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Dear IPPL Friend,

I always look forward to writing this holiday greeting as a special way of thanking so many friends who have supported us during the year.

Although none of us are completely back to normal pre-pandemic lives, IPPL has remained busy taking care of 30 exceptional gibbons and their houses as well as maintaining our beautiful grounds.

The cost of goods and services continued to rise; volunteers were still not permitted on the property which put a burden on staff, and deliveries had to be left at the gate. But our great staff managed to work flawlessly with the extra work—and the gibbons continued to sing every day!

In addition, we remained in contact with our overseas partners. Last year was difficult for all of them and IPPL was pleased to be able to award 23 grants to organizations in Africa, Asia, and South America early this year.

As we enter a new year, we know that challenges around the world and here in the US will continue. With your friendship and support we stand ready to meet whatever comes our way.

From everyone at IPPL, we send our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes this holiday season and for a very Happy New Year.

Shirley McGreal
IPPL Founder

P.S. On page 13, we’ve taken a “Look Back” at the message I wrote in an IPPL News issue 30 years ago. Seems some things never change.
I remember the first time I visited Canoe in 2013 like it was yesterday. Although I have spent the last 20 years rescuing hundreds of wild animals from horrible situations of abuse, I will never forget the first time I saw the torment and despair in Canoe’s eyes.

Like so many of our closest primate relatives, Canoe was poached from the wild back in the 1980s—likely seeing his whole family murdered before his eyes. Then he was shipped to Thailand, where he was sold to a school in Bangkok—to be a ‘feature’ in their playground. It was there that he suffered for more than 30 years, all alone, never knowing anything other than a five square meter cage, surrounded by city noises and no natural enrichment or stimulation.

Like many countries around the world, the laws in Thailand are severely lacking when it comes to the wildlife trade. It is legal to keep chimpanzees, like many wild animals, as pets or to exploit them in zoos or other entertainment facilities. So when I first heard about Canoe back in 2013 and started reaching out to the owners, I knew challenging the legality of his confinement was going to be difficult.

I went to visit Canoe five times in 2013—once I even went with the police and representatives from the Department of National Parks. The school was clearly breaking animal
welfare laws due to his cage being so small. Despite the authorities telling the school that he needs a bigger cage or he will be confiscated, nothing changed between 2013 and 2020. Although there are animal welfare laws, they are rarely enforced.

It came down to whether the owners would be willing to give Canoe a better life at WFFT. As it turned out, they were not. It was exasperating to know that he was languishing in that cage when we could give him a better life.

After multiple attempts, it wasn’t until 2020 that I received a call from the school saying they were willing to surrender Canoe to WFFT. But it wasn’t because they wanted to give him a better life; the school was being torn down, so Canoe simply had to go. Although it was a happy day when we finally got to rescue Canoe—it was shocking to see the school being torn down around him. His cage was at the centre of a demolition site. He sat there whilst his entire world around him literally came crashing down, and little did he know that an entirely new life was just a few hours away.

When we finally got Canoe to WFFT, he initially lived in an enclosure which we decked out with trees, enrichment, and a pool whilst he acclimatized to his new caretakers and environment. Once his island was complete, we moved him there.

After living his entire life confined to a tiny space, of course took him time to adapt. It was a few weeks before he would even step more than a couple of feet outside on the island. He would pop his head out of the night enclosure, take one or two steps forward, and then run back inside after about 30 seconds. He needed time and patience.

But week-by-week, we saw progress and we celebrated every small step along the way: from the first time he rolled on the grass, successfully foraged for food, climbed a tree (this took about six months), and figured out new enrichment, to the great day when he finally ran outside in the morning because he was so excited to get onto his island. Canoe amazes us with his resilience. And despite being treated so badly by humans, it is incredible to see his bond with his caretakers here at WFFT.

Seeing him now makes all the heartbreaking years of advocating and fighting for Canoe’s release entirely worthwhile.

Still today, there are many chimpanzees as well as other great apes suffering horrendous abuse in Thailand. They are being kept in dreadful zoos, used as photo props, trained to perform in shows, dressed up and humiliated, and much more. We are working hard to change animal welfare and wildlife trade laws, but when there is so much money to be made from animal exploitation, there is simply little political will for change.

We have the facilities to rescue more, and we believe that the best rehabilitation and enrichment we could probably give to Canoe, is company from his own species. Although Canoe has never seen a member of his own species in around 35 years, we owe it to him to try and get him the company he deserves. But if and when that day arrives, only time will tell.

Despite the financial challenges still presented to us here at WFFT as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and the resulting lack of volunteers and tourists, we have never stopped fighting for Canoe and for the other chimpanzees (as well as other
Orangutan exploited for entertainment

Baby orangutan used as photo prop

Edwin Wiek is Founder and Director of Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand

Go Nuts for Gibbons!

Our friends at Nuts.com have put together a special care package that gibbon fans can purchase for our sanctuary residents. This goody box includes the following healthy snacks, which are favorites that Maynard and all our gibbons love:

♦ 5 lbs. jumbo roasted unsalted peanuts (in shell),
♦ 1 lb. raw unsalted cashews (shelled),
♦ 1 lb. dried mango (unsulfured, low sugar),
♦ 1 lb. dried Turkish figs, and
♦ 1 lb. dried diced Turkish apricots.

9 lbs. of specially selected treats for the IPPL gibbons!
Only $50.00 (includes shipping)
www.nuts.com/gifts/nutsforbirds/ippl.html

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 postcard 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!)
A number of factors have led to a change in the geography of the Ecuadorian Amazon: an accelerated deforestation process linked to an aggressive and irrational agrarian reform; colonization promoted by the oil boom of the 1970s; the building of highways; and the various extractive activities that result from the erroneous concept of inexhaustible resources that should be exploited to the maximum.

Thus, oil, wood, gold, and wildlife—which historically were managed sustainably by native peoples—now serve as bargaining chips. Hundreds of wildlife species are trafficked with no understanding of their biological role in the ecosystem. Few comprehend that the good condition and balance of the forest depend on a close relationship between plants and animals.

An example of this relationship is the silvery woolly monkey which eats the succulent fruit pulp from hundreds of trees and reciprocates by dispersing the seeds. In fact, the diversity of a 250-acre forest area is closely linked to the dispersal action of this primate.

The arrival of the oil boom totally changed the concept of wildlife management in the Amazon. Historically, the silvery woolly monkey was hunted on a small scale by indigenous peoples as a source of protein, its skin used for war drums and rituals. Since the oil boom, these primates have been removed from their habitat to become pets, museum pieces, or stressed specimens in zoos. The traffic cycle was closed with the purchase and sale of woolly offspring in all markets within the Amazonian geography.

For Sumak Allpa, the woolly odyssey began in 2008, with the creation of a management program very different from traditional rehabilitation centers.

After providing the woolly monkeys with total freedom and access to their own natural omnivorous feeding resources, the program has seen the birth of 12 offspring between February 2017 and September 2021.

Translocation is the last step in the program, the execution of which will largely depend on the protocols and good intentions of the environmental authority.

The successes at Sumak Allpa show that these achievements are possible, raising hope for a population of threatened primates. Thanks to years of effort and perseverance on-site at Sumak Allpa, with the unconditional support of the IPPL (International Primate Protection League), one of the most symbolic specimens of primates in the new world has been successfully reproduced.

Héctor Vargas is the Director of Sumak Allpa

This beautiful baby woolly was born in December 2020 and was only 18 days old in these photos. Photos: Jaime Gavidia
A mother and her few-days-old infant were foraging near the local Diani Airstrip when they were ambushed by a pack of stray dogs. A fight ensued that led to the unfortunate killing of the mother, leaving behind a scared, little Sykes’ infant. Luckily, a local Diani resident spotted the infant crying out by the roadside, covered in mud and still holding onto his lifeless mother. This person was kind enough to carefully place the infant in a small box and immediately bring him to Colobus Conservation.

Upon arrival at the veterinary clinic, he was cleaned and given a health check. Since he was found healthy, he was immediately placed in orphan care where he was cared for by a human caregiver. The human caregiver would feed him with baby formulae which acted as a substitute for the natural breastmilk as he did not yet have teeth to feed on natural foods such as leaves, nuts, and fruits. We later decided to name him Ndege, a Swahili word meaning airplane which is a representation of the fact that he was rescued around the local airstrip.

Baby Ndege was very fussy and cried a lot the first weeks at the center which is normal as he desperately missed his mother, but eventually he started adjusting to his unfamiliar surroundings and his caregiver. Ndege had a habit of walking with his head leaning sideways and also sucking his belly button especially when he was scared. But over time his unusual posture caused us to worry, and we conducted an X-ray, but the results showed no anomaly. Therefore, we decided to increase his enrichment to enhance his locomotory, sensory, and cognitive needs. Ndege did not like it when we pushed him to learn how to jump, climb and grip. He would cry out very loudly but despite his objections, we continued and he gradually began to enjoy climbing his branches and jumping from surfaces and his posture completely improved.

After some months of orphan care, he was feeding very well and growing strong enough that it was time to separate him from his human caregiver. As a result, we integrated him with Mzungu and Rio, two other rescued monkeys in the nursery enclosure. The integration went well, and the three monkeys grew inseparable.

We had recently discovered that, unlike vervets, Sykes’ monkeys take abandoned infants into their troop and care for them as their own. We came to know this after we rescued a Sykes’ infant named Rancho who had lost his mother to a tragic road traffic accident. Shortly after the rescue, we released him to the wild troop and they immediately carried him away from us. There was no aggression or rejection then or to this day. These positive results led us to follow the same path for Ndege so we began preparing for his release to join the same wild troop. Once he was completely weaned off baby formulae and was able to forage on leaves and wild fruits, we began the reintroduction slowly. After a few attempts, Ndege was finally released into the wild.
wild. We were so ecstatic because he was carried by one of our own, Okolewa, a female Sykes’ monkey from our 2019 release troop, who knows how to navigate life in the wild.

The excitement was short-lived as two days after his release, we discovered that he had gotten seriously injured while attempting to flee from baboons nearby. He sustained a severe cut on his back that caused his hind limbs to be paralyzed. After getting examined, the results confirmed our worst fears: little Ndege had a spine injury and this is why he could not make use of his hind limbs. We commenced treatment to help repair the nerves but the response to treatment was slow and his condition did not improve for weeks. At this point we questioned if he would ever get better, but our animal care team and veterinarian did not give up. They persistently continued caring for Ndege until one significant day, he finally started walking again!

Presently, Ndege has made a full recovery and is jumping and climbing all over his enclosure. In addition, he now has the company of a newly rescued Sykes’ infant called Baby Sifa. They spend all their afternoons jumping and playing while eating fruit together. He will remain in our care and continue his rehabilitation journey with the hope of release into the wild soon.

Angela Gathoni is the Fundraising Manager at Colobus Conservation
Douc Conservation During Covid in Vietnam

By Lois K Lippold

Covid-19 and the lack of vaccinations have been severely impacting non-human conservation in Vietnam. Because Vietnam Covid-19 vaccine supply is very limited, and the country depends on donations from countries such as the United States, Russia and China, very few people have received vaccinations. To halt Covid-19 transmission, Vietnam has been virtually shut down and no busses, trains or planes have been in service for several months. The population has been confined to their homes with essential trips limited to the hospital and to obtain food.

This dire situation has made protection of Vietnam’s National Parks and Nature Reserves almost impossible. Forest Protection Rangers have been on duty in many areas but the amount of territory that they have to protect is immense. Illegal trapping of all animals and gathering of forest products have increased exponentially.

It was against this backdrop that our Vietnamese DLF team leader received a Facebook message from a hunter asking if he knew what to feed an infant douc. DLF immediately found the precise location of the hunter and the infant douc. Then we contacted that provincial Forest Protection Department and offered financial support to confiscate the infant. Next, we found a way to transport the infant across the country during very tight Covid-19 restrictions. This meant permissions had to be granted from each province the infant crossed. In non-Covid times, province permissions usually take days or weeks often resulting in the death of a confiscated animal. Douc Langur Foundation negotiated with the Endangered Primate Rescue Center and offered financial assistance and they agreed to drive to the confiscation site and rescue the infant. Luckily, all of their team members had been vaccinated. Time was of the essence since the infant had been in captivity for many days and had eaten little.

The entire rescue operation took four days. The Endangered Rescue Center team brought fluid and appropriate food to sustain the infant. All of the permissions were done at record speed and the infant arrived at the rescue center—alive. And she is doing quite well given the circumstances. This rescue made Vietnam’s national news because of the unusual circumstances and the almost impossible restrictions imposed due to Covid. But as DLF has discovered “where there is a will there is a way!”

Everyone involved felt immense pride at how well we worked together during the almost impossible time to rescue this precious, critically endangered infant douc whose mother had surely been killed by that hunter.

Lois K Lippold is the founder and president of the Douc Langur Foundation. She is also an IPPL board member.

AmazonSmile and IPPL’s Amazon Wish List

More than ever, people are shopping online. If you are shopping on Amazon—PLEASE use AmazonSmile. All you have to do is visit https://smile.amazon.com/ and select International Primate Protection League as your charity. At no additional cost to you, Amazon will then donate a portion of your purchase price to us!

And while you are shopping—please consider our gibbons because they enjoy getting special items from our supporters. There is a link to IPPL’s Amazon Wish List at https://www.ippl.org/gibbon/how-you-can-help/ Purchases are tax deductible!

For Our Gibbons and Otters—Thank you!
Holiday Wishes with Our Gratitude

As we reflect on another unusual year of dealing with the pandemic, IPPL also reflects on the generosity of our supporters. You have helped us, and our overseas partners, who have turned to us during this difficult time.

Early this year, we provided critical small grants to 23 organizations. Even so, in mid-year some of them were still suffering. In response, IPPL’s board of directors elected to provide emergency grants to 14 organizations that applied for these extra funds.

It’s important for you to know that, especially in these worst of times, none of our work is possible without you!

COVID-19, with its Delta variant, continues to alter lives around the world. It continues to create staffing and financial hardships for many. Primates have been suffering as well. One example is in the Douc Langur Foundation article on page 10. It says, “Illegal trapping of all animals and gathering of forest products has increased exponentially.”

Because of these issues, we know that the importance of our mission in 2022, here and around the world, will continue with some urgency. No matter what, IPPL will continue to meet any challenges and plan for the future. It is with great comfort that we know you are by our side.

Our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year

Shirley McGreal, Founder
IPPL Board of Directors
Since early 2020, when we had to cancel our biennial conference, we have been watching for signs that these unique events could resume. This year still did not seem feasible and, based on the uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic, we felt there were too many unknowns for next year.

Due to these uncertainties, our board of directors felt it was in the best interest of everyone not to risk the safety and welfare of our staff, attendees, and of course, our gibbons.

But we miss you! So rather than skip another year, this is a Hold the Date announcement as IPPL will be holding a virtual conference on Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23, 2022.

More information will be provided early next year. Meanwhile, the good news is that you don’t have to book airline tickets—also an unknown certainty these days, you’ll save money, and you can wear whatever you want!

We’re excited about this opportunity to connect with so many of you again and we hope you are too!
IPPL Looks Back at a Newsletter from 30 Years Ago!

Thirty years ago the cover was different, but the original commitment to protect and save primates around the world remains the same today.
As you can see by Shirley’s message 30 years ago, IPPL was extremely busy rescuing baby gibbons in the Philip-
pines, returning four smuggled chimpanzees to Uganda and the illegal wildlife trade was growing. Sadly, we know it continues to thrive today. Coincidently, the first article in this 1991 issue was from the Douc Langur Foundation and there is one in this 2021 issue as well.

Over the years, IPPL has continued to fight every obstacle in the way of protecting and saving primates. The final note in the message below, is much the same as the one Shirley conveys every year ~ IPPL’s thanks for helping us continue our mission.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

December 1991

Dear IPPL Member:

I should like to thank everybody who helped IPPL through a year which has seen some major accomplishments, but leaves us with major challenges facing us in 1992.

We started the year with a cooperative rescue mission that resulted in the confiscation of two lovable gibbon babies from the Carimata Market in Manila, the Philippines. This rescue would not have been possible without the cooperation of a caring person who phoned us from Manila after seeing the animals, our friends at the Haribo Society in the Philippines, Philippine wildlife authorities, and your International Primate Protection League.

The year is ending with IPPL playing a role in the successful return to Uganda of four chimpanzees smuggled from Uganda to the Soviet Union over a year ago. After the animals had passed unimpeded through several European countries, guess Dr. Katalin Rodics of the Hungarian Wildlife Department finally seized the animals - and personally escorted them back to Uganda.

Even before these animals had left Uganda, IPPL had received a tip-off they were about to be moved, and we and our friends at the Jane Goodall Institute had followed their fate for months.

The return of the chimpanzees to Uganda was a major collaborative effort involving TRAFFIC-Italy, the Jane Goodall Institute, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Ugandan press, (including the newspaper New Vision and its star reporter Ndyokira Amooti), and the Governments of Uganda and Hungary.

Illegal wildlife trade is growing. Without inter-group cooperation, it cannot be controlled. We all know about the “Drug Lords” but who knows about, or takes seriously, the “Bird Lords” and the “Primate Lords.” They exist - and they are making pots of money, and their dirty money is diverting some government officials from their responsibilities to protect wildlife, making it harder for the honest ones to do their work of making the world a safer place for wildlife.

It would be nice to think that governments and groups like IPPL would always be allies in the battle against illegal wildlife trafficking, but all too often the exact opposite is true. That is why IPPL is so much needed. We are always on the front lines, but we are not always on the front pages, because we do not have time or funds to propel ourselves into the media. Our issues are often complex, and they do not lend themselves to the cult of the information “bite.”

We hope that you will continue your participation in and support of IPPL’s work in 1992. Thanks to everyone for helping see us through another year.

All of us primates at IPPL, human and nonhuman, wish you and your’s a happy holiday season and much joy in 1992.

Shirley McGreal

Shirley McGreal
Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- **Anonymous** dedicated to Strauss Der Rosenkavalier
- **Anonymous** in honor of Frances Ippensen
- **Anonymous** in honor of Carol Leenstra
- **Lilio Aragones** in memory of Bonnie August
- **Belle Ball** in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Sherri Bardsley** in honor of Spanky
- **Linda Bean** in memory of Pam and Deb Gross
- **Deirdre Braley** in memory of Dr. Georgette K. Maroldo, PhD
- **Debra Bruegge** in memory of Mother Mildred Brown, Sisters Bonnie Brown and Beckie Toney
- **Karen Campagna** in memory of my sweet cat, Lily, who passed away last month
- **Andrea Coffey** in memory of Bunny
- **Celeste Coles** In honor of Dr. Shirley McGreal OBE
- **Lesley Day** dedicated to Shirley for all the years she has made a difference for all primates all over the world
- **Nicoletta Dipietro** in memory of my dog Sally, loved you so much and miss you terribly
- **Linda Ervine** in memory of gorilla, Josephine
- **Tammy Frank** in honor of my brother, Ron, who was a great animal lover
- **Sandra Giardini** in honor of Sheri Giardini, DVM
- **Alfreda Harsha** in memory of Blue and Elizabeth
- **Raymond Heller** in memory of Blue
- **Elaine Hendrix** in memory of Elizabeth and Blue
- **Michel Kabay** in honor of Shirley McGreal and all the staff at IPPL!
- **Sylvia Kaloustian** in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Barbara Kelberlau** in memory of Nancy Woods
- **Ann Koros** in memory of Jema
- **Carol Linville** in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **Lois Lippold** in honor of Shirley McGreal
- **David Maddux** in memory of Jack, a great dog
- **Marie-Paule Mahoney** dedicated to Shirley
- **Jane Mann** in honor of my son, Will Wright
- **James Martin** in memory of Samuel Martin
- **Lesa Miller** in honor of Liza Gatsby and Peter Jenkins
- **Deborah Misotti** in memory of Tong
- **Wendy Morgan** dedicated to Ghaa, a special needs chimpanzee I knew and loved
- **Myriam Parham** in honor of Bill and Myriam Parham’s birthdays
- **Brenda Parks** in honor of my sister, Liz Bills
- **Carol and Howard Rosenberg** in memory of Blue
- **Gregory Rothschild** in honor of Truere Rothschild’s Bar Mitzvah
- **Phyllis Sacks** in memory of Charlie Parker
- **Deb Serling** in memory of Bridie Thompson
- **Jamie Silverman** in memory of Tong
- **Barbara Strauss** in memory of Margaret Strauss
- **Nancy, J Richard, and Sarah Thompson** in memory of Bridey Star Thompson
- **Donna Tichenor** in honor of Dr. Shirley McGreal
- **Nancy Tobin** in memory of Bert Tobin. In honor of my husband ~ always loved.
- **George and Linda Warriner** in honor of Jacob Gannon
- **Friedrich Wendl** in memory of Elizabeth, Gus and Cathy
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 45 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;

♦ 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, USA. 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 President Emeritus
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:

☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $500  ☐ Other amount: $_________

I wish to honor someone special with a Tribute Gift:

This donation is … ☐ In honor of □ In memory of ____________________________

__________________________________________

Please note: We acknowledge tribute gifts in each issue of IPPL News

☐ 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 U.S. federal tax ID number: 51-0194013

Card number: ______________ Exp. date: ___ CVV#: ___

Cardholder’s signature: ________________________________

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

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Two-sided Gibbon T-shirt: 100% cotton T-shirt with gibbon design front and back. Gray long sleeved option available in some sizes

Shop online for more gibbon apparel at www.ippl.org/gibbon/store

We have a great assortment of shirts and totes!

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.

IPPL Swinging Gibbon Roomy Totes with a side pocket and an inside pocket and T-shirts with Swinging Gibbons 100% available in a variety of color combinations

Two-sided Gibbon Tote
Each unique bag was air-brushed by San Francisco artist Ken Holley

www.ippl.org
Courtney was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving this tiny infant with a terribly mangled leg. Since she could not be returned to her mother, she was hand-raised by IPPL staff, special night-nannies, and volunteers for over six years. Many caregivers took turns feeding her, playing with her, and taking her for walks around the sanctuary grounds. Always curious and energetic, she was a real handful! Courtney has made an amazing recovery since the difficult time of her early life. She now runs, swings, and climbs so well you would never guess how badly she had been injured. Despite Courtney’s high level of activity, she is the biggest gibbon in our sanctuary. If asked what her favorite food is, we would have to say “grapes, and well… everything!” Since May 2009, Courtney has been paired with a former lab gibbon by the name of Whoop-Whoop. His mild-mannered personality is a good match for her wild ways as he always lets her have first dibs at their lunch pail. We hope you will consider adopting this spunky and determined “not so little” ape!

Peppy was born in 1979 at a cancer lab run by the University of California at Davis, where the gibbons were used in painful and usually fatal viral cancer experiments. When the lab closed, he was sent to another research facility, the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. Fortunately, LEMSIP closed in 1982 and he and his companion-for-life, Helen, came to IPPL. They lived together at our sanctuary for 35 years until Helen suddenly died of cancer. Peppy sucked his thumb the day he arrived and has never “kicked this habit.” Peppy is the only gibbon who favors veggies over fruit, and in the morning, in addition to looking forward to breakfast, Peppy has his own ritual. When let out of his night quarters, Peppy begins every single day by running from one end of his outdoor enclosure to the other—the whole length of it, arms flung up, out of sheer excitement: it’s as though every day he’s grateful not to be stuck in a lab! Wouldn’t you like to adopt this grateful little guy?
Val was born at a wildlife park in southern Florida where he lived with his parents and a few siblings. In the fall of 2017, the facility suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Irma and fell on hard times. We got a call in October of 2017 asking if we could take in two of their gibbons and after some quick preparations two staff members drove down to Florida, picked Val up, and brought him to his new home in November. Val's father, Snowy, followed a month later. After the long drive back to IPPL, Val quickly bonded with the animal care staff. We got him settled into his night house and he even presented his back for grooming.

Today, Val is one of the most engaging and entertaining gibbons out on the grounds. He loves interacting with the staff and demands that they play tag with him! He spends his mornings swinging through his enclosure and, when a staff member approaches, he drops down in front of them to get their attention. Once he has them focused on him, he'll hop and roll around on the ground, swing upside down from his ropes and reach out for them, then the chase is on! His enthusiasm for the game quickly wears out the staff and he doesn't seem to understand why we need to take breaks to catch our breath! Wouldn't you love to bring some more excitement to Val's life by adopting him?

Shanti, whose name means “Peace” in Sanskrit, was born on June 24, 1978 at the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. IPPL was looking for a potential mate for IPPL’s very first rescued lab gibbon, Arun Rangsi (Rui). In 1983, Shirley and a former animal caregiver drove to New York to bring Shanti back to IPPL to begin her new life at our sanctuary. They found her living alone in a small cage—what a change she was about to have! Once at IPPL, we observed that Shanti had a very laid-back disposition. Her favorite food became figs and her favorite pastime became picking fresh figs from trees next to her outdoor habitat. When she was introduced to Rui—it was love at first sight. For over three decades they rarely left each other’s side and even shared food. Sadly, in December 2018 Rui became very sick and he was gently put to sleep. After all the years that he and Shanti spent together, we thought it was fitting to offer Shanti as our newest gibbon available for adoption. We have a feeling that Rui would approve and hope that many of you will want to make Shanti your new adopted gibbon!

Adoptions make wonderful and unique gifts – all year long!
Courtney looks like she doesn’t have a care in the world—and thanks to the exceptional care she receives at IPPL, she doesn’t!

Born at IPPL 19 years ago, she was a “surprise baby” to a father we thought had been vasectomized. Rejected, and seriously injured by her mother when less than two weeks old, Courtney was hand-raised by IPPL staff and volunteers.

In May 2009, Courtney was introduced to former lab gibbon Whoop-Whoop. His mild-mannered personality has been a perfect match for her (sometimes) wild ways. Courtney spends most of her days swinging on her trapeze bar and begging the IPPL staff to run around the enclosure and play “tag” with her. She also enjoys just relaxing with a mid-morning snack and maybe thinking what a lucky gibbon she is to live at IPPL!