

Primates Incorporated
Meeting Summary
9/19/06

Meeting summary compiled by Amy Kerwin.

Topics Covered:

- Next Meeting
- Meeting with Lawyers about Land Issue
- Meeting with City of Madison
- Volunteer Fairs
- Fundraising Update
- Background of a Volunteer's Experience at a Sanctuary in Kentucky
- MySpace Update
- Article Summary

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 17th, 6:00pm-8:00pm
In the Company of Thieves Coffeehouse
908 E. Johnson St. Madison, WI

Lunch Meeting with Lawyers

Amy met with Lawyers on 8.29.06, discussed:

- Background on Pro-Bono services – stated they would still have to charge something and that he would get me an estimate ~\$250/hour
- We need to keep raising money so we can cover legal fees when setting up the land contract and obtaining any other legal advice. Amy will put into our budget \$2000 for legal fees.
- Land issue - concerned about longevity and security
 - Both Jim and Chris said it would be easier if we could get the land donated to us so that we retain ownership
 - Jim suggested selecting land in the surrounding Madison area and then meet with the alderperson for that land, then raise the agenda at a city council meeting. He also said he would talk to the owner of the zoo about us.

Meeting with the City of Madison

Amy met with Matthew Tucker, an employee in the zoning department of the City of Madison. He suggested that Dane county may be more appropriate for selecting a location and suggested we meet with Michael Gay, the city planner, to select a specific location for land. Amy thought perhaps she could ask the city to donate land since we are doing the Madison community a favor. However, rather than deal with City bureaucracy right away, we are putting out a public service announcement on local radio station, asking for people to donate land to our cause. The offer of land is still pending with Bob, but we are looking to establish ourselves closer to Dane County.

Student Volunteer Fairs

Amy attended two student volunteer fairs at Madison Area Technical College (MATC) and the University of Wisconsin. A silent PowerPoint presentation, educational pamphlets, and bumper stickers were on display. In an attempt to draw in more volunteers at the UW fair, Amy bought

bananas to give away to the students. The bananas didn't really work to recruit people but many other volunteer fair folks said it was a great idea!

Results:

MATC – free to join fair, 1:00pm-4:00pm on 9.14.06

- Handed out:
 - 8 bumper stickers
 - 13 educational pamphlets
 - 5 student project papers
 - 3 retirement papers
- Spoke to 13 students and 2 teachers
- Five people signed up on email list

University of Wisconsin – cost \$25 to join fair, 11:00am-3:00pm on 9.19.06

- Handed out:
 - 9 bumper stickers
 - 14 educational pamphlets
 - 8 student project papers
- Spoke to 12 students and 1 teacher
- Four people signed up on email list

Fundraising Update

- December 17th fundraiser
 - Amy booked a date with the High Noon Saloon for Sunday, December 17th – it was the only date available, and so we will have to ensure we draw in a crowd despite the holiday season. Amy recently read that people like to donate money at the end of year to get in their last-minute donations, so hopefully we will reach our goal of 150 people.
 - Amy hired the bands Yid Vicious and Mama Digdown's Brass Band.
 - We will also have the Mad Rollin' Dolls as volunteers!
 - More details will be covered at the next meeting.
 - Group said they wanted buttons made for the merchandise table – Amy will ask Mike to check into pricing – we may be able to make buttons ourselves.
- Garage sale in summer 2007
 - Amy spoke with Glenn from WORT – he said you can sign any event up with WORT as well as discuss a promotional exchange for the rummage sale.
 - Group agreed that James Madison Park (near the university campus) would be ideal for the college students and general public to donate items. Amy is almost certain we will have to get a seller's permit – will look into it further.
 - Details: volunteers donate items to sell at park, Primates Incorporated advertises for people to drop items off on day 1, day 1 we will sell items and collect donated items, day 2 we will just sell items. Another volunteer suggested that we could drive a truck around local neighborhoods and pick up donated items – great idea!
 - Perhaps have bands – we would need extra tents and they would need to provide their own sound system
 - Supplies needed: large moving truck, three tents to cover items in case it rains, tables, tarps, blankets
 - **More ideas or suggestions on this fundraiser? Email amy@primatesinc.com.**

- Art show – Fall 2007
 - Philip Ashby – talented artist that creates primate-related artwork. View his website at: <http://www.philipashby.com>
 - He said he would coordinate a showing at the Madison Public Library for Fall 2007.
 - Philip is going to donate all of his proceeds from the sale of his primate-related artwork to Primates Incorporated!

- T-Shirt fundraising idea
 - Lynne, our new advisor, suggested obtaining a sponsor to pay for the t-shirts by putting their name on the back of the t-shirts while we have our slogan and image on the front
 - Ideas for t-shirt images
 - Mike said keep it simple
 - Brown shirt with blue, yellow, or orange type
 - Simple logo and website – slogans:
 - Do the upright thing – support primate retirement – primatesinc.com
 - Primates Incorporated – two opposable thumbs up! – primatesinc.com

- Grant Proposals
 - Amy passed out two grant inquiry letters for at least 4 people to review
 - Newman organics – Jenny, GayeLyn, Danielle, and Morgan are reviewing
 - American family – Jenny, GayeLyn, Mike and Dave are reviewing

- Amy asked the group if they had other fundraising ideas –
 - Jackie suggested holding a bake sale in the post office in downtown Madison – she had seen someone selling baked goods for a nonprofit cause.
 - Kathy’s idea from previous meeting – coordinate a golf course fundraiser

Background of a Volunteer’s Experience at a Sanctuary in Kentucky

One of our volunteers, Jenny Brechja, worked at a primate sanctuary in Kentucky and provided some background of her experiences. Amy was especially interested in hearing about Jenny’s experiences with abnormal behavior and if there were behavioral differences between the pet monkeys and laboratory monkeys. Here is Jenny’s summary of her accounts at the primate sanctuary:

▪ **Pet Monkeys**

“The surrendered pets were the majority, and they were often severely disturbed: One capuchin would rock constantly, clutching his stuffed toy "Baby". One would fly around the enclosure erratically and scream when I would do something clumsy, like drop something. One spidermonkey female craved human affection, pressing herself up to the cage for hugs. Her cage mate was very aggressive on the other hand, always looking for ways to manipulate his caretakers. A baboon was obsessively attached to blankets and would fight for her life if you tried to remove it from her enclosure to wash it. A favorite pet-monkey-owner quote of mine, stated after the monkey bit a person and was being surrendered, is: "But I was a good monkey owner... my monkey always had shoes!" Says a lot, I think. To me the bottom line is education, but the act of enlightening people is often lost under the cloud of activism - people don't like being persuaded. Much better to tap into people's will, I think Jane Goodall is the master of this...”

- **Lab Monkeys**

“...Anyway, about Lab retirees and stereotypies: one rhesus used in addiction experiments would pace and threaten us some days, but would solicit butt-scratches other days. His days of threatening lessened as he got to know you, but he would revert back to that some days and it was hard not to take it personally! Another male rhesus was aggressive towards us (caretakers). He scared me. He was so fast and so determined. He would lip-smack my co-worker, but I think he could tell that he really bothered me. I was a target and once he reached out and grabbed my glasses off my face and destroyed them. He is the one that scratched me, when I was filling his chow bin. Those events keep you in check - reminding yourself why they are here and why they act the way they do. Finding compassion when you have been harmed is so much at the heart of captive monkey care. Sometimes they are just demanding the respect that they have been denied. I wish I had more experiences with Lab monkeys and distressful behavior, but I don't...”

- **Socializing Monkeys**

“...One of the greatest moments of accomplishment as far as naturalizing behaviors goes was when the Lab rhesus and the young pet rhesus were observed grooming for the first time. I should remember who groomed who, I think it may have been reciprocal even. But I doubt that the Lab monkey ever felt that before, or it had been a very long time if he had. Made me get goosebumps! Social interactions were obviously frequent, and hierarchies were established in the macaque groups...”

- **Enrichment**

“...We provided multitudes of enrichment - tons of different food and foraging treats, and rotated Little Tikes toys from enclosure to enclosure. We hung fire hose in enclosures, and changed the "decor" often. I think the monkeys that had outdoor access probably showed far fewer stereotypical behaviors. They would often "act up" when we came around to feed three times a day, but had the remainder of the days to interact without our interference...”

- **Phasing out abnormal behavior**

“...The monkeys that were temporarily housed indoors would be hyper-stereotypic (slapping themselves, threatening facial gestures, running around their enclosures, grabbing and screaming at us, etc.)- always dealing with our presence and interference. So I guess if the sanctuary was designed with the least amount of human interference with the monkeys in their enclosures, then unwanted and unnatural behaviors would probably be reduced. And with a little effort (actually this is the most fun part) staff provides tons of novel enrichment and stands back and watches as natural behaviors emerge...”

- **Qualities of a caretaker**

“...Last night I mentioned a few things that I feel are important in a caretaker:

- Detail oriented, and very conscientious: Aware of behaviors, signs of stress and illness, great peripheral vision (this is developed quickly as you work with primates!), double-checking your actions and tasks constantly. Always being respectful!!!!
- A very high tolerance for dirty, stinky, often filthy work.
- Clear understanding that you are not there to handle and touch the monkeys. You want to naturalize them, and handling is counterintuitive.”

Myspace Update

Ann showed the group the myspace account: www.myspace.com/primatesinc and said we have recruited 119 friends. We discussed that we should have an introductory email and perhaps post

volunteer opportunities as well, so we can incorporate myspace with our email database of volunteers.

Article summary

Reinhardt, V. (2005). Environmental enrichment and refinement of handling procedures. In Coote, S.W. (ed.) *The Laboratory Primate*, Chapter 2, p. 209-227. Elsevier, Burlington, MA.

Summary: Viktor Reinhardt provides a detailed literature review and discussion on refining procedures in the primate laboratory as well as discusses affordable ways to implement enrichment. He provides a detailed overview of the US Animal Welfare Act legislation and its impact on promoting psychological wellbeing in captive primates. This article is important as it is published in a very comprehensive book regarding primate research – this way new researchers will read his refinement suggestions when they are reading *The Laboratory Primate*.

Group Formation and Management

- “Compatible companionship addresses the social needs of primates and provides ever-changing stimulation. ‘Social companions are the one ‘enrichment device’ to which habituation never occurs’ [de Waal, 1992, p. 86]” (p 210)
- Reinhardt provides a detailed literature review discussing the dangers of group formation of unfamiliar primates. The key is to make sure monkeys are pre-familiarized with each other. If there is a problem with social incompatibility in the group, then an individual could be carefully removed from the group or members of the group can be trained to refrain from aggression (p 211)
- Removal of monkeys can destabilize the group: “The social structure of a primate group can easily be destabilized if an animal is removed permanently or taken out for some time and subsequently returned. If this happens, rank relationships are rearranged, a process that bears a high risk of social distress and serious aggression [Erwin, 1979; Kessler *et al.*, 1985; Coe and Scheffler, 1989; Cohen *et al.*, 1992; Ha *et al.*, 1999]...” (p 211 - 212)

Pair Formation

Pair housing macaques has been known to cause severe injuries (p 212). Reinhardt provides advice on how to minimize aggression when pairing: “...Indeed, it would be unethical and contradict basic ethological principles to put two strange primates in a cage and wait for the predictable, possibly injurious fight over dominance. If, however, potential partners are paired only under the conditions which:

1. they have established a rank relationship during a brief non-contact familiarization, and
2. the pairing takes place in an environment that is new to both,

the two animals do not need to fight over dominance nor do they have a reason to show territorial antagonism [Reinhardt, 1989]...” (p 212-213)

Reinhardt also discusses precautionary measures to take once the monkeys are paired to control aggression (p 213) and suggests not keeping monkeys together if: “(a) their rank relationship becomes equivocal e.g., bidirectional threatening), (b) one of them persistently shows signs of depression (e.g., crouching in a corner), (c) one of them monopolizes food, or (d) one inflicts on the other an injury that requires medical treatment. It is advisable to permanently separate a pair under conditions a, b, and c. Condition d is often associated with a dominance reversal and permits reunion shortly after wound treatment.” (p 213-214)

Enrichment – key points

- Developing a trusting relationship is essential for the wellbeing of the monkey (p 214)

- Incorporate foraging actions during regular feeding by scattering food on a substrate or by putting some of their food on top of their cage so they manipulate the chow to get it into the cage (p 214-215)
- Reinhardt goes on to review the enrichment literature for each species of monkeys and discusses the likes and dislikes of various primates. For instance rhesus monkeys are not very interested in watching tv as a form of enrichment (p 217)
- Reinhardt moves on to discuss the importance of exercise room and the use of water baths as a form of enrichment. (p 217)

Training for cooperation during procedures

“Training is a reward-based human-animal interaction sequence aiming at the voluntary cooperation of the animal during a procedure. Successful training minimizes or eliminates stress reactions... provides valuable distraction from boredom... and increases the safety of the handling personnel...” (p 219)

Technique of training – p 219

1. Acquire first-hand knowledge of the ethological characteristics of the animal you are going to train.
2. Establish a relationship based on trust and respect with the trainee.
3. Be confident, patient, gentle and firm.
4. Break the training program into small steps with specific goals.
5. Never terminate a session before the goal of the particular training step is achieved.
6. Reward the trainee with food treats and/or praise whenever he/she meets your expectation, e.g., touches the target or allows you to hold a limb.
7. Never punish the trainee.
8. If the trainee does not meet your expectation, withhold the reward.
9. Be consistent.

Reinhardt goes on to provide a literature review discussing the application of positive reinforcement training and when it has been used: blood collection, presentation of vascular access ports, injection, blood pressure measurement, topical treatment, oral drug administration, urine collection, saliva collection, vaginal swabbing, weighting, and capture. (p 219-220)

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