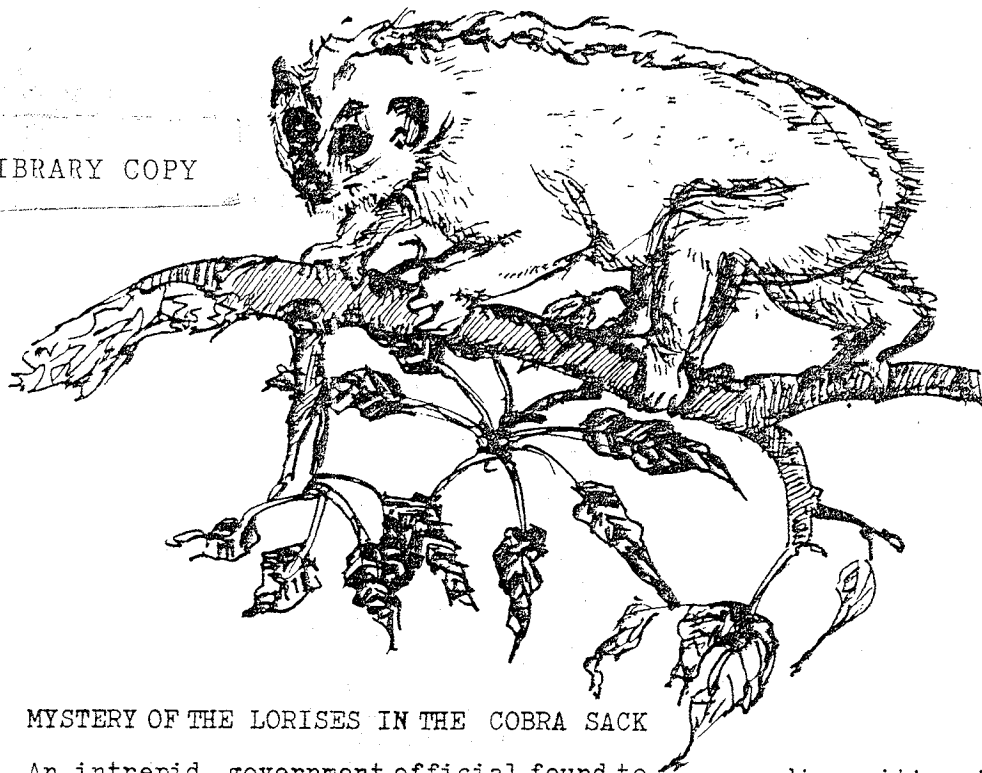


Nov 74

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# NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL

## PRIMATE

PROTECTION  
LEAGUE  
V1 N2  
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### MYSTERY OF THE LORISES IN THE COBRA SACK

An intrepid government official found to his surprise, on opening a sack labelled "Spitting Cobras," no spitting cobras but instead fifteen slow lorises (the loris is a small nocturnal primate); one was already dead. Investigation revealed an extraordinary, tragic and wholly avoidable tale.

The lorises were part of a large order, which included snakes, tortoises and otters, shipped to John Stidworthy, PO Box 268, San Carlos, California. The telephone number given as contact on the airway bill was 408-374-3411. The animals were shipped C.O.D., as are many international shipments of wild animals. The animals departed, after passing Thai Customs, via Pan Am flight #2 on February 21 and arrived at San Francisco via Pan Am flight #814 from Honolulu on February 22. (Airway invoice number: 026-4100-7980.) At San Francisco, the shipment was seized by the Department of Fish and Game.

Pan Am claims that, prior to accepting the C.O.D. shipment, its representative called the given phone number and asked for John Stidworthy. The phone belonged to a firm called Reptiles of the World and Mr. Stidworthy was "out." However, Pan Am reports, the company returned the call and the shipment was accepted. When the cargo arrived, Pan Am called the number again; whether it informed Reptiles of the World that the shipment was having legal troubles is not clear. In any case, the company claimed never to have placed the order and never to have heard of John Stidworthy.

Three of the otters died and eventually all the animals except the lorises were destroyed by the Department of Agriculture. The fourteen lorises were donated to a "Turtle Lovers" group, via the San Francisco Zoo; while not ideal, such

a disposition is preferable to the deplorable alternative of killing them, we feel.

Bangkok Wildlife, on being asked for an explanation, produced a purported order letter from John Stidworthy, who claimed to be the head buyer of a new firm named Snakes of the World. Anxious to test the "quality" of Bangkok Wildlife's merchandise, he ordered a wide variety of animals. The letter bore no letterhead and contained a variety of spelling, punctuation and grammar mistakes — some of which were typically Thai, such as writing Bangkok-9, instead of Bangkok 9.

The crucial part of the "order" reads  
12 Slow loris at \$6.00...\$78.

Note: in sacks, with king cobras for shipment.

A letter from Bangkok Wildlife to Pan Am (Bangkok) pleads innocence, which is belied by the company's "snake box" opened at London Airport in 1971 and found to contain two baby gibbons (one dead), and by the recent arrest of its owner for being in possession of protected animals.

No prosecutions have been reported as yet in the U.S. or Thailand.

In any case, it is a victimless crime — only non-human creatures died, and the human ones involved suffered little: Bangkok Wildlife got the animals for practically nothing if their procurement followed usual procedures in the trade; the ordering party is not out of pocket; Pan Am gave some animals a free ride and lost a few man-hours. Was Reptiles of the World the victim of a hoax, or had it sought to smuggle and carefully prepared its alibi in case of discovery? The truth is still hidden.

The IPPL states emphatically that wildlife should not be carried C.O.D. Were payment required in advance, the dealers

would be much less apt to take chances on smuggling. In addition, all shipments of wildlife should be sent to street-number addresses. Operating through box numbers is a highly suspicious procedure. International Air Transport Association rules for animal shipment call for street address destinations; now that these rules are mandatory, whether a serious effort will be made to enforce them remains to be seen.

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#### CONDITIONS FOR PRIMATES IN VIETNAM

The IPPL is deeply concerned about the effects of the war in Vietnam on the indigenous primates. We have contacted various sources in our search for information on this subject.

The IPPL's contact in North Vietnam is Professor Dao Van Tien, Dean of the Faculty of Biology at the University of Hanoi. His comments, translated from the French, follow.

Regarding the adverse effects on primates resulting from the Vietnam war I can only communicate the following information.

In North Vietnam, the primates (macaques, langurs and gibbons) have not been seriously affected by the war. In 1963, our government promulgated a decree on "the provisional control of hunting wild animals" in which all primates are protected. But instances of poaching still occur; macaques and gibbons are captured for the preparation of tonic medications. Ten years ago our country exported some rhesus monkeys but this export has ceased since the war.

Only from the latitude of 20° southwards does the fate of all species of macaques, of Phayre's langur and the Silvery and Douc langurs, cause concern. Because of the massive and repeated bombardments, the populations of these animals are partly exterminated, partly pushed back towards the other slopes of the Annamite Chain. From 17° South, in spite of still incomplete information, the situation of the wild animals is completely different. Almost all species of primates, as a result of repeated bombing and spread of chemicals (defoliants and herbicides) are threatened with extinction, at least on the east slopes of the Annamite Chain. Thus not only the Douc langur but all the primates of South Vietnam deserve the attention of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

No reply has yet been received from South Vietnam.

The IPPL's Special Advisor on habitat problems, Dr. Arthur Westing of the Department of Biology at Windham College, com-

The animals, large and small, expect food and cover from their milieu. Where the action is at' in a tropical forest is in the upper vegetational stories, precisely that portion of the ecosystem most seriously affected by massive herbicidal attack. I have no reliable data on effects on animals, but with a destroyed or at least drastically altered habitat there is probably a concomitant change of catastrophic proportions in animal populations. The impact would be particularly obvious with respect to animals and birds, but no less important for mammals, reptiles and other groups. I suspect that the only satisfied animals, at least for a time, would be the termites.

The destruction of large, contiguous areas (as happened in War Zones C and D) is, of course, worse for the biota than the destruction of small ones. The sparing of undefoliated 'islands' would mitigate the destruction by providing sources for further repopulation. They do not, however, provide a significant haven for animals from defoliated areas, since, for one thing, the untouched areas are already populated to their maximum carrying capacity.

As the vegetational replacement community becomes established, the original set of animal populations will largely be replaced by a different set of lesser diversity. Under such conditions, it is a well-established phenomenon that a large number of species will be eliminated and that the replacement community will have higher numbers of fewer species, many of them new to the area.

Finally, it should be noted that the animals in a sprayed area could also be directly affected by the chemicals used....

Westing estimates that 20% of South Vietnam's mangrove trees have been destroyed — probably for decades — and that 35% of the upland jungle area has been sprayed, 10% of it more than once.

Dr. Egbert Pfeiffer, Professor of Zoology at the University of Montana, who has visited Indochina five times since 1968, comments

We do not have any solid information on the fate of the Douc langur and the gibbon; in our studies of defoliated and B52-ed hardwood forests of South Vietnam, we concluded that about a third of these forest types had been badly damaged and that the habitat for these primates had been greatly reduced. The herbicidal and bombing attacks cannot but have had serious effects on the populations of these species.

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The National Academy of Sciences sent a team to Vietnam in 1973 to study the effects of herbicides and defoliants; it reported that field studies were not possible due to security conditions in the area, the defoliation and bombing program apparently having failed in its goal of securing territory. Accordingly, much of the report (available from the National Academy of Sciences, Washington D.C.) was based on the team's inspection of aerial photographs. The report has been widely criticised on many grounds, including the lack of information on the status of animal populations.

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### IPPL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH

The IPPL plans in each Newsletter to announce an award for Outstanding Research and seeks nominations from members. The work can be outstanding in any way.

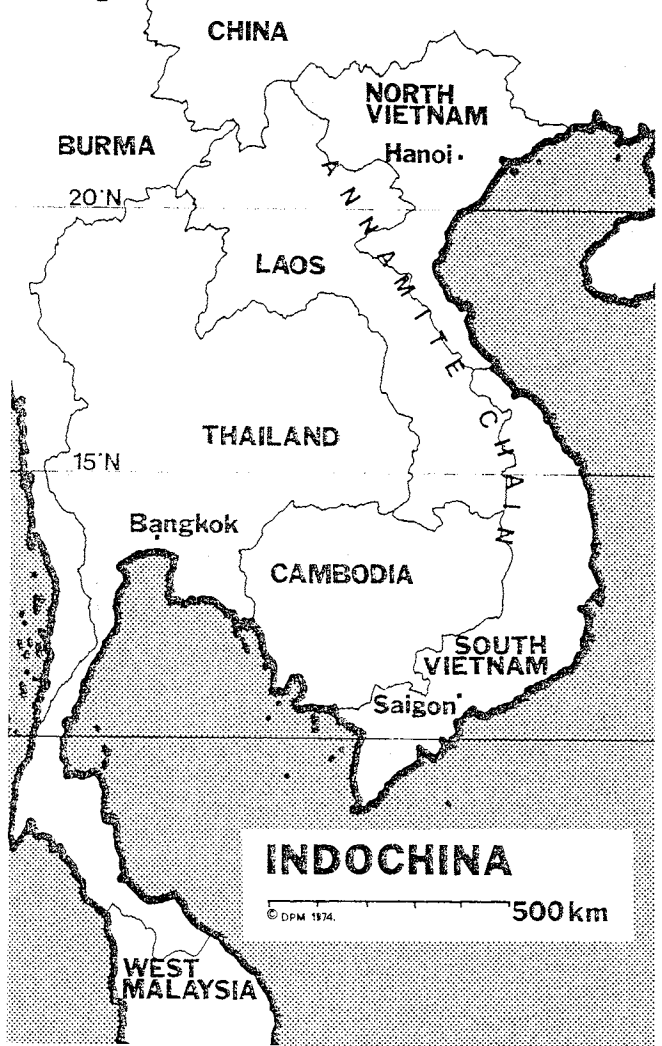
Our first award is shared by Dr. Michael Trollope of the University of Michigan Medical Center and Dr. Robert Rutherford of the University of Colorado Medical Center. As reported in the Journal of Trauma, Vol. 12, no. 11 (1973), Dr. Trollope and his team killed 85 primates (72 rhesus, 10 baboons and 3 squirrel monkeys), with impact from a pneumatically-operated cannon impactor designed to simulate a car crash.

One group of monkeys was relatively free-seated and restrained by silk threads through the ears. In the other group, a liver lobe was exposed by surgery to investigate direct liver impact.

Dr. Trollope reports that the good work continues. Dr. Rutherford shares the award for his suggestion that the experiment be repeated on primates with a full gut and bladder and on pregnant monkeys, and for the wit he demonstrated in complimenting the team on its "penetrating" studies.

A not-so-surprising conclusion was that "there is a direct relationship between the degree of abdominal injury...and the force, surface area and duration of impact."

We hope that all car-driving monkeys will benefit from this research and will keep their livers zipped up inside them, especially during crashes.



Cambodia has been subjected to both bombing and defoliation. The fate of the endangered Pileated gibbon causes concern. Laos has been bombed and large areas of jungle have been planted with small explosive anti-personnel devices, which are placed both on the ground and in the low branches. Both the Douc langur and the White-cheeked gibbon live in this area.

The effects of the hostilities on all the primates of Indochina warrant immediate investigation and international concern and action designed to protect the surviving animals.

### HELP WANTED

The IPPL needs volunteers in the Berkeley-Oakland-San Francisco area to help with office chores, typing and the newsletter.

Each newsletter costs about \$150 to prepare, print and mail. We want to keep our members informed and to expand our programs. Please join or make a donation. Pass on your newsletter and tell your friends about the IPPL. If you have ideas on fund-raising, tell us about them.

If you feel that any primate problem in your area merits the attention of IPPL, please draw it to our attention.

Members' articles will be considered for publication in the newsletter. If you think this letter stresses Asian problems it's because we are just beginning to develop contacts in other areas. More on them later.

Several international volunteers are active in Nature Education in Thailand.

Klaus Berkmueller (Germany) and Dwaila Armstrong (USA) are involved in a program in Khao Chong. The aim is to teach young Thais to appreciate their wild life heritage. The sanctuary has a nature museum, nature trails and a miniature zoo showing local animals. Unfortunately the project is very short of funds. When a new gibbon cage became essential, the IPPL's Bangkok members collected \$150 for the materials and the volunteers constructed the cage.

Another emergency situation has arisen. The US Army in Bangkok has held a laboratory colony of up to 195 gibbons since 1965. Numbers are now reduced to the 40s. The colony included several Pileated Gibbons (a species which has a red page in the IUCN Red Data Book), a number of which were used in malaria research. After press criticism of the gibbon project, the four remaining Pileated Gibbons—some of which had been splenectomised—were donated to the Thai Forestry Department. No cages, money or supplies were provided, and, no cages being available, the gibbons were released in the Khao Khieo Game Sanctuary—where they repeatedly attacked visitors to the sanctuary, causing serious injury, and therefore had to be recaptured. Rick Miller, the Peace Corps volunteer working with the Sanctuary, has asked the IPPL for help to construct a large cage. The cost would be \$150 and contributions are urgently sought. Please give generously and mark your check "For gibbons." All contributions will be acknowledged by Rick Miller, who will supervise the construction by volunteers.

The International Society for the Protection of Animals and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have channeled substantial book donations to the Thai University Conservation Clubs through the IPPL's Bangkok group.

#### CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

This international agreement would regulate trade in endangered species and in several threatened but not yet endangered species. A vitally important advantage is that it provides for standardized documents so that the regulations would be ENFORCEABLE. Over 31 states have signed the Convention but, as of last report, only the USA had ratified it. The Convention would do much to protect endangered species of primates and the IPPL recommends that all field representatives and non-US members and friends work for

Charles Shuttleworth is keeping a watchful eye on the Taiwan macaque, the only primate indigenous to his current home, Taiwan. He reports that, in spite of much hunting for medicinal and other purposes, the species does not seem threatened seriously at present. The Taipei zoo will soon move to a new location, and Mr. Shuttleworth, who has lived in Asia since 1950 and has a wide knowledge of animals, is doing all he can to see that comfortable and stimulating environments are provided for the primates at the zoo and at the US Navy NAMRU Laboratories, where macaques are being used as research animals.

In 1964, while residing in Singapore, Mr. Shuttleworth served as Representative for the IUCN sponsored Orang Utan Recovery Service. At that time Singapore, though it had no wild orangs, was the world center for orang-smuggling. The goal of the service was the recovery of smuggled orangs and their rehabilitation in the wild or placement in a good zoo. Several Western and Oriental dealers were active in the smuggling and some were linked to smugglers in Thailand and Hong Kong. Ending the trade was difficult as, under Singapore law, it was illegal to import or export orangs but not to possess them. Interception at the point of exit or entry was practically impossible. Mr. Shuttleworth, who speaks Mandarin, Hokkien and Malay, was able to identify the smugglers, and, due to the activities of the OURS and to the "confrontation" between Indonesia and Malaysia, the trade diminished awhile.

Mr. Shuttleworth has since then made several surveys of Sumatra and of Kalimantan for timber companies and reports that the orang trade unfortunately continues: one captain of a timber boat reported that he had smuggled more than 100 orangs over the last few years.

Singapore dealers currently offer baby or juvenile orangs for sale at \$7000. Most of these orangs are caught by mother-killing and only a small percentage survive to reach their final destination.

Mr. Shuttleworth loves jungle living, and has authored two books on the subject — Malayan Safari and Fang and Blowpipe.

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES TO RISE

The Treasurer reports that a \$5 subscription is insufficient to cover IPPL costs. Therefore Regular Memberships must rise to \$7.50 and Student Memberships to \$3. Sustaining memberships remain at \$25.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are available at \$5 per year. Please show your newsletter to a friend or place it on a bulletin board. Membership dues include a subscription to the newsletter, natural

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ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN GIBBONS

During 1972-73, the Comparative Oncology Laboratory, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, acquired gibbon apes (*Hylobates lar*) that were apparently illegally exported from Thailand. The laboratory is under the direction of Dr. Thomas Kawakami and is conducting research in leukemia. A brief postscript will give more details of this work for those interested.

The gibbon is the smallest of the apes, adults weighing about 15 pounds, and is found in the forest environments of Southeast Asia. It lives in small monogamous families.

The capture of gibbons is effected by the shooting of the mother in the hope that the infant will survive both the shots and the fall. The infant can be easily removed as it clings to its mother's body. It is estimated that about 10 mothers and several infants die for each infant gibbon captured alive. The majority of such infants usually perish as a consequence of their wounds or inadequate care at the hands of the hunters or animal dealers. Because the gibbon lives in small family groups, this method of capture also disrupts the reproductive habits of the animals.

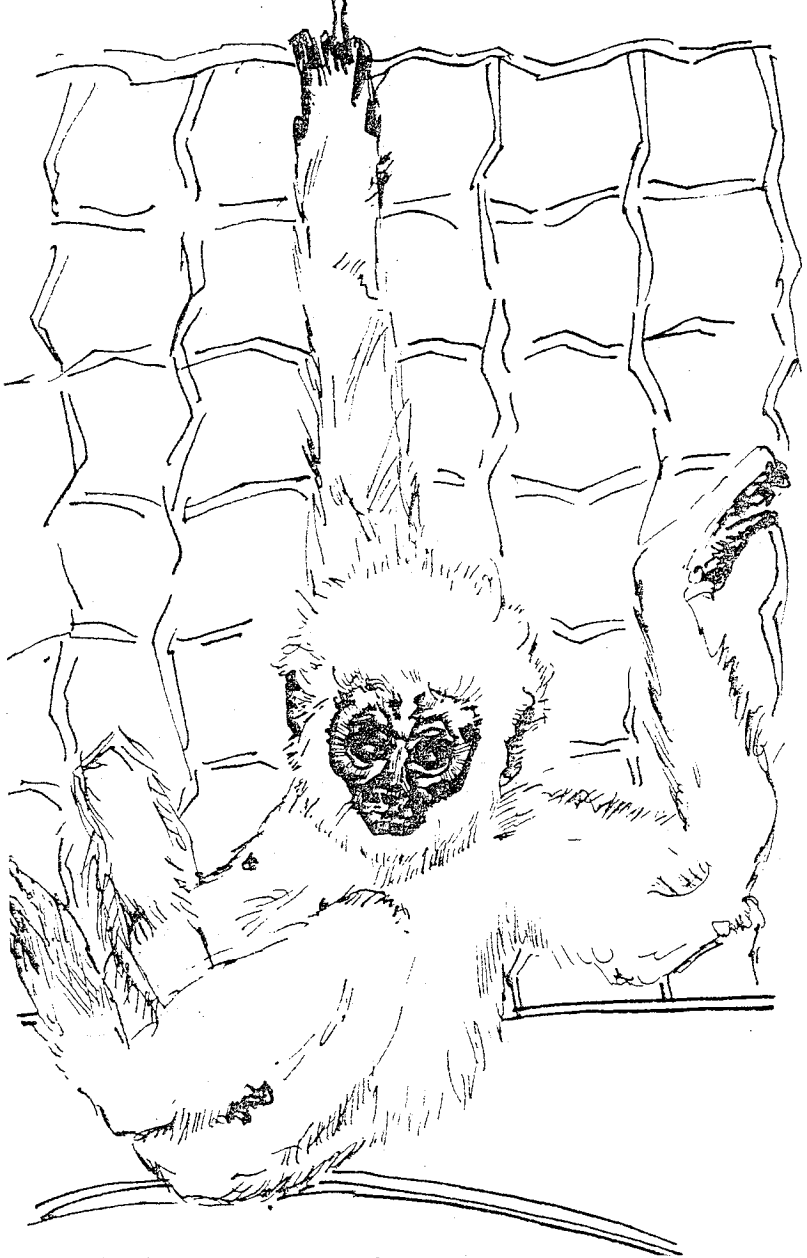
In Thailand the present number of gibbons is estimated to be between 5000 and 10000. Gibbons enjoy the status of protected animals in Thailand, and, in theory, their export is strictly controlled.

Three shipments of gibbons to the Comparative Oncology Laboratory have been studied in detail by the IPPL. These acquisitions are currently under investigation by the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, US Department of the Interior. Although the laboratory obtained permits from the California Department of Public Health, it apparently did not obtain import permits from the Bureau.

During August 1973, one shipment of eleven gibbons was exported from Bangkok to the Comparative Oncology Laboratory. These animals were shipped by the US Army Walter Reed Medical Laboratory in Bangkok. Mr. Pong Leng, Chief of the Wildlife Section of the Royal Thai Forestry Department, has signed an affidavit that he did not issue the required permit for the export of these gibbons. Colonel Winter, Director of the US Army Laboratory, stated that intervention by the US Ambassador to Thailand at the time, Leonard Unger, made the export possible. In August 1973 Unger, now US Ambassador to Taiwan, admitted making such intervention. He felt justified in so doing, having been persuaded that the research was of major medical importance and that this would be a final shipment to complete a vital project.

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On January 16, 1974, a shipment of 10 unweaned gibbons, probably no more than one or two months old, reached the Comparative Oncology Laboratory of the University of California, Davis. These animals were obtained from Pimjai Wild Animals and Birds, Bangkok, and routed through an animal dealer in eastern Canada. One infant was dead on arrival, and an autopsy revealed a shotgun pellet lodged in its skull. All infants were pneumonic on arrival.



rival, which is hardly surprising in view of their stay in Canada in midwinter. Only four of the ten survived.

Subsequently a shipment of six older gibbons reached the Comparative Oncology Lab (Feb. 16, 1974). Pimjai was again the source of the shipment, and the animals were again routed through eastern Canada. Another order for more gibbons was placed with the Canadian dealer upon receipt of this shipment. A completed shipment fol-

lowed by a further order appears to be the regular pattern of acquisition practiced by this laboratory.

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The Chief of the Wildlife Section of the Thai Forest Department denies that permits were issued for the shipments routed through Canada. The only Thai document which appears to have accompanied either shipment was a health certificate that arrived with the shipment of infant gibbons and which certified the health of 80 mynah birds as well as that of the 10 baby gibbons. The vet who signed the certificate on these animals testifying that they were healthy (in spite of their immaturity and a shotgun pellet lodged in the head of one) claims to have inspected no gibbons for three years. The copy of this same certificate on file at Customs in Thailand certifies only the good health of 80 mynah birds and makes no mention of gibbons.

In addition to the three shipments described above, the Comparative Oncology Laboratory at Davis has obtained four gibbons through a Singapore dealer (Y.L. Koh) and animal dealers in the US. This lab is currently negotiating to obtain additional gibbons from other laboratories in the US.

The evidence accumulated by the IPPL suggests that the Comparative Oncology Laboratory may be involved in stockpiling gibbons before more stringent regulations on international traffic in rare and endangered species of animals go into effect. In December 1973, the US became the first country to ratify the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species. The gibbon appears on Appendix 1 of the Convention.

The IPPL is deeply concerned about these shipments and about the use of the gibbon as a research animal. The rarity of the gibbon, the brutal and wasteful method of capture, and its poor reproductive record in captivity are each strong reasons for not using the gibbon in lab research, and especially not in experiments that result in the death of the animal. These shipments appear to have violated a provision of the Lacey Act that makes it illegal to procure animals protected in their country of origin without a special permit. Immediate steps are essential to ensure that no laboratories procure animals obtained in violation of the laws of sovereign nations. Professional censure as well as legal action should be applied in such cases and the researchers should be enjoined from further harming the animals in question.

Background of the Research Program

The use of the gibbon in cancer research has its origin in the US Army Laboratories in Bangkok. The 1969 Annual Report notes the deaths of four gibbons and attributes them to leukemia. Five further

cases occurred two years later. In his article "Granulocytic Leukemia in White-handed Gibbons," published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Vol. 163, no. 6 (1973), Alexander de Paoli, an army veterinarian, notes

significantly, all nine cases of neoplasms that occurred in the [gibbon] colony developed in the P. falciparum (malaria) infected group of gibbons. Moreover, within this group, neoplasms developed in gibbons that were inoculated either directly or indirectly with parasitemic blood from two human patients.

It was not possible to trace the donors of the blood. In addition to the malaria seven of these gibbons had up to four exposures to dengue fever, and all had been members of the colony during an epizootic of a Herpes virus.

The author concludes that "the confinement of neoplasia to the P. falciparum-infected gibbons suggests that the development of disease was related to the experimental procedures." The laboratories successfully inoculated baby gibbons with leukemia.

In his article "Malignant Lymphoma in the Gibbon," Johnsen warns that further work on the disease in gibbons should consider the fact that four cases of malignancy occurred in common with four factors: malaria, dengue, splenectomy and herpesvirus hominis (Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 159 (1971), 563-566).

In a recent article ("Antigenic Studies on Gibbon C-type Viruses," Transplantation Proceedings, Vol. VI (1974), no. 2), Dr. Kawakami calls the SEATO gibbon leukemia "spontaneous" and indicates that research on gibbons is continuing.

FEROCIOUS BEASTS

A new ordinance was passed in San Diego in November 1973 making it illegal to sell, give away, bring into or maintain within the county of San Diego any "Ferocious Beast." Listed as "ferocious beasts" along with lions, tigers, etc., are skunks and monkeys! Any such animals may be impounded and disposed of in a "human" way after a period of three days!

The IPPL deplors the primate pet trade and wishes Los Angeles, where every variety of primate pet is readily available, would follow San Diego's example in ending this vicious trade. But IPPL does not favor efforts which harass pet owners by by forcing them to move elsewhere or to dispose of their pets. Such action is seldom in the animal's interest as most zoos are not interested in collecting retired pets. Our position has been forwarded to the San Diego press and authorities.

ZOO PROJECT--ENFORCING NO-FEEDING POLICY

7

In the space of one week last spring, Fleishacker Zoo in San Francisco lost an entire family of white-handed gibbons and their only adult male patas monkey to an intestinal infection probably caused by public feeding. A year and a half previously the infant gorilla, after lingering on miserably for months, succumbed to the same ailment. The deaths of the gibbons and gorilla occurred despite the fact that both enclosures were conspicuously posted with no-feeding signs, and the gorilla grotto additionally equipped with a loud-speaker device repeating the prohibition. The patas monkey cage bore no admonition against feeding.

Zoo Director Jack Spring has recently extended the no-feeding policy to the entire primate collection (with the exception of Spider Monkey Island) and all the primate cages are now posted with DO NOT FEED signs. Casual observation indicates, however, that the public's habits are not so easily changed. Considerable feeding still goes on. A random list of items fed to the primates on a fine Sunday afternoon last month included marshmallows, pennies, cookies, bread, bananas, candied popcorn and a half-eaten ice cream sundae. Some species withstand this insult better than others but none are benefitted. The consequences may be relatively "mild" and transitory, such as Monday-morning diarrhea following upon the typically heavy feeding on Sundays; or they may be severe and permanent, as when bacterial infections and disease are transmitted to susceptible species such as the apes. A continuing problem, of course, is obesity.

IPPL members and several zoo volunteers are presently engaged in a program designed to decrease the volume of public feeding and eventually stop it entirely. Current and projected activities include

- 1) Observation of exhibits to determine how much feeding goes on, who feeds, what items are fed, animal behaviors that elicit or suppress feeding, etc. Approximately 40 hours of observation have been completed to date. This information will be handed over to the zoo staff and used as a basis for further policy.
- 2) Erection of a large sign stating zoo policy on feeding, to be placed immediately within the main entrance.
- 3) Preparation of a short informative pamphlet outlining the reasons for the no-feeding signs and exhorting the public to honor them.
- 4) Conversion of the zoo policy to the status of an ordinance, so that fines and legal sanctions may be imposed.
- 5) Surveillance by volunteers of the zoo on weekends, both to inform visitors and to enforce the feeding prohibition.

6) Enrichment of primate cages by means of ropes to swing on and other playthings, to decrease dependence on visitors for diversion and thus discourage begging.

Most of the prestigious European zoos--such as Frankfurt, Basel, Zurich, West and East Berlin zoos--enforce a total ban on public feeding. United States' zoos are moving in the same direction, as evidenced by the recent shift by San Diego Zoo from a partial to a total feeding ban. The St. Louis Zoo also prohibits all public feeding, while the Bronx Zoo in New York and the Seattle Zoo allow it only in very restricted areas. We must work to strengthen this trend.

IPPL PRESENTS PAPER FOR IPS CONGRESS

The International Primatological Society held its fifth biennial Congress at Nagoya, Japan, in August. The program included a special seminar on conservation, at which half the time was devoted to presentation of papers regarding conservation of the forests of Tropical Africa, Asia and South America. The second half was devoted to "The Action Program." Dr. Shirley McGreal presented a paper on the IPPL program prepared by herself and Ardith Eudey. The Conference Proceedings will be published next year and courtesy copies will then be available. However, anyone wanting a copy immediately can have one by sending \$1 to cover copying and mailing expenses.

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HOW TO JOIN:

Complete the form below and send it with your check (payable to Treasurer of The International Primate Protection League) to Sheila Curtin, Dep't of Anthropology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 94132.

- I wish to join the IPPL as a
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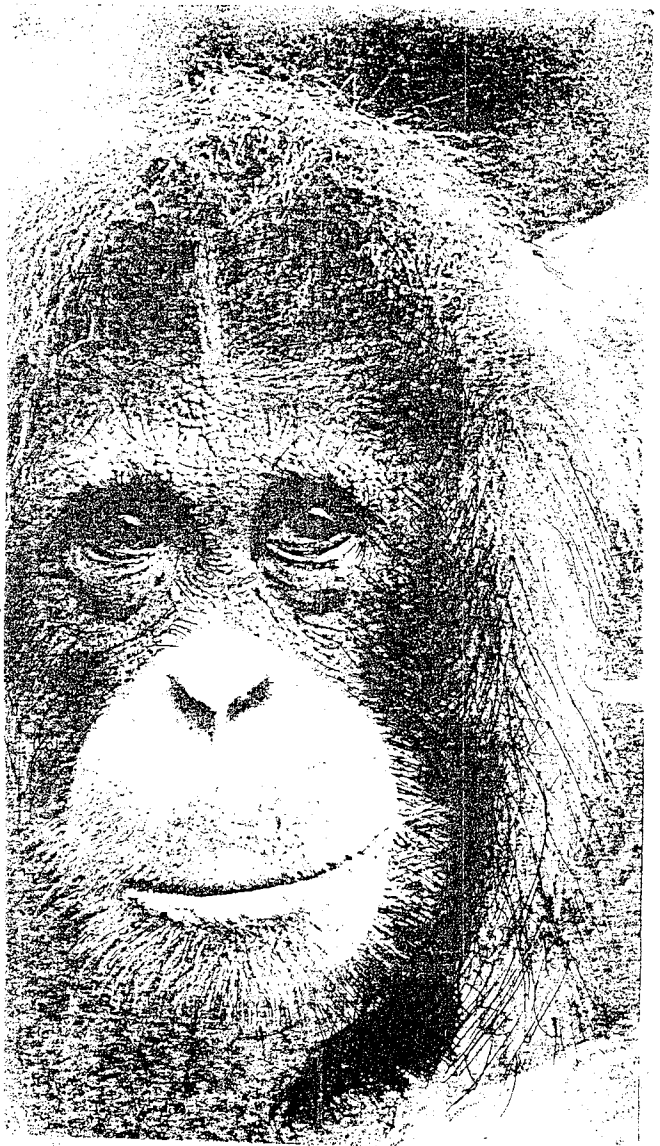
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Special interests, comments, and suggestions, etc., plus names of others who might be interested in IPPL would be appreciated notations.



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