps, supermarket vouchers, and handmade cards to be sold in the shop. We also receive many excellent photos that adoptive parents and/or visitors take at the park and send to us to use. We have gratefully received several donations and some have raised money by organizing collection tins, boot sales, dress down days at work, and sponsored cycle rides or silences.

All of your donations are put to use – thank you so much.

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 (the Endangered Asian Species Trust, Charity No.1115350) and we have now applied for charitable status for the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund (JCMF).

Please help us to continue our rescue and rehabilitation work and to keep Jim’s memory alive. We are also continuing our efforts to raise money for a digital x-ray machine for our hospital and we are trying to find a large (10ft span or more) poly-tunnel or green house. We want to start propagating climbing plants and herbs for our hospital and we have now applied for charitable status for the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund (JCMF).

Please help us to continue our rescue and rehabilitation work and to keep Jim’s memory alive. We are also continuing our efforts to raise money for a digital x-ray machine for our hospital and we are trying to find a large (10ft span or more) poly-tunnel or greenhouse. We want to start propagating climbing plants and herbs for the monkeys and apes but have no place to get the seedlings going. Please help us to help them.

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, bread, strands of garlic, or chewable Vit. C tablets (lower dose i.e. 60 mg). We are in particular need of cod-liver oil and evening primrose oil capsules. Any type of melon is also good as all the monkeys and apes love them yet they are not too fattening!

Our small monkeys love small to medium sized baskets and they would be good for the squirrels, monkeys, capuchins, and marmosets to nest inside but they need to be quite robust. We can also use 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.

At the end of last year we broke ground on our Endangered Primate Rescue Centre in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. It is a small rescue, rehabilitation, and release centre on a 6ha. island at the entrance to Cat Tien National Park in Southern Vietnam. This centre is the first inside project for Monkey World – it is to say a project in the habitat where the primates come from. It is our hope that the centre will provide the Vietnamese authorities with a place that they can take confiscated golden-cheeked gibbons and black-shanked douc langurs where they can be treated and assessed for release back into the wild. Some gibbons have already been confiscated and are now in holding cages waiting for their new homes on the island to be ready! We expect that the centre will be ready to open the first week in July. So much has already happened in 2008, the rest of the year promises to be an exciting time for Monkey World!

How we are helping: We are able to help the 94 capuchin monkeys at Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre by providing them with the right foods and care. We have been able to provide them with fresh fruit, vegetables, nuts, dried fruit, seeds, garlic, honey, bread, vitamins, dog biscuits, blankets, sheets, tower, hessian sacks, ropes, large cardboard tubes, baskets, unused stamps, supermarket vouchers, and handmade cards to be sold in the shop.
Monkey World had been planning this rescue for more than a year and when the day finally arrived the team were forced to transport all 88 monkeys at once as the lab had issued an ultimatum – take as many monkeys as you can and the remainder would be put down. It was an impossible task to choose which individuals should come to the park and which should be left to meet their fate. The biggest problem to overcome; where would 88 anti-social monkeys go when they first arrived at Monkey World!?

Alison and Jeremy had to move quickly and with the support of the entire Monkey World team a new building was constructed in place of one of the old capuchin houses. “The Lodge” was specially designed to meet the needs of the individual and potentially crazy monkeys that may also arrive with an array of physical disabilities. A large playroom, in front of 20 individual back bedrooms, linked by a maze of connecting tunnels would give the individual monkeys the best chance of rehabilitation.

The building went up quickly and then the team turned their attentions to modifying the old donkey barns to make a large playroom connected to 10 bedrooms and two large outdoor enclosures. That made housing for three groups possible but would the 88 monkeys, plus the four already at the park, come together in ONLY 3 groups?!

We arrived at the park late in the afternoon so all the monkeys were unloaded into our veterinary hospital, where the boxes were uncovered and the monkeys checked, fed, and watered. With geriatric individuals, many who had never been out of the lab in their lives, and others that were severely psychologically disturbed, we honestly did not think or assume that all 88 capuchins would survive the long journey, but they did! Once everyone was unloaded the cacophony in the vet hospital was incredible – all chattering away, happy and excited looking around, having a lovely fresh dinner, and taking their new surroundings in. All the Primate Care Staff were on hand to welcome the arrival of the largest rescue of monkeys in the world. We were all excited and apprehensive. The incredible long journey to freedom for these 88 monkeys had only just begun. The following day the serious business of putting them all into social groups was to begin and that was a daunting prospect.
The Ladies

by Claudia Perryman

The ladies ranged in age from 2-26 years so we were hopeful that the older ladies would take the younger individuals under their ‘wings’ while at the same time keeping the middle-aged ladies under control. On the first morning after their long journey, 53 females were taken to the new Capuchin Lodge. We decided the best way to approach the introductions was to let as many out into the new playroom, as possible, in one go before any cliques started. Several of the smaller cages were put into the large playroom and the door opened allowing them to leave the cages for the first time ever. Some of the females came out slowly and seemed overwhelmed, while others seemed more confident. One young female, Digit, was reluctant to leave the only home she had known, even shouting at anyone who tried to enter her space, but she finally became brave and came out. The next day the remaining females were introduced to the group at the Lodge. Initially everyone was just running round but within a few days the first friendships started to form.

Two individuals yet to join this group were Terri, the ex-pet that had been a resident at Monkey World in the UK, and Phoebe, from the pet trade. From the pet trade have severe physiological problems, both ankles were the same and even her wrists were bent and she was walking on her forearms. Femke, the vet, checked her over and could only put her odd gait down to sore soles on her hands and feet. Veronica palms were not touched by a bite of wondering freely, but thin and soft from living in the small indoor cage. We gave her a little pain relief and the next morning to our relief she was walking normally again.

Over the next few weeks we had many individuals with sore feet, carrying a limp, or sometimes we found small cuts, but usually just sore skin and joints from the increased activity and exploring. The extra space and resulting exercise lead to weight loss for most individuals. Many of the capuchins arrived on the tubby side, but we soon noticed that the weight was falling off. We started on a feeding mission to get more carbohydrates and proteins. The amount of food the 94 capuchins were eating was a lot, but to guarantee everyone got their fill, we made sure that too much food was provided in order to ensure that even the quietest individuals had ample access to food. Scarlett, one of the dark females lost a lot of weight and remained quite thin. All the social hierarchy began to develop, there was lots of grooming and lots of hair was being removed. Now we had skinny, hairless capuchins to worry about! Each day we kept our mission, until it finally became apparent that all the extra feeding was working, the weight loss had stopped, and some were starting to put weight back on.

The social hierarchy was already forming. Now that all 68 ladies were together in one house, the next stage was working out who was who! At the lab all the capuchins were given tattoos on the inside of their thighs so using clicker training we asked the monkeys to present their tattoo for confirmation and in exchange they got a small food reward. Once we got to know their characters and faces the Primate Care Staff started naming the 68 new ladies. For example, the very blonde female became known as Debbie (as in the band “Blonde”) and a dark individual with a huge black crest was christened Amy (as in Amy Winehouse).

After a week or so the females were given access to an outdoor enclosure at the Lodge with branches, platforms, and rubber hoses. We hoped to stimulate many natural behaviours in the new outdoor environment. Perhaps more important was the fact that these wild animals were able to experience fresh air, wind, rain and sun for the first time in their lives. Simple enrichment items such as plastic bottles and cardboard boxes with treats inside were given, and it did not take long for the monkeys to figure out the new feeding activities. Puzzle-feeders have also been fixed in the enclosure to encourage natural capuchin characteristics. It did not take long for the monkeys to explore the new space, until the door opened in their minds. One by one we would suddenly see them elsewhere, they were becoming free. Everyone except Veronica. Even with Jeremy gently encouraging her, she fiercely resisted moving into the next room. She wanted to remain in the same one room, round and round. She happily stopped her repetitive behaviour for a drink or treat from the Primate Care Staff, but as soon as the attention stopped she started again. After a month of solitary confinement in a small cage. One evening we saw Veronica in the same room, but she was walking club footed, we were concerned that she had seriously damaged her ankles. Watching a bit longer we saw that she was walking normally again.

The super group of 68 stayed together as one group while at the Lodge. It was decided that all the ladies had more space at the ‘Macaque Rehabilitation Centre’ (see ‘Cappy Swap’). Once the ladies were given two large playrooms, two outside enclosures, and 20 bedrooms they decided to make divisions themselves. In one playroom all the girls had dark hair while in the other playroom there was a dominance of brown individuals. We were surprised that monkeys, who lived in solitary confinement almost all of their lives, were so able to recognise and be drawn to others of their own subspecies. Perhaps we shouldn’t have been surprised however, as we too could see the differences: the dark ladies being much tougher and forming gangs more, while the lighter ones have a stronger culture for onion and chili. For rubbing, so in four months we have managed the impossible – 68 anti-social female capuchins all living in two social groups and developing more natural behaviours every day. It is great to see.

Out of the 88 capuchin monkeys rescued from the laboratory, 66 of them were female, and of the 66, 29 of the ladies had been caught in the wild from Argentina, Brazil, or Peru. It was a daunting task to undertake but our mission was to rehabilitate the 66, along with two of our own ladies, Terri and Phoebe, from the UK pet trade.

The Ups & Downs

by Marina Kenyon

Our original worries and expectations of our capuchin adventures very soon proved to be much easier and less traumatic than expected. The sheer numbers and unknown physiological wellbeing of our new guests lead us to be ready for WWII!!! In fact our lives were made allot easier by more passive reactions than we could have hoped for.

The girls had all been placed in the lodge, but we expected the group to splinter and individuals to move off into smaller groups. The boys were placed in the much larger stump-tailed macaque house, as we thought they would need more space in order to get along together. But, the females in the lodge were buzzing! Everywhere you looked there were capuchins, meaning there was nowhere for someone to sit quietly. We realised with the larger group of 68 ladies that our group of 25 males were more suited to The Lodge and the girls to the much much larger stump-tailed macaque house... so yes, we had it the wrong way round!

We knew it would be best if all animals were moved on one day to keep new friendships intact. So… we did it!!! An early start and careful planning lead to a very smooth operation of boxing and moving 93 people to different homes (only 93!) as did not need to move. Pickford’s would have been proud! Our mission was a complete success and our “cappies” seem more than content with the results.
The New Boys in Town
by Hannah George

Of the 88 capuchins, 22 were male. The first stage of the introductions was to take the seven youngsters and a handful of the older, quieter boys to their new home in the Macaque Rehabilitation Centre.

I remember Ercio, formally known as 123, he seemed sordid hiding in the bottom of his cage. He has now become a tearaway, running amuck within everyone in the group. The youngsters, Fabion, Franco, Philippe, Logan, Ercio, Donny and William went together without a hitch with their playful non-aggressive temperament.

The first group of adult males was Gorilon, Garbonzo, Diez and Sunny. At 30 years old, Gorilon has become the boss. He has a gentle heart, has greeted all new arrivals kindly, and is excellent with the kids.

The adult introductions progressed so well that we felt comfortable bringing four more individuals into the house: Tom, Branco, Togo and Bruce. Again their interactions with each other were positive and non confrontational, with nine adult males together and seven youngsters together, over a two day period. We felt the third stage was to let the kids join. We suspected the youngsters would add a playful distraction to the adult male’s activities, and this was the case. Witnessing these animals interact with each other for the first time is something that will never forget. There were moments of complete confusion, nervousness and joy as the rough and tumble bachelor attitudes developed.

Tom, TJ & Gizmo
by Hannah George

TJ always has been a strong character, and during the introductions with the new boys, this became even more apparent.

TJ continued to have behavioural issues with several of the youngsters, especially when he was at Tom’s side, so we decided to pause for a rethink and a break for the monkeys. TJ continued to have behavioural issues with several of the youngsters, especially when he was at Tom’s side, so we decided to pause for a rethink and a break for the monkeys.

Tom and Gizmo are beginning to settle in with their new housemates too. Tom, as we all suspected, took it in his stride (while eating). With his relaxed attitude to life Tom has had many grooming sessions with new members of the group and is happy with the new kids going on, although sometimes looks mentally exhausted from the increased complexity of life. Gizmo, being a more complex and detailed chimp, has taken a little longer.

We have all paid close attention to his interaction within the group making sure he has had ample space and time he needs. Slowly but surely Gizmo is befriending individuals such as Orson, Fabian and Franco, with chasing play sessions around cardboard boxes to long sunny grooming sessions on the ledge.

In the Wild

Capuchins in the wild have one of the widest distributions of any new world primate through Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia the Guiana’s and Brazil, to Southern Paraguay and Northern Argentina, living in primary and secondary rainforests to semi deciduous lowland and montane habitats.

In the wild capuchins are threatened by habitat loss, with large areas of forest lost to ranches, or broken up into fragments, which animals can not travel between or escape hunting. Capuchins are also hunted for meat. Indigenous people, especially if they live far from rivers and are unable to fish, hunt monkeys for an important source of protein, with infants taken as pets, locally and for the international pet trade, which unfortunately still includes the UK. Capuchins have also been taken from the wild to be experimented on in laboratories for immunology, reproductive biology, neurosciences and pharmacological studies. Capuchins, living up to 40 years, can spend all this time in solitary confinement.

Capuchins have evolved to live in the wild, not confined in captivity. They have largest relative brain size of any new world monkey, and in some measures have a larger relative brain size than the great apes. They are the only non-ape primates to be a habitual tool user; for example using sticks as probes and rocks as anvils to access otherwise unattainable high places. Capuchins are also highly social, living in large and complex groups. In the wild capuchins live in multi-male multi-female groups ranging from 4-40 individuals.

The need for primates and especially capuchins to have companions is very strong, despite being in captivity, this is the reason for the introduction between Tom and Winslow, followed by Ralph and our very own Tom, who (ex pet), we were feeling confident to continue the progression of the group. First to be added to the mix were Shaun, Norman, Joey and Winslow, followed by Ralph and our very own Tom, who was nervous at first but has always shown a passive friendly attitude to the others. Finally, the last leg of new arrivals, Maxlow, Archie, Caesar, and Gizmo, made our bachelor capuchin group complete, except for TJ. He appeared to find it difficult sociating with young ones, and whenever he was able to get along side of Tom, he would lash out at any of the lab monkeys that passed.

Although not without incident, the group is getting along well alliances have been made and broken, friendships cemented. TJ has now happily taken up residence with the ladies, and only a small handful of individuals have yet to comprehend the space that is on offer, as they limit themselves to confined spaces indoors at the Lodge. Each day we can see improvements and steps being taken forward in their new lives together.

PARK UPDATE

Golden-cheeked Gibbons
Zoey gave birth on the 31 March to a healthy baby girl and although a little too relaxed at the start she is now a very caring mother. Within weeks of being born Jake was allowed close and gentle to touch and play with his first infant who has been named Kim.

Zoey’s Baby, Kim

Stumpy-tailed macaques and lemurs
Roland, Koko and Gerald have moved into a new house, the old capuchin house, with new companions, four female ring-tailed lemurs, Tibet, Kiri, Fennel, and Ruby have joined them and the two very different species are happy living together but ignoring each other.

Orang-utans
Amy is expecting another infant as part of the European breeding programme for Bornean orang-utans (EEP) and is due in October.

Woolly Monkeys
Bueno’s group is rapidly expanding, Yarima has successfully given birth to her second infant, heca, a little female born on March 21st. Heca is a healthy and strong baby and thus is very relaxed with her second baby. The group has been moved to the new barn enclosure, with a great outdoor area that is closer to Levar’s woolly monkey group. The two groups now call back and forth to each other.

There have been two other additions to the group including five-year-old Lena the daughter of Levar who has come of age and ready to leave her natal group and Fridge, now over 6 months old. He has joined Bueno’s group full-time and is proving to be a very confident little fellow. Xinga is especially fond of him and always greets him with great enthusiasm.

Hananya’s Community
At seven-years-old Ben and Pip were ready to graduate from the nursery group. They have moved in to Hananya’s group and are well on their way to living with the whole of the group.