INSIDE:
♦ IPPL's 14th Biennial Supporters' Meeting
♦ Dorothy Retires to IPPL
♦ Help Save Lonely Ponso!
Dear IPPL Friend,

We had a wonderful month of April here at IPPL. Our conference, held from 8-10 April, was a great success with close to 100 attendees. Thanks to everyone who came to be with us, many from afar. The weather was cool and pleasant. Our caterers did their usual good job providing excellent vegetarian food.

Supporters enjoyed meeting the IPPL gibbons. Our new gibbon Dorothy was a great hit, with her especially loud songs. Many attendees remembered Courtney from her infancy and were delighted to see how she had grown up so sweet and beautiful. Our grounds looked splendid with all the spring flowers.

Our speakers included several old friends of IPPL, like Bala Amarasekaran who runs the Tacugama Sanctuary for chimpanzees in Sierra Leone, West Africa. IPPL had helped the sanctuary since it was founded and continued helping it through the years. As many of you know, IPPL again came to the sanctuary’s rescue when the Ebola outbreak of 2014 caused financial and logistical problems that led to visitors and incoming volunteers cancelling their trips to Sierra Leone. Bala gave two presentations, and he previously gave talks at our 2004 and 2010 conferences.

Also back again was Edwin Wiek from Thailand, who brought along his wife Jansaeng Sangnanork (nicknamed Noi). Edwin manages sanctuaries in Thailand and Laos, and he also gave two presentations. He was last here in 2012. He cares for gibbons, monkeys, elephants, and many other species, and welcomes volunteers. One attendee was excited to be invited to come to Thailand and do a volunteer stint.

Angela Maldonado was again here for the second time to discuss Colombia’s heavily trafficked owl monkeys, adorable creatures of the night.

With us for the first time was Molly Jorges, who has worked hard for several years with the senior baboons at the C.A.R.E. Sanctuary in South Africa. She left Charleston on her way back to Johannesburg and then on to C.A.R.E.

We hope to see many of you in 2018.

Have a wonderful summer,

Shirley McGreal
IPPL Founder and Executive Director
February 1st was an exciting day at IPPL. It was the day we welcomed our newest gibbon. Dorothy is a petite white handed gibbon who came to us from a northern zoo. She lived at this zoo for 40 years, but recently her mate Benny died and the zoo decided to retire Dorothy to the peaceful surroundings and company of the other gibbons at our sanctuary.

It was a special day for us—but perhaps even more so for our newest arrival. After a 16 hour drive, 44-year-old Dorothy arrived. It was dark as we waited for the truck to come down the road and enter our sanctuary property.

Travelling with her keeper, and another zoo representative, her transport crate was moved into her temporary quarters - a building with cheerful sunflowers painted on the side by Robin Huffman, one of this year’s presenters, and a big sign near the door that read, “Welcome Dorothy!”

As the door to the crate opened, Dorothy walked out, sat on a branch, and curiously looked around. She remained calm as we commented on how pretty she was and took some photos. She even accepted some grapes (her favorite food) from her keeper, who had shared many years with Dorothy and wanted to accompany her on this special journey.

Dorothy’s BIG day came the next morning. It was warm and sunny as the door to the gibbon house opened, allowing her to come out, climb up into the aerial walkway, and look around. As far as we knew, this was the first time she had a 360 degree view! She could see the trees and see and hear other gibbons. Her eyes were full of wonder - and quite frankly ours contained a few tears, as we watched her life open up to the sights and sounds that surrounded her. As other gibbons sang - Dorothy sang too!

Two days after she arrived, it rained all day. Some of our other gibbons don’t mind the rain and stayed outside. Dorothy was quite happy to stay in her new home—especially after we turned on her TV! Another look of awe came over her face and we could not help wondering if she was thinking: “This is a really fun place to live!”

After her quarantine period (required for all arriving gibbons), Dorothy moved to a spacious enclosure and indoor gibbon house—and yes, another TV! We were told Dorothy rarely sang—were we in for a big SURPRISE! She has not only joined the choir, Dorothy has her own song and a range unlike that of any of the other gibbons! A video posted on Facebook quickly had eleven thousand views and over 800 likes. In time, we hope Dorothy may choose a new mate from one of our four handsome, eligible bachelors. For now, Dorothy seems to be having the time of her life!
"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall – Who is This Anyway?"

When Dorothy arrived, she brought one of her favorite enrichment items—a big mirror made for curious gibbons and other primates (or animals). None of our gibbons had ever seen a mirror, so they were quite intrigued by this fascinating object that contained… another gibbon!

All the gibbons except Louie-Louie took to it right away. We wondered if Louie thought, “This gibbon doesn’t sing like the rest of us, or move much.” Louie was just not sure about this “newcomer” but, as you can see, he soon joined Kendra to check out this new little ape.

And then there were Superworms!

Dorothy brought another form of enrichment with her—her love of superworms! The zoo had given them to her in a bucket along with some shavings, so she would have to forage for them. To Dorothy, this is a gourmet delicacy along with the challenge of finding them, so we decided to place an order big enough to share with the other gibbons. This new enrichment has been a big hit with everyone!

So little Dorothy has been quite an addition to our sanctuary. Her life has changed in so many wonderful ways and the rest of the gibbons not only seem to like Dorothy—their lives have changed as well—thanks to the addition of a mirror and superworms!
IPPL’s 14th Biennial Meeting Celebrates the Year of the Monkey and Thousands of Primates Saved Since 1973!
Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

The Beginning

Bala Amarasekaran named his first chimp Bruno after Frank Bruno, the British heavyweight boxer who was fighting Mike Tyson the day Bruno the chimp was rescued. Before long they acquired a second orphan they named Julie. Every day Bala had complaints, and bills, as these active chimps continued to escape, and enter other peoples’ houses.

One day Bala got a call that something was horribly wrong at his house. He rushed home to find that his entire house had been ransacked. Curtains, sheets and other items were everywhere. In the garden, the busy chimps had taken the puppies up a tree and placed them in a beautiful little nest and left them there! By that time they had seven chimpanzees.

Bala realized this could not continue, so he turned away from his career as an accountant and, from that point, he has dedicated his life to saving chimpanzees.

Man vs. Chimp

Hunters involved in the bushmeat trade have always been an enemy of chimpanzees. As baby chimps cling to their mothers who are shot out of trees by poachers, they are considered too small to become “food,” so they are kept by the hunters’ families—often in horrible conditions. Some don’t even know how to climb trees.

Upon arrival, each orphan is examined by the resident veterinarian and then the animal care staff begins to work with them. They are taken out in small groups for at least one hour each day and taught to socialize, climb trees, and to make small nests. It is a process that takes time, patience and dedication—gladly provided by the staff.

Securing a future for chimpanzees

Securing the future of the wild chimpanzee population requires planning and a systematic approach. In 1981, the first formal survey concluded that there were about 2,000 chimpanzees left in the wild. Tacugama has recently completed a nationwide survey and census of the wild population which showed that there are now around 5,500 chimpanzees. This has obviously been very encouraging news.

Bala commented that, “Chimpanzees belong to the forest and anything affecting the forest, affects the chimpanzees. We are using the chimpanzees as a flagship species to see how we can protect these remaining areas. Our main goal would be to make the people and the government aware of these conservation issues and to protect the natural habitats of Sierra Leone and the wildlife within—for the future.”

As Tacugama celebrates its 20th anniversary,” Bala said, “this is a proud moment.” Before Tacugama started, over 1,000 chimpanzees were being exported—some legally, most illegally. “It has taken a lot of hard work, but today not a single chimp is being offered for sale in Sierra Leone.”

The Ebola Crisis

When the Ebola Crisis struck in 2014, it had a major impact on Tacugama. In

Tacugama is established

Bala become more conscious of chimpanzees and to his dismay he saw chimps, often on chains, living in horrible conditions. Some lived as pets and some were for sale. In 1992, while attending a wildlife conservation meeting, Bala met Jane Goodall. Jane offered to help him get a permit to send his chimps to Chimfunshi, a long established sanctuary in Zambia. After some thought, Bala realized that passing the problem on to other people would not solve the problem.

In 1995, he established the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary on the outskirts of Freetown. It was a very trying and dangerous time as the Civil War was raging and the staff had to carry guns to protect the newly formed sanctuary. The war was so brutal that the rebels were walking around hacking peoples’ limbs off with machetes. The chimps were very distressed by the noise. One even started to eat his own fingers.

Bala Amarasekaran: In 1988, Bala Amarasekaran, and his wife Sharmila came across a baby chimp that was “for sale.” He was tied to a tree and appeared sick and very weak. Fearing that, if he remained without care for much longer, he would die, they paid $20.00 and took him home. This young chimp changed their lives forever.
Sierra Leone 10,000 people were infected and 4,000 died. There was speculation about the source; chimpanzees, monkeys or possibly bats. It was also suspected that it was spread by people eating bushmeat.

Ironically that had a positive impact for wild chimpanzees as a two year national hold was placed on hunting for bushmeat.

Tacugama knew its chimps were safe because, like humans, chimps develop the virus in 22 days and their chimps had been at the sanctuary for over a year. Therefore, the concern was having humans come in and expose the chimps. They took immediate action by closing the sanctuary to all outsiders for nine months and all chimp rescue was suspended.

Since the middle of 2015 the situation has started to stabilize. Sierra Leone has been free of Ebola for five to six months, but it is still in the region with one case reported in Liberia and another in Guinea. Bala is hopeful that it will soon “fade away” totally. In the meantime, there have been positive changes:

• The sanctuary is open again (but so far there are very few visitors),
• The education program is back and expanding,
• The sanctuary has now started to accept newly rescued chimpanzees,
• Tacugama’s campaign to uphold the laws to stop hunting and bushmeat consumption continues.

Although 60% of Tacugama’s revenue comes from inside Sierra Leone, without tourism, it suffered a huge financial loss. So far the tourists have not returned.

To offset this lost revenue, Tacugama is promoting its ecotourism programs to people living and working in the area. Focusing on a variety of opportunities such as overnight stays in one of four lodges, bird watching with breakfast, and yoga weekends, the sanctuary hopes to make up for its lost revenue.

As Bala reflected on the Ebola crisis, he said,

We wondered if we would survive to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we almost lost the sanctuary. We are not sure we would have made it without IPPL and its members should feel very proud. They were the first to come to our aid, contributing and publicizing our emergency so others would help as well. We could not have done it without them.

Edwin Wiek: The Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand started as a dream and became a reality in 2001. That was the year Edwin, with the help of one animal keeper and one cage builder, established a Thai organization that would rescue and rehabilitate wild animals. Before the end of the year, two gibbon islands had been constructed and occupied and 25 animals had been taken in at the new rescue center. But that was just the beginning!

The History and Care of the WFFT’s Gibbons and Macaques

Edwin had been a soldier by profession; then in 1989 he became a fashion designer in Thailand. Ten years later he had a serious accident, waking up on the hood of his car.

“It was as life changing experience”, he said, and one that would cause him to begin a very different way of life.

As a child, Edwin always dreamed of helping animals but, living in the Netherlands, he never thought about

rescuing monkeys, elephants and other animals. However over time he became acutely aware of the many horrible difficulties that confronted animals in Thailand. Edwin decided to start a sanctuary, stay with it for two or three years, and then turn it over to another non-profit. That happened in 1999. Edwin is still there and since 2001, WFFT has rescued between 7,000 and 8,000 animals.

Gibbons at WFFT

Gibbons have always been a big part of this organization and WFFT is the second largest gibbon rescue center in Asia. There are 14 separate enclosures separated by electric fencing. Over 110 gibbons live on the islands that are lush with tropical trees, fruits, and other vegetation. Videos show the gibbons singing and swinging high in the trees.

The gibbons in Thailand are victims of rampant exploitation. Gibbon babies are drugged and then used as props for tourists to hold and photograph. Although it is against the law, there is so much corruption that, even if someone is arrested, they return to the streets with another gibbon.

Edwin, who was arrested four years ago on trumped-in charges of illegally possessing and rescuing wildlife, won on appeal and now sits on a Parliamentary Committee that has passed a law, to become effective at the end of 2016, that all non-governmental animal protection organizations (NGOs) will be licensed to rescue animals.

Depending on circumstances, part of WFFT’s rescue mission includes the release of some animals to the wild. Included in its gibbon population are a male, female and two offspring who are scheduled for release back to the wild. A wonderful video showing this gibbon family, produced by Sky TV and the BBC, will be part of a special on primates that will be aired in December of this year. But for the gibbons who stay, their lives at this impressive sanctuary are as close as it gets to being in the wild.

Macaques at WFFT

Like the gibbons, macaques in Thailand also suffer at the hand of humans. Edwin shared the tale of a particularly heart-wrenching rescue of a macaque. Obtained
as an infant, Joe Monkey lived as a pet until he began to show some aggression in 1991. Since that time, 26 years ago, this poor monkey had been kept in a deplorable cage with no sunlight or clean water.

Children taunted him and rats ran around inside—it was a “hell hole.” In March Edwin received a call about Joe. Walking two miles in the slums, Edwin and a veterinarian located Joe, tranquilized him and carried him out. He was taken to the police station so he could be properly registered and then taken to the sanctuary.

Upon examination the veterinary staff discovered that he could not climb due to a lack of muscle tissue in his hind legs. In addition he had cataracts. He feared all humans—except Edwin, who commented, “Perhaps he was aware that I was the one who carried him out.”

By Day Three, Joe Monkey was seen sitting in a bath tub washing himself. We know that WFFT will be Joe Monkey’s home for the rest of his life. Thanks to Edwin, he finally has the life he deserves!

The headlines read: 14 Orangutans Smuggled into Thailand Sent Home to Indonesia.

Reading the stories from various media sources, there was no mention of either WFFT or Edwin Wicks who spent seven years first tracking these orangutans down, then working for their return to Indonesia and paying for the transport. This was not the first time WFFT had worked to get orangutans out of the hands of smugglers and repatriate them—it was the fourth.

For years, WFFT had been investigating the smuggling of these great apes. The first time was at a Thai harbor, where hours after a boat from Indonesia unloaded its cargo, people were seen putting two baby orangutans in a box. By tracking the vehicle, WFFT learned that they had been taken to a zoo. Two days later, they returned for two more. Like the other orangutan rescues, each had its own frustrations with government officials and the people who illegally held these great apes. It also took time—in terms of years.

For these 14 animals it took seven years from the time WFFT first heard of them until they arrived in Indonesia. The “owners” were saying that they were born in Thailand or that they were “wild caught” in Thailand. They said they were found on the road. Actually they had been taken in cages and dropped at the side of the road so that there was no proof of ownership, so no one could be punished.

Showing a video of the return, Edwin said that he had felt good because WFFT started it and never gave up. Then, pointing to the crowd, he said, “Look at all the media. I wish they had been there when the orangutans were in illegal possession!”

It was a victory because they were confiscated and sent back, but a loss because they hardly have a chance to return to the wild. In Indonesia there are over 2,000 orangutans in rescue centers

Will it happen again? We know it has in the past. But the new legislation that will become law at the end of the year will include protection for all animals, not just those indigenous to Thailand. So let’s hope this will prevent more orangutans from being smuggled into Thailand.

Molly Jorges: In 2006, Molly volunteered at the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education (C.A.R.E.) for one month. In 2009 she returned for six months. During that visit Molly was quarantined for two months with an 11-month-old babaon with severe tetanus. She continues to return—the last time on a three year visa when she did undergraduate directed research on an enrichment program. In 2013 she became C.A.R.E.’s Enrichment and Animal Welfare Development Coordinator. At one point Molly tried other wildlife centers, but she said, “I continued to dream about baboons—that’s why I went back and haven’t been able to really leave since!”

When the Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education (C.A.R.E.):s founder Rita Miljo found a tiny babaon in a trash bin in 1980, it was illegal to rescue baboons, so she decided to smuggle him back to her home. With this orphan, whom she named Bobby, Rita became the first person in the world to hand raise a babaon and also went on to be the first to release baboons into the wild.

In 2012 a devastating fire claimed the livesof Rita and three baboons, including Bobby. Although the staff was overwhelmed with grief, they knew they had to carry on for Rita and the 600 baboons in their care. IPPL quickly initiated a fundraiser so C.A.R.E. could begin to rebuild.

For the past four years the re-building has not stopped. Here is what C.A.R.E. has accomplished, in addition to projects currently underway.

- Electric fences have been installed to keep the disruptive, wild baboons out, although having them around has its advantages, as they teach the caged animals important behaviors such as how to care for the young.
- The clinic is five times larger than the old one, allowing them to bring in more visiting veterinarians for up to six months.
- The new Education Center is able
to accommodate more visitors, including school children.
• New volunteer housing has been re-located in a safer area to avoid meetings with elephants!
• A new milk kitchen is being built, along with a bigger nursery which will be next to the non-releasable baboons.

New integration and release program for orphan baboons

For years orphaned baboons were cared for by surrogate humans. Often there were as many as 15 in a troop who remained with humans for 1–1½ years before they could be integrated into a troop for future release. A new program that integrates young orphans with surrogate baboon mothers is proving to be very successful. It required designing and building special enclosures where orphans could gradually be introduced to the surrogate baboons. When the non-releasable baboons are moved near the nursery, the adult females, who “love the babies”, will be able to interact with them, ultimately making it easier for the orphans to be integrated into a troop for a future release.

This program significantly cuts the time the orphans need to spend with human involvement as well as the time they will have to be held in captivity!

IPPL’s Animal Care Team:
(from left) Hardy Brown, Stacy Lambert, Meg McCue-Jones, Samantha Martin, and Wesley Laney.

On Friday evening, IPPL’s Animal Care staff entertained and enlightened attendees with a presentation entitled: “Our Gibbons – Up Close and Personal.” Sharing stories about the animals’ likes, dislikes and unique personalities allowed our guests the opportunity to get to know our staff and gibbons before meeting them “in person.”

It’s clear the Animal Care staff love our gibbons—and for the record—we love them!
After a long time spent working with Rita Miljo of C.A.R.E., Dr. Carolyn Bocian of the Rainbow Eco-Farm and Training Center near Johannesburg, South Africa, became interested in samango monkeys, members of the guenon family. These monkeys live only in South Africa and are endangered. Rita was distressed at not knowing how many were left and wanted someone to find out. Carolyn had been in South Africa for a few years and applied for—and quickly received—a permit to count samango monkeys.

The first study location was in the Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve. They found an almost perfect site to set up camp in the Malta Forest on the edge of the Selati River, and christened it “Camp Samango.”

Carolyn noted, “It’s not very big, but it’s all we have and we’re trying to protect it.”

The area, once thriving, is now a wilting avocado plantation. It was taken away from the Africans by the Apartheid government—simply because it was very profitable. Once the farmers were driven out, it was turned into a nature reserve, but there are all kinds of indigenous people who have land claims to the area and they want the farms back.

It took several months for them to be able to count the monkeys. There is no place to live, so tents became their homes. Trail cutting was difficult because the terrain is not easy to walk through. There are no huge mammals such as elephants or buffalo to beat down the dead brush, so nothing is cleared away and everything has thorns!

Samangos are the only forest primates in South Africa. Without them, the forest would disappear because they are seed dispersers and, if the seeds are not passed around, the forest begins to shrink. Sadly, it is shrinking today and the monkeys are paying the price.

There is one road that goes through and people are in there constantly. Patches of forest have become so fragmented that the monkeys have to come down on the ground and run across the road to another patch of forest or stay together and get crowded.

The social system of this species has one resident male. With crowding, every four to five years this male will get kicked out by another male—creating an even greater problem as these dispersed primates look for alternative habitat.

Since 2009, the Rainbow Eco-Farm Training Center has been providing training for youngsters in the area and taking the centers’ message of caring for wildlife into schools, teaching children to be wildlife advocates rather than abusers.

Carolyn concluded, “This is the southernmost limit for forest monkeys in South Africa. I feel we have to hold the line there. If we let it go, then the limit goes further up and the next time there will only be little patches of forest in Zambia, Malawi and so on. Then we get up to the Democratic Republic of Congo and that’s the center of the continent! How many species will be extinct by then? So we really have to protect this habitat or it’s going to be over.”
Robin Huffman was formerly an interior decorator who has now become a wildlife artist. In 2007 she made her first trip to Africa and fell in love with the continent. In 2009 she went back and became a volunteer at the Ape Action Africa (AAA) sanctuary in Cameroon. Over the next seven years she has spent nearly half her life in Africa.

AAA is located in a 2,500 acre protected area called Mefou Primate Park which cares for 350 primates including 110 chimpanzees, 22 gorillas, and many species of monkeys.

It is where the volunteers live and it is open every day of the year to tourists. The primates are housed in forested enclosures with solar-powered electrified fences and satellite cages. Only two of their 40+ staff are non-nationals.

Robin shared some heartbreaking stories about some of the primates AAA has rescued—such as Sunshine, an olive baboon who at three months old was confiscated from wildlife traffickers and Yoda, a talapoin, a member of the smallest breed of monkey in Africa. She came with BB pellets embedded in her chest and shrapnel wounds on her face and chest. And the primates with no stories, only questions like—Why did Bertie the chimp's owners cut his ears off? Or why was Jacky kept in his cage for 30 years?

Daphne was confiscated from wildlife traffickers after being found in a room with body parts of at least six chimps (IPPL was the “hero of the day” with a grant that paid for Daphne’s food and caregiver).

It was at AAA that Robin learned she could paint. Striking workers had chopped up the signage and Robin and another volunteer painted the replacements. From that point Robin started painting primates. She even has a primate art show coming up in New York in July.

IPPL supporter Celeste Coles told us about her trip to Rwanda. The highlight was her arduous climb up to Karisoke, which was Dian Fossey’s scientific base in Rwanda. Its location lies in the saddle area between two volcanoes: Mt. Visoke and Mt. Karisimbi. The name Karisoke was derived from these two volcanoes and is at an elevation of over 9,000 feet.

Celeste commented that “It didn’t look at all like the movie or photos of the camp when Dian was there as it had been abandoned during the unrest of the 1990’s.” Dian was known as Nyiramachabelli, which directly translated means, “the woman who lives alone on the mountain.” Dian was murdered in December 1985, and her killer has never been identified.

Today, Celeste said, “All that remains is the graveyard where several of Dian Fossey’s favorite gorillas were buried. Dian is buried next to the grave of her beloved gorilla, Digit, who was killed for his hands and feet.” Evelyn Gallardo, IPPL’s representative in Costa Rica, who had stayed with Dian at Karisoke shortly before Dian’s death (she and her husband David were among the few humans Dian liked!), was shocked to learn that, six months after Dian’s death, there was still no marker for Dian’s grave and brought this to IPPL’s attention. IPPL immediately decided that we should help with the costs of purchasing a marker for the site.

Evelyn designed a simple monument and had it installed at the Karisoke gorilla graveyard in 1986. There Dian rests, surrounded by the graves of several of her study gorillas who were brutally slaughtered by poachers, including Digit, Uncle Bert, Macho, and Kweli. Evelyn wrote the text of the marker, which included the words:

“No one loved gorillas more. Rest in peace, dear friend”

Before leaving the grave marker, Celeste said, “I just sat, contemplating all the work that Dian Fossey had done during her lifetime and how her life ended so savagely.
Dr. Angela Maldonado: IPPL has been following Angela’s persistent efforts (some might call it an “outright” war) to protect and stop the illegal trade in primates in her native Colombia. Here in 2014, Angela returned this year to give us a progress report.

Illegal trade and lack of accountability by law enforcement

Night, or owl monkeys, have been traded legally and illegally for the purpose of biomedical research in malaria for more than 30 years. But Fundación Entropika has a long time conservation strategy to curb wildlife trade, using these monkeys as a flagship species. To identify the species conservation status, Entropika conducted a study of 14 sampling sites: 11 in Colombia and 3 in Peru. Each was monitored every month from 2005-2015. Results suggest that the illegal trade in night monkeys for malaria research is decimating wild populations and significantly affecting their ecosystems.

Furthermore, alarming figures show that forest degradation related to trapping methods has resulted in the deforestation of 65,000 adult trees and the capture of approximately 4,000 monkeys from 2007-2008, despite trapping permits allowing the trapping of 1,600 animals for the same period. After malaria research is completed, these monkeys can remain in the lab for as long as three years. After testing is completed, these monkeys, caught in Peru and even Brazil, are released in Colombia, creating an introduced population of Aotus nancymaae in Colombia.

Night monkeys and malaria research

Night monkeys are trapped by indigenous people, then sold to the Immunology Research Foundation of Colombia (FIDIC). Seventy five percent of these primates were mainly trapped in Peru then sold, without export permits, into Colombia. In 2011, Angela Maldonado took legal action against responsible organisations and won a public benefit lawsuit in 2014 to eradicate this illegal trade.

However, the biomedical facility, claimed violation of their fundamental rights and sued the States Council—the court that emitted the second instance ruling that revoked their research permits—in a writ of injunction. In 2015, the laboratory won the case despite evidence that clearly demonstrates this facility had not fulfilled the obligations contained in their research permits, infringing Colombian and CITES (the Convention of International Trade Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) legislation. This unconstitutional decision allowed FIDIC to resume its previous permit allowing the capture of 1,463 night monkeys over a period of 566 days.

Our conservation impact

Thanks to Entropika’s law enforcement strategy, the illegal trade of night monkeys coming from Peru and Brazil was eradicated. Currently, environmental authorities are strictly overseeing FIDIC’s trapping permit and implementing strict controls to guarantee that animals are trapped in Colombia. The radio station from the Police announces that animals must come from Colombia, and that traders bringing animals in from Peru will be prosecuted.

The trapping of the remaining monkeys in FIDIC’s permits is followed up by our research team, visiting the communities every month. In addition, Entropika is helping the Peruvian communities that were trading a considerable number of animals for malaria research improve their living standards. Thus, we installed basic systems to provide potable water to those communities, and currently we are implementing a primate-watching tourism program to provide sustainable income to those communities, replacing the income obtained by the trapping of night monkeys.

Further research

From from 2016-2018, Entropika will be conducting a genetic study to clarify the taxonomy and distribution of the genus Aotus at the southern bank of the Amazon River in Peru. This will provide critical information to confirm species distribution and to identify illegal trade. Information collected will serve as baseline information for the implementation of a management plan for Aotus spp. at the Colombian-Peruvian border.

What’s next

Despite corruption and lack of accountability by Magistrates from Colombia’s highest court, it has been clear that legal actions instigated by civil society have lasting conservation efforts as the international trade in night monkeys was eradicated. In addition, law enforcement is in place today thanks to our continuous presence in the area, causing the authorities to fulfill their obligations.
Ponso, an elderly chimpanzee, lives alone on an island in the Ivory Coast. He originally came from the New York Blood Center’s (NYBC) laboratory in Robertsfield, Liberia.

The lab was founded in 1975 and IPPL learned from a woman named Sonia Jeffrey, who was living in Liberia, that wild chimpanzees were being caught by darting and bought from dealers. The lab conducted disease experiments on its chimpanzees for decades.

In 1983 a group of 20 chimpanzees was moved from Liberia to an island in the neighboring Ivory Coast. Eleven of these chimps died and nine survivors were moved to another island.

The rest remained in Liberia. Sadly all the Ivory Coast chimpanzees except Ponso died.

Fortunately for Ponso, an African national named Germain started to take care of him, and still does to this day.

Options for Ponso include:
1. Returning him to the Liberian program which was abandoned by NYBC, and the surviving chimpanzees left to die; A coalition of US animal protection groups is now supporting them.
2. Bringing some chimps from substandard Ivory Coast zoos or confiscated from people holding them illegally in the Ivory Coast to join Ponso.
3. Sending him to a sanctuary in another African nation. In April 2016 Estelle Raballand, President of the Chimpanzee Conservation Center, a sanctuary in Guinea that IPPL has been helping since 2005, visited Ponso’s island to examine him. He let her take blood samples and he was shown to be healthy.

While permanent plans are being made, which could take a long time, Ponso needs care and his wonderful caregiver Germain needs to be paid.
Germain loves Ponso!

You Can Help Ponso!

Please make a generous check out to IPPL earmarked “For Ponso’s Care” and mail it to:

International Primate Protection League
PO Box 766
Summerville, SC 29484

We will send all the donations to SOS Ponso’s account in Africa. You can also donate through www.ippl.org “Donate” page and, in the block “Special Purpose,” write “For Ponso’s Care.” Thank for your helping this lonely chimpanzee.

Dr. Sian Evans is the Managing Director for the Dumond Conservancy for Primates and Tropical Forest. It is a science and education affiliate of Monkey Jungle, a primate-focused wildlife park and discovery center in Miami-Dade County, Florida. In addition, Dr. Evans teaches a Great Ape Conservation course at Florida International University and serves as the facilitator for the university’s student led group Students for Great Ape Conservation.

Thank you, Dr. Evans, for coming to Summerville and updating us on Ponso!

Moving Soon? Let Us Know!

Millions of people around the world change their place of residence every year. That makes it hard to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. You can help us lower our postage costs by telling us of your new address in advance. Just send us an e-mail (info@ippl.org) or post card with your old and new addresses. That way we can spend less money on overhead and more money on primates! (And you won’t miss a single issue of IPPL News!)
Farewell to Ardith Eudey

By Shirley McGreal

IPPL was devastated to learn that our co-founder Dr. Ardith Eudey died in December 2015. She was studying the behavior of free-living stump-tail macaques in the Huay Kha Khaeng Sanctuary when I met her in the 70’s. I had become interested in macaques and met Ardith at a nature club meeting in Bangkok. We became friends in 1972 and, every time she came out of the forest, where working conditions were really tough, and where she was a pioneering woman in primatology, she would come and stay at my home in Bangkok. My bedroom was the only air-conditioned room in my house and Ardith would sleep on a mattress on the floor!

Ardith was very interested in gibbons and learned that the University of California, where she was studying for her doctorate, had been importing smuggled gibbons via Canada to perform viral cancer research. We reported the lab to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and requested that it be prosecuted. Ardith did an affidavit attesting to her convincing findings. Sadly, there was no prosecution. When the lab lost its federal funding, Ardith learned that one gibbon who the lab claimed was mentally retarded was going to be killed and she tipped us off. We intervened on his behalf and he was sent to IPPL. His name is Arun Rangsi, and he still lives with us. He is not mentally retarded.

I looked hard for a group that would work to help the primates’ cause and thought one was surely needed. So we decided to start one. We had to incorporate in California as that was where Ardith lived, and it was Ardith who did all the arduous legwork, such as collecting signatures for the state and federal incorporation papers. Without her determination there might have been no IPPL!

Ardith continued her studies in Thailand and completed her doctorate. She was an outstanding field worker and conservationist, working for decades with the IUCN Primate Specialist Group. She became a crusader for macaques. She even gave her beloved cats names of macaque species such as “Speciosa,” “Thibetana,” and “Irus.”

At the time of her death she was working to get crab-eating macaques upgraded to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Ardith remained on IPPL’s Advisory Board until her passing. She was a delightful and funny person and will long be remembered.

Ardith Eudey, Shirley McGreal and Mohammed Khan, then Wildlife Chief of Malaysia

AmazonSmile

Give back while you shop! AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to help support IPPL and our gibbons. Enjoy the same low pricing and availability offered with Amazon, but with a twist! All you have to do is visit smile.amazon.com and select International Primate Protection League as your charity. Amazon will then donate a portion of the purchase price to us.

Getting an AmazonSmile account is easy, free, and a great way to give back while purchasing your favorite items online. While shopping, head over to IPPL’s own Amazon account and check out our Wish List. Among the newest items on the list are Superworms, a new gibbon favorite! And all generate tax-deductible donations!
For many years IPPL has been collecting and producing reports on primate importations to the United States. We based our reports on spreadsheets produced by the Law Enforcement Management Information Service (LEMIS) of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Our information was shared with many other organizations.

LEMIS gathers information from the Form 177s filed by importers and exporters of each shipment of wildlife. LEMIS collects and puts it in spreadsheets. IPPL has in the past obtained these spreadsheets through the US Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The US FOIA was established in 1966 under President Lyndon Johnson. The Act’s underlying philosophy is full disclosure of government documents requested by the public, but unfortunately there are several exemptions.

In 2015 IPPL requested the LEMIS spreadsheets for live primates imported to the United States and sport hunted animals in the year 2014, as well as exported animals. For the first time there were deletions.

For the past years prior to 2014, we have been able to determine that businesses like the Guangxi Weimei Bio-Tech Co., Ltd., Huazheng Laboratory Animal Breeding Center, Guangzhou Blooming Spring Biological Technology Development, and Bioculture Mauritius, Ltd., have frequently been among the top five exporters of primates to the United States.

Bioculture Mauritius operates (naturally) in Mauritius, but the other companies are Chinese. Presumably these companies are still exporting monkeys—but now we have no way to know.

We have also learned that crab-eating macaques have been the most frequently imported primates, followed by rhesus macaques.

Then, in 2015, our request for the spread sheets for 2014 came with just one exemption. We were suddenly not being granted access to any information about the identities of foreign exporters when we requested the import data. For our April 2015 issue of IPPL News, a former employee prepared an article, with tables showing the top US primate importers of a total of 23,465 primates, and the article included a breakdown of species and tables of countries of origin. Despite the deletions, the information was valuable.

Things grew worse for IPPL in 2016, when we requested the statistics for primates imported in 2015. The spreadsheets arrived, but the most important columns were left blank:

- The number of animals in each shipment was deleted,
- The names of all the foreign exporters were deleted,
- The number of animals in each shipment was deleted,
- The value of the animals was deleted.

So on 8 March 2016, IPPL filed an appeal to the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior pointing out that the FOIA requires release of the requested information. We have not even received an acknowledgement of our request. We hope we will receive this information soon and that we will be able to fill you in on the cruel international traffic in monkeys.

The pet trade in monkeys is still legal in the United States. Baby monkeys are snatched from their mothers soon after birth and sold, often for thousands of dollars, to humans who try to raise them as human babies. The new monkey mother is usually tranquilized and wakes up to find her baby stolen.

If left with his or her natural mother, her baby would cling 24 hours round the clock to her body. The clinging baby would suckle on her, but the poor pet baby monkey is given a human baby bottle.

You often hear the term “Monkey Moms” used by human owners who act as if they gave birth to the infants. The “owners” often explain that the real mothers “reject” their babies, which is very rare. Prices are high, ranging from around $5,000 for monkeys to $50,000 or more for chimpanzees.

Most of the pet monkey babies are forced to wear human diapers. There are no “diaper trees” in the jungle. Wearing diapers is totally unnatural and undignified for infant primates.

Help End the Primate Pet Trade

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As they mature, the once-docile monkeys can become aggressive and inflict savage injuries on the “owners.”

“Owners” often take drastic measures such as extraction of canine teeth to extend primates’ “shelf life” as pets.

Many pet primates go insane and start to engage in stereotypic behaviors such as head-banging. Finally, the primates often inflict horrific injuries on their owners. Only a lucky few end up in sanctuaries, but there are very few sanctuaries and they are usually under-funded and overcrowded. Most ex-pets end up in roadside zoos, research laboratories or worse.

Now two US congressmen, Earl Blumenauer and Michael Fitzpatrick, have a bill before Congress that would bring an end to this cruel trade. The bill has 70 co-sponsors. It is named the Captive Primate Safety Act and is supported by many groups, including the Animal Welfare Institute and Jungle Friends. The bill would prohibit the sale of nonhuman primates into the pet trade. It would cover monkeys, lemurs, prosimians, and large and small apes. If the bill goes through, thousands of monkeys would be saved every year from miserable unnatural lives.

Here’s How You Can Help

Log onto https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2920 to see more facts about the bill in progress, H.R. 2920. After you have done your research, write a letter to your representative, asking to vote to ban the trade in primates. If you don’t know the name of your representative, please visit this web site: http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/ You can enter your zip code and will be directed to the name and address of your representative and his/her web site. Thank you for your help in ending the primate trade!
Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- Dolores Anthis, in honor of Adell Decker
- Paul Axelband, in memory of Dimitri and Graysub
- Stephen Azzopardi, in memory of Father Attilo Azzopardi who loved all creatures great and small.
- Emily Beline, in honor of Tong
- Theodore Bestor, in honor of The Year of the Monkey
- Christina Bowman, in honor of G & G Bowman
- Melinda Brisben, in honor of my nephew Brian Giovanni
- Peter Bury, in honor of fellow primates with love!
- Alka Chandna, in honor of Shirley McGreal
- Susan Choi-Hausman, in honor of Connee Choi
- Brien Comerford, in honor of All God’s creatures
- Gina Czark, in honor of Michael Rokicki
- Laran D’Eustachio, in honor of Richard Sillivant and Susan Bogart
- Annetter DiBiase, in honor of Ellen Richardson’s 70th birthday!
- John Donagher, in honor of laboratory primates
- Laura Einstandig, in memory of my mother Phyllis Einstandig who taught me to love
- Dr. Nora Field, in honor of Doreen Heimlich
- Gertrud Firmage, in honor of Lee Miles and Richard Firmage
- Linda Frankl and John Kaufman, in honor of Ron Frankl
- Susan Gabay, in memory of my daughter, Susanna
- Evelyn Gallardo and David Root, in memory of Dian Fossey
- Dr. Mark Haddad, in honor of Elaine Bridge
- David Haslett, in memory of Patsi
- Leigh Hill, in honor of Elain Spencer and your HUGE love of animals
- Kathy Howell, in memory of Kit Woodock
- Katherine Iosif, in memory of Nancy Sue Groby Benedict
- Emily King, in honor of Robert and Diana Harding
- Nancy Kreml, in honor of Karen Joy Fowler
- Carol Leenstra, in honor of the innocents
- Patrick Little, in honor of my wife, Maryellen Halvorsen
- Yue Liu, in honor of my parents, Ma Yuzhen and Liu Xinghan
- Arden Lowndes, in honor of Matthew Lowndes
- Shirley Lugowe, in honor of Bob Lugowe
- Melanie Madden, in memory of Nita Webb
- Mayumi Matson, in honor of Shirley McGreal
- Dr. Shirley McGreal, in memory of Patsi Haslett, Ardith Eudey and Glenda Gibbon
- Frank Smith, in honor of Catherine Mesrobian
- Mr. Myers, in memory of my wife, JoAnn
- Carol Ohlendorf, in honor of All my pets
- Brenda Parks, in honor of My sister, Liz Bills
- Joanne Pierce, in honor of Pam Dauphin’s birthday
- Debbie Popma, in memory of Joyce Healey
- Marsha Rabe, in memory of Seabiscuit, our sweet cat
- Kathy Richter, in memory of Clay P Richter
- Kathy Rodriguez, in honor of All of the wonderful animals
- Gregory Rothschild, in honor of Tina McCoy
- James Scott, in honor of Penelope Summerall
- Carol and Art Silverman, in honor of Cheryl Beth Silverman
- Jeffrey Silverstein, in honor of Weezer, the best friend I ever had
- Julian Siminski and Rob Wilson, in honor of George Lawrence “Larry” Wilson
- Greame and Robin Smith, in honor of Tika Sugar Blackie Smith
- Linda Squier, in memory of Igor Gibbon
- Louise Swig, in memory of Judge Herbert Donaldson
- Dr. Beverly Loy Taylor, in honor of the orangutans and gibbons of Kalimantan
- Dianne Taylor-Snow, in memory of Pepper Snow and Ardith Eudey
- Sara Tjossem, in memory of Lorrain Ackerman Shapiro
- Zachary Tomlinson, in honor of slow lorises
- Clara Tse, in honor of Dr. Vjekoslav Iljic
- Vaska Tumir, in honor of Leposava Mijuskovic-Andjelkovic
- Sandy Walters, in honor of Rebecca Watkins
- Rebecca Watkins, in memory of Bill Austin
- Elizabeth Wheeler, in honor of Rachel Mieko Hennessey
- Dr. Kristin M. Whitehurst, in honor of Edward R. Whitehurst
- Susan Wisnieski, in honor of James A. Diehl

A sad farewell to a special friend…

Patsi Haslett was one of our earliest members and a generous donor to IPPL for decades. She was British and lived with her beloved husband David in San Francisco. She was one of those members with whom I develop a special bond, in her case due to our both bring British and loving animals. So we would enjoy long chats. Sadly Patsi died on 22 March 2015. Her husband sent a generous gift for the gibbons on the first anniversary of her passing. Shirley McGreal
Leave a Lasting Legacy…
...for the Primates You Love

Over the years, IPPL has benefitted greatly from bequests left to us by departed supporters. Their thoughtfulness has allowed IPPL to:

♦ build new gibbon houses and outdoor enclosures at our sanctuary;
♦ acquire new sanctuary land, now totaling 36 acres, which not only creates space for our gibbons but provides a buffer zone that shelters local wildlife;
♦ construct a much-in-demand guest cottage for our visitors, known as “Swan and Mary’s Cottage” after the lovely couple who left IPPL the funds to build it; and
♦ provide support to dozens of primate sanctuaries and rescue organizations around the world, wherever primates are native.

Some of our bequests have come from people who have only been able to make small donations during their lifetimes. Others honor friends. For some, there are tax advantages to making bequests to charities.

Your bequest to IPPL will ensure that our unique work can carry on long into the future. Our address to include in your will is: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484. Our U.S. federal tax ID number is 51-0194013.

If you are thinking about remembering IPPL in your will or trust, know that your love for primates will continue to live on through your generosity.

With gratitude,

Dr. Shirley McGreal
IPPL Founder and Executive Director

Gary, retired from a tourist venue

Arun Rangsi, rescued from a lab
IPPL Supporter's Donation Form

If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL supporter, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world’s primates by making a financial contribution. By sending in a donation, you will be sure to continue receiving thrice-yearly issues of *IPPL News*. You may also donate online, if you wish, on IPPL’s secure Web site (www.ippl.org). All donations are welcome!

Please accept my contribution to support the work of IPPL. I have enclosed the following donation:

- $20 regular dues
- $50 sustaining dues
- $100 patron dues
- $10 student/senior dues
- Other amount: $_____ (dues)
- Other amount: $_____ (one time donation)

☐ I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL.

☐ I will be paying via credit card (circle):  Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

Card number:  __________________________________________________________
Expiration date:  ________________

Cardholder’s signature:  __________________________________________________

Name:  ________________________________________________________________

Address:  ______________________________________________________________

E-mail:  ________________________________________________________________

☐ I would like to make a **monthly** donation with my credit card:

$__________ amount / month

Please mail form and payment to: IPPL ♦ P.O. Box 766 ♦ Summerville, SC 29484 ♦ USA. Thank you!
## Primate Paraphernalia!

**IPPL Baseball Cap:**
- 100% cotton; khaki; adjustable
- **Cost:** US$15 (US)/US$19 (overseas)

**Gibbon Notecards:**
- 12 cards and envelopes, 2 each of 6 IPPL gibbons (Arun Rangsi, Courtney, Spanky, Peppy, Maynard, and Tong)
- **Cost:** US$12 (US)/US$16 (overseas)

**IPPL Gibbon T-shirt:**
- 100% cotton; green shirt features 3 IPPL gibbons: Arun Rangsi, who came to IPPL as a baby from a biomedical lab; Igor, who spent 26 lonely years in research; and Beanie, who was blinded by illness.
- **Sizes:** Adult S, M, L, XL; Child S, M, L, XL
- **Cost:** Adult US$15 (US)/US$22 (overseas)
- Child US$12 (US)/US$16 (overseas)

**Two-sided Gibbon T-shirt:**
- 100% cotton T-shirt with gibbon design front and back
- **Sizes:** Adult S, M, L, XL
- **Cost:** US$20 (US)/US$30 (overseas)

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**Method of payment:**
- □ Check/money order, payable to IPPL.
- (Overseas checks to be drawn on US banks.)
- □ Credit Card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

**Order form:**

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All prices include shipping and handling.

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**Mail your order to:**
- IPPL • P.O. Box 766 • Summerville, SC 29484 • USA
- Questions? 843-871-2280 or info@ippl.org

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You can also order IPPL merchandise using our secure server. Go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and select **How You Can Help > Shop at Our Store**.
Adopt An IPPL Gibbon!

All of the gibbons living at IPPL’s sanctuary deserve to live happy lives. Many of IPPL’s residents have come to the sanctuary after years in research, as pets, or in sub-standard living conditions. By adopting an IPPL gibbon, you help to ensure that your chosen animal (and all the IPPL gibbons) will continue to get the best care possible: a quiet, peaceful life in sunny South Carolina, living in spacious enclosures with their mates, and eating only fresh, natural foods. For a donation of $20 per month for at least six months, you will receive:

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<td>A large glossy photograph of your gibbon.</td>
<td>A gibbon fact sheet.</td>
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<td>A biographical sketch of your gibbon.</td>
<td>An IPPL window cling.</td>
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<td>Two updates a year on your gibbon.</td>
<td>A T-shirt featuring several IPPL gibbons.</td>
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Adoptions make WONDERFUL GIFTS that will last all year!

Yes, I want to adopt/renew an IPPL gibbon!

Your name: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________________

Street address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: ___________________________

E-mail address: ___________________________

I would like to adopt (insert name of gibbon): ___________________________

I would like to pay in monthly installments ☐  OR  I would like to pay in full ☐ :  

1. $20 per month for 6 months (in full: $120) ☐  1 year (in full: $240) ☐  2 years (in full: $480) ☐  

Select the desired size of T-shirt (circle):  Adult sizes: S M L XL XXL  Child sizes: S M L or XL

☐ Check here if you prefer not to receive a T-shirt.

☐ This is a gift. Please send the adoption packet and updates (and T-shirt, if applicable) to the following recipient:

Recipient’s name: ___________________________ Phone number: ___________________________

Street address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______ Zip: ___________________________

E-mail address: ___________________________

☐ I will be paying with a check made payable to IPPL.

☐ I will be paying by credit card (circle):  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

Name (on card): ___________________________ Signature: ___________________________

Credit card number: ___________________________ Expiration Date: ___________________________

Credit card billing address (for verification purposes): ___________________________

If you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail (info@ippl.org).
Please mail your application to: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA; or fax it to (843) 871-7988.
IPPL Gibbons Currently Available for Adoption

**Tong** belongs to a different species from most of IPPL’s gibbons. She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and was wild-born in her native Vietnam probably around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold as a pet to an American serviceman stationed in Vietnam; her mother may have been one of that nation’s many wild animals that succumbed to Agent Orange or other hazards of war. When Tong’s owner left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, the servants did not know much about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Eventually Tong was transferred to the protection of newly-founded IPPL, and she has been a part of the family ever since. By adopting Tong, you’ll share in IPPL’s commitment to lifelong care for beautiful apes like her.

**Arun Rangsi** was born in 1979 at a California research laboratory. Abandoned by his mother at birth, he was raised with a substitute mother made of wire to which he clung. Then the laboratory lost the funding for its program, and IPPL Founder Shirley McGreal, acting on a tip-off, rescued him from possible euthanasia. Once he arrived at IPPL’s sanctuary, his physical and mental condition greatly improved, thanks to a good diet and lots of love. Today Arun Rangsi lives happily with Shanti, another former laboratory gibbon. To keep this sweet, gentle ape happy and healthy, we’d love for you to adopt him.

**Courtney** was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was just 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving the little 12-ounce infant with a terribly mangled leg. Thanks to the skill of our veterinarian and months of attention from Courtney’s special nannies, her injuries have healed remarkably well. She has had minor follow-up surgery, but is nonetheless extremely active. If you saw her leaping around, you would hardly believe how badly she had been hurt. Since she is now mature, she has accepted a gibbon companion to share her life, our gentle lab gibbon Whoop-Whoop—but she still enjoys regular visits from her human friends. We hope you’ll consider adopting this spunky and determined little ape.

**Peppy** was born in 1979 at a cancer lab run by the University of California at Davis. The laboratory used gibbons in painful and usually fatal viral cancer experiments. When the lab closed down, he was sent to yet another research facility, the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates in New York. Fortunately, before LEMSIP closed its doors as well, he and his companion-for-life, Helen, were sent to IPPL in the early 1980s. They have been together ever since—and you can always tell them apart because he will be the one sucking his thumb. Miraculously, he never became ill as a result of the research carried out on him, so we have always called him “The Gibbon Who Got Away.”
Kendra doesn’t know it, but we knew about her family long before she was born! In 1985, we were contacted by a Silver Springs, Florida tourist attraction. Baby Elizabeth had been rejected by her mother, Glenda. Since hand raising this infant was proving too much for them, IPPL was asked to adopt Elizabeth and happily agreed.

We continued to stay in touch with the caregiver—she even visited Elizabeth. Then in 2013 we received an urgent call. The facility was closing and all 250 animals needed new homes. We quickly agreed to take the gibbon family which now included parents, Glenda and Gary and their offspring, Thai and Kendra. We were elated to know that this family would now join Elizabeth at our sanctuary!

Kendra’s birth name was Kenabalou, and believing she was a boy, they called her Kenny. Thinking this would be confusing at IPPL, we renamed her Kendra which seemed fine with her.

Our goal is to find a mate for each IPPL gibbon. After housing Kendra and Louie-Louie near each other and observing them for some time, in September 2015, we opened the connecting doors. Within hours, we could tell that these two were a perfect match.

Kendra’s favorite activities are: eating pineapple, watching staff harvest grapes for her to eat and of course loving Louie-Louie!