



PRIMATES AFRICA

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

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SPRING IN THE MONKEY WORLD

We all think of spring as the exciting season when nature rejuvenates itself. Every plant begins to sprout new shoots and most wild animals and insects produce their offspring.

This is true for monkeys too. Most of the females have their babies in spring and early summer. The average urban troop of 25 monkeys generally has about 4 to 5 babies of which usually only 1 or 2 survive their first year.

In suburban troops the troop size is usually larger (approximately 30 – 35 monkeys) while rural troops are usually much larger (approximately 40 – 50 monkeys). About a third of their babies survive their first year with a higher rate of survival in rural troops (unless they are shot by some farmers who annually have 'monkey hunts')!

Baby monkeys are such sweet little things! Many are orphaned because their mothers are killed by hunters, while crossing the road (they are a lot slower when carrying the extra weight of their babies) or simply by people who just kill them for fun.

Many kind members of the public, phone our hotline to let us know of orphaned or injured babies. We are part of a network of people who care for orphaned babies that will eventually be rehabilitated and released.

So, please remember to phone our hotline number if you hear of or see any injured or orphaned babies.

Baby monkeys are incredibly similar to our babies. They are born with the cutest little pink faces and ears that slowly turn black as they grow. They drink stage 1 milk formula like our young babies and behave like little toddlers,





needing lots of cuddles and love when they are young. Because of this, a number of people who come across orphaned monkeys are tempted to keep them and rear them. **We stress that**

it is incredibly unkind to the little monkey to keep him/her as a pet. Monkeys can become biters when they get older and they tend to live a long time in captivity (approximately 25 years), so it takes far more dedication to keep a primate pet than a dog or cat. As soon as baby monkeys have spent more than a year with humans, they tend to think they are humans and find it very difficult to live with monkeys. Thus, rehabilitating them is very difficult and often impossible in these cases.

If you really love monkeys and **would like to look after baby monkeys, please phone our hotline** and we will arrange for you to join the surrogate mother team. To become a surrogate mother, you have to attend an Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Baby Care course, have a suitable home environment to accommodate the monkeys and the appropriate equipment. There is always a shortage of surrogate mothers. You would need to set about 3 to 4 months of your year aside to care for the babies – usually

from November to March – and then you can spend the rest of your year doing other things! After you have reared the babies, they move on to the caged environment with other monkeys, where they become part of a troop that will eventually be released after about 3 years.



Babies that have been reared by surrogate mothers & now in rehabilitation cages at the Burchal Rehabilitation Centre



Love them, but let them be wild animals and free – this is where they are the happiest – not in a cage in your back garden!

PRIMATE USE IN THE RESEARCH INDUSTRY

Everyone is aware that medical, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and defence research companies use primates and other mammals such as dogs, cats, rabbits and rats to test their products on. In the case of primates, many laboratory animals are captive bred (this is supposed to be more ethical!) but unfortunately, many primates are still captured from the wild all over the world and sold to these research facilities, INCLUDING SOUTH AFRICA.

Although people have protested against research on live animals for decades, things don't seem to be improving very much around the world. Too many of the products that are in high demand, worldwide, such as drugs, weaponry and cosmetics depend on research to ensure the effectiveness and safety of their products. The tremendous suffering that these thousands upon thousands of animals have to endure on an annual basis is legitimized by the argument that it is imperative that we, the human race, are protected from even the slightest discomfort.

I, personally, find this unacceptable. IPPL (International Primate Protection League) recently published statistics on the importation of primates by the United States and the United Kingdom for use in their research laboratories. There are some chilling facts available:

- The U.S. imported **28 091 monkeys for research in 2008**, the highest amount imported since 2003 where 18 650 were imported. There has been a gradual increase in numbers imported, year on year.
- 99% of their imports are for pharmaceutical and scientific research, 1% for zoos etc. as the pet trade is illegal.
- The species imported are: 26 512 Crab-eating macaques, 838 Rhesus macaques, 390 Vervet monkeys, 244 Common Marmosets, 60 Squirrel monkeys.
- Most of the Crab-eating macaques originate from China (18 087) where they are captive bred for export to American research stations. It is suspected that the illegal smuggling of wild caught monkeys from Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia supplies the breeding companies, thus depleting the wild animals in those countries. There are about 40 such companies that kept 170 000 monkeys in 2008 alone!
- Because of moral pressures being placed on research companies in the US and other developed world countries, and the expense of running these companies under first world conditions, these research companies are now beginning to convert

the developing country primate breeding companies to research companies as well. This is appalling news for the animals as standards will not be scrutinized as easily.

- In addition to China, Mauritius, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Philippines, **South Africa** and Suriname also export monkeys to research facilities in the U.S.
- **South Africa exports 252 primates to the U.S.!**
 - The United Kingdom imported 1 244 monkeys from Israel (50), Vietnam (300) and Mauritius (894) in 2008.
 - Many of the monkeys imported from Mauritius were exported because they are considered nuisances.
 - Importing companies in the U.K. have not used their full permit quota; hence we cannot assume that the level of importation will remain as it was in 2008.

We can all do something to reduce the numbers of primates used in laboratories:

1. Check that you only used cosmetic and cleaning products that are not tested on animals.
2. Write to the embassies of the countries mentioned above and protest.
3. Many South Africans own properties in Mauritius and contribute to their economy. Use this leverage to stop their abuse of primates.
4. Write to the DEAT (Dept. Of Environment & Tourism) and protest the selling of our monkeys to the U.S.
5. Support organisations that are actively investigating the levels of animal husbandry and their use e.g. PETA.

*‘For years, PETA has held meetings with top chemical companies, and through one of these meetings we learned that an absolutely massive animal testing program in Europe was going to cause even more animal suffering as a result of duplicative screening testing. PETA therefore coordinated a joint letter to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), which oversees the program, asking that it intervene. **Now, in a huge victory for animals, ECHA has announced a process that will spare as many as 4,410,000 animals from these cruel tests!***

*The joint letter from PETA, PETA Europe, and European animal protection groups sent to ECHA last month raised serious concerns about the likelihood that companies would conduct duplicative animal tests for some types of toxicity when registering their chemicals under REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and explained how the duplication could be avoided. On Tuesday, ECHA responded by instructing chemical companies **not** to conduct initial toxicity screens if they were proposing to conduct more comprehensive tests during later stages of the program.*

Thanks to your support, more than 4 million animals will be spared the agony of being force-fed toxic chemicals over and over again via a tube inserted through their mouths and into their stomachs, a terrifying and painful procedure.

WHAT PRIMATES AFRICA HAS BEEN UP TO

REHABILITATION :

Jean Senogles of Primates Africa, kindly organised the Neo Natal Forum that was held at Westville Library on 3 October 2009.

This meeting was held to enable all the surrogate mothers of previous years to share their wealth of experience and knowledge with each other and with others who will be caring for baby monkeys for the first time.

It is incredibly nerve wracking when a new surrogate mother receives her first orphan who won't stop crying for its

mother and doesn't like drinking from a bottle – a poor substitute for its mother's tit. This is when the 'oldies' are invaluable with all their experience and knowledge.

No doubt, the information was useful to all who attended, and may this be the first of many annual events.

Thanks, Jean, for organising the day!



Back Row: Jenny's daughter, Jenny Morgan with baby, Mandy McKeon, Mabel Watts, James Hampton, Joan Chalmers, Claudene Overy, Helga & Lara Coulon. Front row: Jan Hampton, Sue Shafto. Kneeling: Tracey Rowles, Misty Corton, Nooi the dog, Jean Senogles.

Karin Saks of Darwin Primate Centre has an expanding family with some new arrivals!



Kimba (new adult female found in a built up area in George), Laura (new baby female found near Mossel Bay), and Monki grooming each other.



A picture of baby Shiraz (from last November) with these females. Harriet (featured in our last newsletter) has definitely taken over top position. She also appears to be jealous of Monki and Kimba bonding inside the enclosure and tries to get Monki to come to her for grooming whenever she sees Monki and Kimba together....

Joan Chalmers of Burchal Centre in Durban North, is pleased to report that her monkeys have settled happily in their new enclosure and all is well with all her monkeys.

She will have her hand full with the new baby season and, no doubt, has some new projects in the pipeline.

Joan has provided ICU care for a number of monkeys rescued and we are pleased to report that some have been successfully released. Here is one such case sent to us by Joan:



'On Friday I was brought this little one - 3 years old that had been hit by a car and was on its way to the local witch doctor.

Fortunately he was rescued by Geoffrey from Tinley Manor (pictured right) and brought here. He was taken to the vet - had only bruising - but had to stay here for 5 days to recuperate. He spent the last few days in the sleeping box - peering out - or else sitting on top of the sleeping box, looking north towards its home. He was not happy and hated every moment of its stay. The others were not neighbourly and fought it at every opportunity.

Today at 6am - I went down to catch him. He was in the sleeping box and would not come out - putting the net in front of the sleeping box did not work as he just sat there and looked at you - so what did could I do? I took the top off the sleeping box and there the poor lamb was, 'naked'. Well, he sat in the middle of the platform, just to make my life hard, but the silly thing left his tail hanging over the side - so he was caught. Never tried to bite - just was

completely resigned to be eaten or whatever.

Mandy Mc Keon and Sue Shafto came with me - and we set off heading northwards to meet the original rescuer who would show us where he came from. He sat there - a forlorn little chap - but as we headed north, his little face brightened. If he had been a dog, I would have said that his ears pricked up. Now he was interested in his surroundings! As we got nearer and nearer to his home territory, he sat straighter and straighter and the windows were not even open.

We finally arrived at the release site. It is not a good place - a tarred road on the one side and farm road on the other side of a thin stretch of riverine bush. We stopped and took him out. He started to call - no response from the bush - and then the branches began to move and there were his troop. He became frantic. Although they were quite a distance away, I opened the cage and let him out.

Mandy ready with her camera was lucky(?) enough to get a picture of his bum as he tore away and down into the trees. I would not say that they all rushed up to greet him, but no-one showed any aggression either.

The troop is a large one for what seems to be an unpractical area - an informal settlement on the one side - tarred road and farm roads on either side of the river - and the farmers tear along the road. The babies were very, very small. I wonder if they have their babies later than the town ones - maybe they have to wait until the spring rains have been and the new leaves shoot, before they have their offspring. They are like the ones that I have in my hospital cage - very, very small - the troop is large - there must have been at least 50 or so monkeys in and around the area.

So another one goes back to its family and takes its chances back in the wild. I know if it was me - that is where I would want to be - back with my family!'

EDUCATION: Education takes place in many ways: promoting the cause at public events, visiting schools, writing articles in newspapers. **The schools in the Morningside/Burea area have a particular problem with a troop of monkeys that visit them regularly.** This troop's habitat has been decimated by the subdivision of large properties and the destruction of their mature gardens and trees. In addition, many trees have been removed from the pavements for security reasons. The problem has become unmanageable in the winter when monkeys have so little food. One school in particular that finds it difficult to educate their pupils about monkey behaviour because the children do not attend the school for many years. This school is Livingstone Primary.

In order to help this school, **we are appealing to schools and residents in this area to please help us with setting up and running a feeding station in the winter and to help us set up a tree planting program in the parks and public spaces. Please phone our helpline to enquire how you can help.** Sue Shafto has researched the area in detail, has noted areas that require improvement and that could support feeding stations, but we need local assistance!



Left to right: Megan, Sue & Jean at BOTSOC Plant Fair



Primates Africa ran a stall at the Botanical Society (BOTSOC) Annual Plant Fair on the 5/6 September to celebrate Arbour Day and to promote the planting of trees while educating the public on living with monkeys.

We would like to thank members of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife for inviting us. We spoke to a number of people and hopefully made a difference in an area that has suffered much from habitat destruction.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife invited Primates Africa to join them on an educational drive at Scottburgh Flea Market on Sat 11 July to encourage public awareness and promote environmental interests with responsible use of the environment. Pictured here (on the left) is Lynne with 2 little girls who had their faces



Gill v Wyk, Jane Avis & Jean Senogles at the Westville Fair

Primates Africa joined WESSA, the Bat Interest Group, Westville Conservancy, Birdlife Africa and Grassland Plants at the Westville Fair on the 25/26 July. Great fun was had by all 'primates'!

RESCUES: Tracy Rowles of Umkomaas rescues monkeys on the upper south coast, an area extending from the Bluff to

Scottburgh. If you see any monkeys in need of rescuing in this area, please phone our Hotline. Tracy will be happy to assist.



Not only does Tracy rescue, but she is excellent at ICU care of monkeys and also cares for orphaned baby monkeys under the guidance of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Tracy rescued Snubs from Pennington. He had 2 holes on his head, the injury was suspected to have been a monkey bite. He was partially paralysed and had head swelling. He had to be tube fed and finally after 2 months was released back with his troop.

Well done Tracy for fighting so hard to save his life and dedicating to much of your time. Every life is precious!

Snubs recuperating in his enclosure

MONITORS: This picture came from a lady who monitors her troop. She says there are 2 females who look similar because of the white around their eyes. They arrived one morning and the one female was carrying around 2 babies. She suspects that one of the babies might belong to the other female, because she does not look pregnant anymore. Why is this happening? Only monitoring will explain!!!



HOTLINE: We still desperately need more volunteers for the hotline, so if anyone is interested in joining us, please phone the hotline! Thanks, too, goes to all the hotline ladies for not only running the hotline, but working so hard at every fundraiser & public exhibition. All their husbands and many of their children help out in many ways, a great family effort that is much appreciated!

HABITAT PROTECTION & FUNDRAISING:



Collette Campbell running the Arbor Week Plant Sale stall at Mount Edgecombe Country Club

Primates Africa combined fundraising with habitat protection by holding an **Arbour Week plant Sale from the 31 August to the 4th September**. All the money raised was used for planting trees at the Mount Edgecombe Golfing Estate. A big thank you goes to Sue and Lindsay Boxhall for organising the event and to all the volunteers who ran the stall.

Members of Primates Africa were part of the **Coastal Cleanup (Megan, Adam and Mandy Mc Keon) organised by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife on the 19 September**. It is an international event where they had to complete forms detailing what rubbish they had picked up. There were at least 4 skips filled from the Mangrove swamps area alone! Thanks Mandy and family for representing Primates Africa at such an important event and for working so hard.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By popular demand, we have decided to include this new slot in the newsletter. This slot will be written by you, the public, who read this newsletter. Please send us any information that you would like us to bring to our readers' attention – obviously primate or animals related!! Any submissions must be sent to our email address:

africa.primatesafrica.primates@googlemail.com Our next newsletter deadline for any letters is **15 January 2010**, but if you want to send any stories as you think of them or find them, please email us and we will keep them for publishing in our next newsletter. We would love to hear about anything relating to primates and their environment, natural or otherwise.

A Primates Africa board meeting with all primates in attendance, both furry and less hairy! (Submitted by Fran Lewis)



MONKEY STORIES



Young monkey pictured with Mom. He has a snare around his neck that he is outgrowing



After the snare is removed

Happily back with Mom who is inspecting his injuries & snare-free neck



Mom and youngster happily leaving together as another beautiful day in Africa closes

This little monkey was spotted by Nick & Shirley Petty of Ballito, who called our Hotline for help. A trap was taken to them in the hope that they could trap him, so that the snare could be removed. After much perseverance and time spent by them, they trapped him and within 3 hours he was taken to the vet, the snare removed, and returned to where he was caught, for release. Unfortunately, his troop has already left and only returned 2 days later, but this gave him time to recover from his ordeal and enjoy that luxury of first class food! He was released as soon as the troop arrived, much to his joy and his mother's ecstasy! A big thank you to Nick & Shirley for your time and dedication in caring for this little soul. This is an example how every caring member of the public can make a difference! YOU TOO CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BANDIT – ANOTHER SNARE STORY

This story was sent in to us by Colleen Nicholas:

‘OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF HAVING THE RESIDENT KNDLEWOOD TROOP VISIT MY HOME ON ESTATE TWO. I RESIDE TWO HOUSES AWAY FROM THEIR ALTERNATE ROOSTING SITE IN SOUTHERN HILLS. HAVING SPENT MANY HOURS ENJOYING THESE MONKEYS THEY HAVE BECOME VERY FAMILIAR TO ME ENABLING ME TO IDENTIFY 13 OUT OF THE 17 IN THE TROOP. ONE OF THE MALES CALLED BANDIT [ONE-ARMED BANDIT] HAS LITTLE USE OF HIS RIGHT ARM AND IT APPEARED THAT HE HAD SOMETHING AROUND HIS NECK DECREASING HIS LEVEL OF MOBILITY. ALSO EVIDENT WAS HIS FURROWED BROW GIVING HIM THE APPEARANCE OF A PERMANENT FROWN. ABLY ASSISTED BY SUE FROM PRIMATES AFRICA WE DECIDED TO CAPTURE HIM. THE CAGE WAS DELIVERED TO MY COURTYARD AND WITHIN THE WEEK I HAD MANAGED TO CAPTURE HIM ON SUNDAY 25 NOVEMBER. BEING AN AMATUER WE HAD TO LAUGH AS THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF WHILST COOKING DINNER AND FINALISING A PLAY SCRIPT! TALK ABOUT GIRL POWER! THEN LYNNETTE AND SUE CAME TO THE RESCUE TRANSFERRING BANDIT FROM THE CAGE TO A SMALLER BOX. HE WAS TAKEN TO KERRY AND OPERATED ON WITHIN THE HOUR. A

Bandit – after his release



SNARE THAT HAD EMBEDDED ITSELF INTO BANDIT'S NECK WAS SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED. SUE RETURNED HIM TO MY GARDEN ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER WHERE HE WAS RELEASED AND WELCOMED BACK TO THE TROOP WHO WERE ALL PRESENT. THANKS TO PRIMATES AFRICA AND KERRY, THE MIRACLE WORKER THIS YOUNG MALE IS DOING BRILLIANTLY AND LOOKS LIKE A DIFFERENT MONKEY AS HIS BROW HAS LIFTED AND HE HAS MORE MOBILITY IN HIS ARM. MAKES ME REALISE HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO LOOK OUT FOR OUR FURRY FRIENDS!

A monkey featured in the picture on the right is about to be released in Blythdale after being rescued with the assistance of Primates Africa and after having a snare removed from around her chest.

We have not deliberately featured monkey stories relating to snares. It is coincidental that all our stories are about snares. Or perhaps it's an indication of the rate of snaring wild monkeys for food! All these monkeys live in semi-urban areas, so please don't think this problem is confined to rural areas only.

Help us by looking out for snared animals, and by looking out for snares in any natural areas around your homes!



And finally, we would like to wish you all a wonderful Festive Season with all the happiness you deserve!

Remember our furry friends while you're celebrating, educate our visitors to the area about monkeys and be tolerant (not only with monkeys but mother-in-laws!)

