

Meeting 8 summary

8/10/04

Topic I: Nonprofit Status.

Primates Incorporated is an official nonprofit now. This means that we can now accept donations and begin the fundraising process! We plan on accomplishing this task by promoting the purpose of Primates Incorporated to various audiences and by writing grants emphasizing the public education and community involvement qualities of the nonprofit organization. Amy met with the board this month and decided that Primates Inc will launch a website by September 25th, provide a press release after the website is up, and have an informal celebration at Amy's house soon after => The time frame has been extended to October 8th.

Topic II: Amy provided an update on her presentation that she gave to the Wisconsin Regional Primates Research Center regarding the principle of Primates Incorporated earlier that day.

The director of the center and the public relations specialist were present. Overall, both said they liked the enthusiasm and appreciated the efforts of the presentation. They did not reject any ideas and offered constructive criticism.

The director asked for clarification of the term rehabilitation since he thought that sounded like the sanctuary would relieve abnormal behavior and then put back into research. Amy stated that one of Primates Inc's objectives was to provide lifetime enriched care to the animals after their arrival and so we would not put them back into research. Additional suggestions were that we look into creating a partnership with the National Sanctuary for Retired Research Primates. (Amy has made contact a few times with Carol Asvestos, the director of this sanctuary and plans on promoting our research ideas in exchange for their housing ideas). The director also suggested that vasectomizing our males may affect behavior and our data collection would be confounded as a result. This is definitely a very good observation that needs further examination. We could vasectomize at our facility and measure their behavior before and after to examine the affects and then put them into troops (another study!) In the end, the public relations

specialist thought that Primates Inc would be something that Madison would support and offered to meet with Amy in the future.

Topic III: Turning to the other sanctuaries for ideas. Jenny compiled a list of sanctuaries and provided a summary of each (I=Jenny):

Primate Environment Resources: I have listed various websites that contain some descriptions on environment/ enrichment used in various primate sanctuaries. Some websites have more detail than others, and I tried to state that within the descriptions. There are lots more primate sanctuaries that I looked at, and probably a ton more that I didn't, but I chose these because they had some description of the environmental that their primates lived in. I found these websites by (1) typing "captive monkey" into the Google search engine, (2) going to www.petmonkey.info where I found a list of various rehabilitation centers (thus the following descriptions) and also found (3) www.aesop-project.org where I found even more links. Besides providing descriptions (some so sad they make you sick to your stomach) and begging for donations, these websites (including ones not listed here) also contain histories and fun facts and pictures of all of their monkeys. It felt very personal. I'd recommend checking them out just to see what kind of organization Primates Inc. could become. (1) www.junglefriends.org (my favorite!) This group seems to be almost exactly what Primates Inc. sets out to be. It provides a retirement place for old lab monkeys and unwanted pets. On this website, you can find detailed descriptions of housing, and some really neat ways that they provided for the monkeys to make their bad behaviors stop. For example, by simply setting up a 5 foot tower on top of the cage, the monkeys got a bigger view of the area and stopped a lot of those nasty stereotypies like overgrooming. They give a detailed description of the diets they provide for their monkeys, how they encourage "natural" foraging (by hiding fruits and nuts throughout the cages), water and chow etc information is listed as well. They also have a whole bunch of ways that they ask for money. For example, they sell art that are paintings done by the monkeys themselves. They look pretty too. They also have an option to adopt a monkey, and other ways of donating. They put a picture and description of every monkey at their facility (made me want to send money already). It doesn't list specific species of trees or plants that are used in their environments, but put

lots of things in there for them to climb on. Tall trees, ropes, extra towers built into the top of the cages for a few individuals to go a little bit higher, tubes and tunnels, basic structures. And of course, none of the plants should be poisonous I suppose. They also planted an organic garden on their property, where they harvest veggies to give to the monkeys, and it saves on feeding costs. Most of the monkeys at Jungle Friends are capuchins, but they also have other species as well. It doesn't mention how they separate groups, or if they are all housed together.

(2) www.primarilyprimates.org This group seems to be huge. It sounds like they hear about groups of primates that need shelter, and then they go about finding a way to make that happen, and it doesn't sound like it all happens at the same place. There is a nice description under the link 'meet the primates' that describes how they heard about different groups of primates, and then lengths they went through to provide adequate housing for them. It also lists a rough estimate of how much it cost to set-up housing for various species (chimps, lemurs, mandrils, langurs, tamarins, marmosets etc.), and a few special things they had to be careful of (For example, Langurs need special leafy materials for their diet, Tamarins and marmosets require a high protein diet which can increase food costs). However, they don't list housing set-ups for all species of primate, only the ones that they needed to provide care for. There isn't a lot listed about the specifics of their housing and environment, but it's got a lot of basic information. And a good resource to understand what goes on when bringing in new colonies.

(3) www.primaterescue.org This group is also similar to what Primates Inc. strives to be. They have about 50+ monkeys living in their sanctuary. They describe that almost immediately after they started small (just picking up a few monkeys from people around them), they were getting calls from all over from other pet owners and laboratories. They don't describe specific living conditions that they've set up for specific species, but from the pictures, they show lots of tubing structures (think about the kids playland at McDonald's). Also, they give the primates frozen juice "drink" as a treat, and they seem to like that a lot. The tubes and platforms (maybe think of a fancy jungle gym in the wealthy part of town) are brightly colored. There are some plants here and there, but nothing too spectacular. It seems to be located next to a wooded area, so I guess the primates get to look at the woods. The ground seems to be a sandy texture. On their

website, they have stories about how different groups of monkeys ended up coming there. They show very sad before and very happy after pictures. This might be a ploy to get money, but the monkeys seem content there.

(4) www.primatesanctuarynsrrp.org This is the website for the National Sanctuary for Retired Research Primates. This seems like another really big organization. They also use tubes (barrels actually) for the primates. Instead of building a jungle gym or putting in wooden poles to resemble trees, they actually filled huge cages full of vegetation (trees, grass, bushes, etc.). Here is a short description that they list of the environment there: *NSRRP is housing approximately 300 primates in large natural areas. These areas have been designed to provide the groups they contain with trees, plenty of height (25ft) and an indoor building adjoining each enclosure to allow them access to heat when necessary. Groups consist of 20 to 50 primates per enclosure. Primates that have been singularly housed in research facilities are grouped into amicable colonies and then placed into these large natural habitats where they will live out the remainder of their lives.* There are some really nice pictures on their website. It also lists an estimate of how much it costs per monkey per day, a description of how to form troops, some standard operating procedures, and a description on how to retire research primates. This would be a good resource to contact to learn more. Again, I don't think they are using special vegetation for certain primates.

(5) www.internationalprimaterescue.org There is a nice description of the facilities used in this South African rehabilitation center: Sanctuary Facilities & Rehabilitation All enclosures are large, outdoor and contain live trees and natural vegetation. Every effort is made to ensure that the furnishings are as close to the species natural habitat as possible. A separate heated in door area is included as many of the monkeys originate from a much warmer climate. The small primates sleep in night boxes with blankets and the larger primates are provided with a warm sheltered area and straw. The primates are fed a balanced diet three times daily. Once a day they are hand fed a treat and closely examined for any sign of distress or illness. All primates are closely monitored by experienced careers. Daily records of the primates are kept updated. Enrichment items in the enclosures keep the primates stimulated. A strict routine creates a sense of security for the primates. All primates received are considered permanent.

All primates received that are indigenous to South Africa are sent for rehabilitation to be returned to the wild. Breeding is only permitted if it would aid the rehabilitation of a particular primate. Most unstable primates are not able to raise their own infants. To remove an infant primate from the parents causes a great deal of stress. For this reason, most of the breeding male primates have vasectomies. Every effort is made to ensure that all the physical, psychological, dietary and medical needs of every primate is met and that the primates can enjoy a relaxed and stress free environment. Visits to the sanctuary are permitted by appointment only, and supervised.

Rehabilitation: Many of the primates received by the sanctuary are psychologically damaged, some permanently. Since they would not survive if returned to the wild, the next best option is to ensure that best quality of life possible. This is achieved by encouraging natural behaviour patterns and socialisation with their own species. Experienced carers ensure that the primates are handled with compassion and treated as individuals. If quarantine at the sanctuary is necessary, the incoming primate will be quarantined with its new companion as this greatly reduces stress. The primate slowly and carefully introduced. As some lack socialisation skills, the process may take months but it is essential to ensure the long term well being of the primate. The primate is encouraged to engage in natural behaviour patterns such as grooming, foraging and play behaviour. Once socialisation and natural behaviour patterns are achieved, the primate will normally enjoy a good quality of life. The history of the incoming primate is recorded as this is helpful in the rehabilitation process. Records of the primates are updated daily. Young or infant primates received are immediately introduced to a stable primate family. The foster primate family will teach the young primate the correct behaviour patterns necessary for normal development. The infants are not removed from their foster family for feeding as they would find this stressful. Bottle feeding is conducted within the enclosure.

Topic IV. Learning from others and obtaining inexpensive enrichment. We can learn about social housing experiences and enrichment ideas from the other sanctuaries. Suggestions for cheap housing and enrichment were corn cribs (obtain from farmers),

culverts (obtain from concrete companies), and large barrels (obtain from acid companies).

Topic V. Maintaining our stance. We agreed that if we are honest and stick to our principles, then we will not have to conform to any large funders granting us money. If they are going to provide funding, then they should be in support of our cause. This will help rule out the animal rights funders, because they will not be in support of our trying to help the research community by providing data back to them. Donations will likely come from animal welfare advocates.

Topic VI. Still need people to help search for information –see meeting 7 for detailed list. Please contact respectrhesus@charter.net for guidance in anything you are interested in. I will at least point out why it is so important for Primates Incorporated to obtain the information requested.