

Meeting 4 Summary

4/14/04

The feature of the meeting was Jenny's presentation on education—email rhesuslover@msn.com if you would like a copy of this presentation. The education presentation is very informative and will also help Primates Inc obtain funding since many corporations will fund for the public education aspect.

No one had articles to report so I just went into a very brief summary of my trip:

- I went to the Animal Behavior Management Alliance in Baltimore for 5 days. The conference was filled with animal trainers all attesting to the prevention/reduction of aggression through positive reinforcement training.
- The ABMA was set up to generalize principles across all different types of animals. I saw presentations about positively reinforcing birds, groundhogs, pandas, tigers, bears, dolphins, capuchins, elephants, giraffes, baboons, alligators, and chickens in order for their cooperation in husbandry practices.
- Problem for the research community: Zookeepers have a lot less animals/person than researchers do and can therefore spend more time with each animal. Animal care in a research facility is typically supposed to provide clinical care and husbandry services. If a researcher wants to work 'above and beyond' to achieve results (s)he will most likely have to work above and beyond their salary too!
- I will get into clicker training at the meetings, but suffice to say the conference was money well spent. I went to the annual ABMA meeting and offered to promote their ideas to the research community so that we can prevent both aggression and abnormal behavior from happening through positive reinforcement training along with a social housing and enrichment scheme.
- Please look up the Animal Behavior Management Alliance online-I think you will also find it very informative. There are also some amazing contacts at the ABMA and so it definitely will look good on the resume if you are trying to go for animal-related positions.

Next meeting:

I will have a volunteer sign up sheet on the following tasks at the next meeting. There are definitely things you can do at a remote location if you are not from Madison...

- Obtain grant funding requirements from corporations who fund for public education and/or community service aspects (can be obscure—we can try it!)—look up online.
- Help Amy start writing grants (if you can write well and you can follow directions, you can write a grant)
- File articles at Amy’s house—there will also be a calendar to mark dates
- Make Jewelry-Amy can send you a package if at a remote location
- Find organizations that produce primate cages, diet, etc. We will have to examine their construction/shipping time, etc. Primate Inc should be able to buy structures as needed since the number and type and number of incoming primates will change from year to year. If we have all of our outsourcing coordinated, this shouldn’t be a problem (this will also help us save money on ‘wasted space’.
- Help examine land opportunities by looking at ag journals
- Create a presentation to be a guest speaker at the Primates Inc meetings☺ this will make Amy’s life easier too (and I love learning new things)
- Come up with more ideas! Primates Inc is all about creativity—thanks for your help to make it all possible...