

MARCH EDITION

PRIMATES AFRICA



PO Box 2335 | MECC | Mount Edgecombe | 4301 | Tel 084-432-9974 | NPO 50-712

HOTLINE: 084 432 997

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THE WORLD CREDIT CRUNCH AFFECTS DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND WILDLIFE

When there is a world recession, people and business have to tighten their belts. Increasing the efficiency of cost of production and limiting household expenses has a directly negative impact on the welfare of many domestic, agricultural and wild animals.

How is this so?

People cannot afford to feed their pets, so many pets are dumped or handed to the SPCA where there is a strong possibility that they will be euthanased because they cannot be re-homed and the SPCA cannot afford to keep animals for long periods of time because of overcrowding. Those are the lucky ones. Then, there are those pets that are needed to do work: the guard dogs, the donkeys, mules and horses. They are fed less, taken for medical treatment less and worked harder. More pets will be used to breed or be used for illegal activities such as dog fighting – as means to raise much needed income.

The agricultural animals will be farmed more intensively and less organically to keep costs down. This will mean a decline in the quality of life for all these animals. They will be given cheaper feeds, the contents of which are questionable.

The wild animals, particularly the 'damage causing animals' like our monkeys, baboons, porcupines, leopards etc. will be given less sympathy by farmers and destroyed, as farmers will not accept losses that seem 'unnecessary' to them. Wild animals are also

PRIMATES AFRICA



increasingly and illegally being snared, shot or trapped for food.

In addition to this, animal welfare organizations' income is reduced because the public cannot afford to donate, so the effectiveness of organizations to provide welfare and to monitor the care given to these animals in the public domain is limited. All around, animals are suffering at a greater rate than before.

So, what can you do to help?

- Please try to buy quality rather than quantity. Check where your food comes from - how was your food produced? If you are unhappy, write to the head-office of the store. It costs nothing and takes just a little effort.
- If you have any spare time, volunteer to help an animals organization. Your labour is free and will help.
- Take the time to join in with campaigns that highlight animal cruelty or injustice.
- If you see an animal suffering, do something about it. Don't look the other way.
- Have compassion. Don't be self-indulgent.
- Miss a movie or some other outing and donate the money to an animals charity.

WHAT HAS PRIMATES AFRICA BEEN UP TO?



ISSUES THAT NEED YOUR HELP

- *The forestry companies, KLF and now YORK are still killing baboons because they claim that the damage caused by baboons on their forests is unacceptable. In spite of protests from*

environmentalists they continue to kill baboons by trapping and shooting entire troops.

Please visit the following website and write to them: bdwg.co.za

- *The Department of the Environment and Tourism is at present formulating new guidelines for dealing with "Damage Causing Animals". This is going to be used as a legal document to allow or disallow the killing of the animals by landowners and dictating the ways in which they can kill them. So far, a number of environmental groups have registered to become part of this process and have been ignored – Primates Africa being one of them. However, farmers have not.*

Please write to BMadikizela@deat.gov.za to voice your opinion.

- *Animal fur is being used to trim many fashion outfits. Many animals are being skinned alive to obtain this fur. Some of the fur trims that you might*



think are fake are actually real. Please check the backing of the fur and see if there is any weave. If not, it is probably real. If in doubt, don't buy it. Monkeys, too, are now being farmed in some Asian countries for meat, fur and experimentation. Please write to http://www.petatv.com/tvpop-up/video.asp?video=fur_farm&Player=wm&speed=med to protest.

• **The last 3 months have seen the peak of the baby season.**

Since the beginning of the baby season, 63 orphaned babies have been rescued from the wild this year by members of the public and various primate organizations such as Primates Africa including Sandy Burrell and Tracey Rowles, Burchal Centre, Animal Rights Africa and the Hamptons. Of these, 6 died shortly after being rescued because of their poor condition, 5 are being cared for by a surrogate monkey, 18 have already progressed to the next stage of rehabilitation and 34 are still in the care of surrogate mothers.

BURRELL SATELLITE CENTRE	10
TRACY ROWLES SATELLITE CENTRE	12
HAMPTONS SATELLITE CENTRE	16
MONKEY HELPLINE SATELLITE CENTRE	2
BURCHAL	7
CROW	11
WATCH	5

TOTAL BABIES IN SYSTEM
63

Caring for these orphaned monkeys is a full time job and they tend to take over the surrogate mother's life for about 4 months. Caring for these monkeys is like caring for babies that are crawling and exploring everywhere. They are with their 'mother' most of the time and when they not with her/him, they have to be cared for by a designated 'secondary mother'. Every surrogate mother has had to qualify by doing a course held by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and is strictly monitored by EKZNW, to ensure that they adhere to the standards and norms as set out in the Primate Policy. In addition, the 'mother' has to provide equipment and food for the babies' care. Congratulations to all of you for caring for our baby orphan monkeys. Your dedication and patience is a rare sight these days. **A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!**

WE HAVE 2 REQUESTS OF THE PUBLIC:

1. If you know of anyone who is looking after a baby monkey with the intention of keeping it as a pet, please ask him/her to contact us about his/her baby. It is really important for the well-being of the baby that it is socialized with other monkeys and rehabilitated with them.

If you would like to become a surrogate mother and rear orphan babies every year, please contact **Primates Africa Hotline on 084 432 9974.**



• Natural monkey killer

Education is an important part of what Primates Africa does.

Repeatedly, we are asked the following question (particularly during baby season): How can you say monkeys' numbers are declining when they no longer have any natural enemy that keeps their population down? We always

run through the human induced factors that reduce their population (shooting, cars, dogs, lack of food, disease, fighting because of stress and displacement) but we also mention natural enemies like snakes and Crowned Eagles. Here are 2 accounts that we received within a week, of Crowned Eagles preying on monkeys – one in Zimbali and the other in Durban North.

1st extract from a resident of Zimbali: 'Then all of a sudden, as if from nowhere, the silent swooping shape of a large young crowned eagle, one of the most majestic of Zimbali's natural fauna, emerged from the skies above. A medium sized grey vervet monkey, unaware of the eagle's approach and its imminent fate, was its target. The action was swift and decisive – with one grasp of the eagle's enormous talons, the monkey's destiny was decided.

Amongst a flurry of loose downy feathers, the bird dropped gracefully to the grass verge gripping its new prey in its vice like claws, showing all the signs of a glorious conqueror in its superiority.'

A STRANGER CAME CALLING

'The birds in the aviary crept away into safety in the sheltered part and once there they stayed quiet.

The monkeys – well the noise they generated with their danger calls was very extreme but there was not a monkey in sight – they were all safely hiding in their sleeping boxes.

The inside babies raced under the table and once there flattened themselves into the smallest space and closed their eyes, holding tightly onto each other. The two monkeys in the ICU cages on the veranda also flattened themselves so that they appeared dead. And the stranger, he was a juvenile Crowned Eagle. He was magnificent and sat in the Flat Crown tree above the enclosures peering down at them all.

The monkeys all acted as a troop. Granny gave the alarm – she obviously knew the danger this stranger generated, the females were all in the sleeping boxes and out of



sight. The big males were at the openings of the boxes. All eyes were on the tree where the Crowned Eagle was sitting.

The smaller males darted out, had a quick look at the eagle and then ducked back into the boxes again. The noise was intense. This standoff of the bird in the tree and the monkeys all screaming abuse at him lasted for nearly an hour. The Crowned Eagle then caught a small Hadedea and flew away. The monkeys slowly emerged from their hiding places.

Later the Eagle returned and sat on the enclosures this time. The monkeys faced with this move were absolutely quiet. The only call that could be heard was that of the wild troop on sentry duty. He had raced deep into a tree covered with a creeper when the Eagle had first arrived. Deep in the vegetation, he barked and called warnings to the rest of the wild troop. They answered him from down in the valley. No wild animals came near that day.



• Reaching the Nation

Our two Zulu members, Stephen and Wiseman, are very active in educating our KZN Zulu public about living with monkeys and conserving them. Here is an article that Wiseman wrote about their experiences at radio stations they visited at Christmas time: 'We members of Primates Africa had a great gift for Christmas. We have reached



our main aims to reach as many community members as we can and spread the information of the protection of monkeys.

In mid-December last year, 3 of our members, Sue Friedman, our Public Relations head, Wiseman and Stephen, who are based at Umlazi Township, visited two of the biggest and well known local radio stations in South Africa.

Our first great experience took place at the Izwi Lomzani, the radio station based at

the Durban station where we got a chance to describe our organization and its aims to the listeners and answer their questions live on the radio. It was quite an experience! What came as a surprise during the show was that we received a number of calls which showed us that communities want to know more about monkeys. The questions mostly asked were, 'Were they a threat or danger to human beings? Why do they invade humans' houses and what to do when you see them around your home or inside?' There were also those lovely listeners who called to support us and encourage us to do more and shared the same feeling with us.



The second experience was a Durban Youth Radio. We got the chance to communicate with a number of young people on the importance of saving monkeys and the environment. Since it was the month of December when many people are going on holiday, we got a chance to convince people to be careful of passing animals on the road.

After all I would like to thank all the members of PA who are doing a great job, especially Sue Friedman and wish all of us a good start to 2009.

Primates Africa Donates to Other Primate Organisations

One of Primates Africa's aims is to assist other organizations or individuals who work with monkeys but need financial support for the care of their monkeys. The following donations were made last year by Primates Africa, made possible by the people who have generously donated money to us and the people who have worked so hard at fundraising events to raise funds:

Quality Care Vet	R3 500	Steve Smit Monkey helpline	Medical expenses
Cash	R1 000	Sandy Burrell	Medical expenses
Scottburgh vet	R1 000	Tracy Rowles	Medical expenses
Quality Care vet	R2 500	Steve Smit Monkey Helpline	Medical expenses
Victor	R4 500	Deposit for Tracy Rowles cages	
Victor	R4 000	Final pmt Tracy Rowles cages	
Quality care vet	R2 000	Steve Smit Monkey Helpline	Medical expenses
Burchal Centre	R7 200	Donation from sponsorship appeal	- food
Darwin Primate Group	R7 200	Donation from sponsorship appeal	- food
Sandy Burrell	R7 200	Donation from sponsorship appeal	- food
Kerry Easson	R7 200	For cage construction	
Burchal Centre	R20 000	For cage construction	
Darwin Primate Group	R20 000	For cage construction	

This year:

Scottburgh vet	R3000	Tracy Rowles	Medical expenses
Pick n Pay Scott	R101.10	Tracy Rowles	food

In addition to these amounts of money donated, Primates Africa and these above-mentioned organizations and individuals have spent large sums of money on the care of monkeys that are rescued, ICU'd and rehabilitated. Please give generously, so that we can help these wonderful people and organizations to continue with their dedicated, loving and difficult work.

monkey news

Monkeys die of starvation and dehydration:

A Ballito couple took 2 monkeys to a vet in Ballito, Dr Lamb. The case was reported to Primates Africa and Sue Shafto investigated: "I met them in Tongaat and they took me to this reservoir. They make Zulu beer and rent a warehouse in Tongaat for their sorghum. He had noticed a resident troop that hung around in the morning and late afternoon, eating the scraps left from loading and unloading the bags. He said that



Peggy Coffey left, Sue Shafto centre and Carol Hayward Fell (art teacher)



If you would like to make a donation, please find our banking details and address on the membership application form at the end of the newsletter.

Another Donation of Note...

Peggy Coffey attends art classes with Carol Hayward Fell. She has donated three monkey paintings that she has painted so that Primates Africa can auction them to raise funds. Thanks so much!

in winter he often gives them some food. He got a gardener to cut the long grass on Saturday morning who obviously alerted him of the monkeys lying dead in the reservoir. There was a strong acrid smell. The reservoir is next to the warehouse. It is about 2m from the ground level and about 3m deep inside. There was obviously a little water for them from the rain, but not enough to cause them to drown or to keep them alive. He said he did not see them everyday. I think there were about 20 in the reservoir because I must have counted nearly 10 dead ones. At least 4 babies, all in a bad state of de-com position. He said that when he got there, some were still alive and he put a big branch inside and 8 managed to climb up. He fed them and then took what sounded like a 2 and 3 old to Dr Lamb. Both monkeys didn't make it.'



Happy Returns for a Bluff monkey:

- Our hotline was called about a little monkey, found sitting on a fence, was rescued from Marine Drive , (near the army barracks) on the Bluff by James Papers who took it to the vet. He removed the rope that was found around its head and mouth. It had also been shot twice and had bad concussion on its head. One can only wonder what had happened to her.
- After a thorough examination, it was taken to Joan at Burchal Centre for ICU. We established that the little monkey belonged to a troop that moved through Jean Harris' (from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife) garden. As soon as the monkey was better, Joan



got an early call (5.30) from Jean who said the troop were at her house.

On arrival the little rescued monk, in a travel box, made a calling noise and straight away, a big male appeared, being very aggressive toward Jean and Joan (even when given some bananas). Once they were sure that the rescued monkey belonged to the troop, by observing the troop monkeys' reactions to the rescued monkey, she was released out of the box and ran up a tree only to be joined by another monkey and welcomed back to the troop. We're pleased to report that Jean has been in touch with Joan and confirmed that the little monk is doing fine!



In contrast – so near, yet so far:

Lindsay Boxshall rescued a baby monkey that was bitten by a large male from the troop or a neighbouring troop. She took it to Kerry, the vet to remove its eye. Off to Joan for ICU for about 10 days and perhaps then it could go back to its Mom. A week later they attempted to release the little monkey. Kerry had given the go ahead - that his injury had healed well enough to release him.



Unfortunately, from the behaviour of what seemed to be the alpha male, Joan and Tom decided definitely not to release him. The 'Alpha male' kept coming to the cage and trying to attack the little monkey while the little monkey tried to fight him and then covered in the back of the cage. Three females tried to chase the 'alpha male' away but he showed his status and didn't budge. There was a young female who could have been a sibling, who was giving the raised eyebrow stare.

It seems that the small troop might have gained a new alpha male who was not the father of the little monkey, Hence the aggressive behaviour.

Happy Ending

The hotline received a call about a monkey that Roger from Salt Rock had rescued on the pavement next to the road. It had a bit of concussion (probably hit by a car), and after examination by Kerry, the vet, found a bad injury to left elbow and behind ear. Miracle no pellets. Roger had looked after two babies a while back when he lived in Eshowe, who went on to Crow. Joan kindly ICU'd and Roger eventually collected her and released her back. He has not seen the monkey, but said it is fairly bushy, so he does not see them often.

Cross bows and arrows should be banned:

On Saturday the hotline received a call from Shelley about a monkey that had been shot with an arrow. She had found the arrow in her garden. She lives next door to the Birches Pre-Primary School where we have done a presentation. Apparently there was a party going on in the school grounds and people had seen the monkey with the arrow in its body, in a tree in Shelley's garden. It was trying to pull it out.

She was furious and phoned us. I phoned the Kloof SPCA and spoke to an Inspector named Steve. He visited Shelley and then went house to house asking questions. Well they have found the culprit. He does Archery as a sport and one of his neighbours had found an arrow in his garden. They have opened a case with the police. Unfortunately there was no sign of the injured monkey as Shelley lives quite close to the Paradise Valley reserve. The monkey probably died there.



• *SAD LOSS TO THE MONKEY WORLD*

Arthur Hunt, who founded The Vervet Monkey Foundation, a large rehabilitation centre and sanctuary in Tzaneen, housing approximately 700 monkeys, suddenly died of a heart attack in February. His departure is a very great loss to our monkeys and to all of us who work with monkeys.

May you rest in God's peace!

• *A HISTORY LESSON*

Sue's mom was visiting us for a week and brought a picture of her grandfather on North Beach . His name was Pop Bennett - the year 1941. Mom was 5 years old and remembers going on a little train that went along the marine parade. Can you see who else is in the picture?

NEW PRIMATES AFRICA WEBSITE

We are pleased to announce that we now have a website. The website address is primatesafrica.co.nr. It's still work-in-progress, but looking good!



JOIN US IN OUR QUEST TO CONSERVE

PRIMATES If you haven't got time to volunteer but would like to help us in some way, simply become a member or give a Primates Africa membership to an animal loving friend or relative for their birthday. Just complete the form below and send it in to us. As a member you will receive our quarterly FREE newsletter.



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P O Box 2335
M.E.C.C.
Mount Edgecombe
4301

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Tel: 084 432 9974
NPO 50-712
PBO No. 930026589

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



Contact person: Title:..... First Name:..... Surname:..... Date:.....

Company name (if applicable):..... Telephone:..... Fax:.....

Address:.....

.....Code:.....

Contact person: Telephone:..... Cell:..... Email:.....

Would you like to volunteer your assistance? Yes No

May we contact you by email or phone? Yes No

Membership categories: please indicate (per annum)

Individual membership R 100

Junior membership R 50

Family membership R 150

Corporate business R 150

? -----

Please send this form together with a cheque or postal order or deposit slip to:-

P O Box 2335
M.E.C.C.
Mount Edgecombe
4301

or, deposit membership fees into the following account -

-please use the reference: 'MemYourName' e.g. memSamFox:

NEDBANK GATEWAY

A/c no: 1899030964

Branch no: 189905

Any enquiries should be directed to our monkey hotline:-

Tel: 0844329974

