

Primates Incorporated
Meeting Summary
10/2/07

Meeting summary compiled by Amy Kerwin.

Topics Covered

- Fundraising Update
- Topic Reviews:
 - Socializing former singly-housed monkeys
 - Monkeys who are bought from the exotic pet trade: a review

Fundraising Update

-Online Auction Summary

Thanks to everyone who participated in our online auction. Over 100 people registered for the auction and 32 businesses, 18 individual donors, and 8 artists donated items to the auction. We raised \$1680. Thank you 2007 Donors! (Please view the list of donors and participants at the end of this meeting summary.)

-October 16th Benefit Planning

The group discussed volunteer duties and the agenda for the October 16th benefit. A summary of the event will be covered at the November 13th meeting.

-Another sustainable fundraiser Implemented

I became a sales representative for Arbonne, a vegan cosmetic products company (that has not tested their products on animals). If you buy any product through me, I will donate 20% of the product sales to Primates Incorporated. Just visit the website:

https://www.arbonne.com/shop_online/shopOnline.asp, type your order into an email and then send it to amy@primatesinc.com – I will send you a confirmation of your order, an invoice, and shipping costs. (I highly recommend the Arbonne Intelligence Exfoliating Masque with Thermal Fusion for \$32 – amazing!)

-Coffee Update:

Our coffee is being sold locally at Capitol Centre Foods, 111 N Broom St., and Hempen Goods, 911 Williamson St. Pick some up next time you are in the neighborhood! Or you can send me a request for coffee via email, amy@primatesinc.com and I can meet up with you or ship it to you.

-Recent Donations

We received a \$500 donation from the Burmester Foundation in September, and so all of those inquiry letters are paying off! We will continue submitting ~30 inquiry letters per month and 1-2 full grant proposals every two months to ensure fundraising success in 2008. When a foundation gives a small amount of funding, it means we have our foot in the door! If we keep a good relationship with them, we should be able to obtain larger donation amounts as our organization evolves.

Topic Reviews

-Socialization of former single-housed monkeys

Over the years, I have received comments from various professionals who say there is no need to retire singly-housed research primates because they are psychologically distressed and beyond rehabilitation - a zoo director even mentioned that retiring research monkeys would only prolong their suffering. I asked Ned, director of the Animal Protection Institute Primate Sanctuary, for his insights on rehabilitating and socializing single-housed monkeys. He said they can be rehabilitated and mentioned that primates are naturally aggressive in troops in the wild, and so we should not automatically start to panic if a little bit of aggression is displayed during socialization. A way that we will help to ensure minimal aggression is by performing behavioral assessments of the monkeys prior to socialization to assess dominance compatibility ahead of time. Here is his full response:

From: Nedim C Buyukmihci

Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2007 1:08 PM

“Amy and list,

We have at least a dozen individuals of various species (baboons, macaques, vervets) who were singly housed in laboratories before being re-homed here. To date, all have been socialized into groups of individuals, some more easily and quickly than others. We attribute 'our' success to initially housing the individual on her or his own in very spacious and enriched quarters next to others of their kind, with the ability to make safe contact with them through common partitions, and then daily observation to see when strong affiliative behavior is consistent (assuming this happens). When the latter occurs, the individual is then allowed supervised open and direct contact with those others with substantial space for all to get away if desired. In most cases, initially there has been a mixture of play and fighting. It is important not to allow some fighting to deter people from continuing with the introduction. As long as there was strong, non-aggressive contact previously, even initially seemingly 'violent' (by our standards) fighting almost always gives way to play and strong, friendly bonding occurs. When the fighting is 'excessive' (subjective), we separate them and try later or try with different individuals. We have always been able to eventually socialize every individual, some into groups of a dozen or more of their conspecifics.

It's been my experience as a veterinarian that fighting is a common response when individuals (of many different species, not just nonhuman primates) are introduced to each other. As long as there is ample space, continual supervision and some common sense, there is no reason to let this stop attempts at socialization. If individuals are separated as soon as fighting occurs, then the hierarchy that needs to be established is unlikely to be achieved and many potentially rewarding social contacts will never be realized.”

-Monkeys who are bought from the exotic pet trade: a review.

Pet monkey summary information compiled by Swati Phadnis and Amy Kerwin.

The following websites were used to compile pet monkey information that will help discourage primate lovers from purchasing a primate as a pet.

- Comprehensive review of the exotic pet trade at the Animal Protection Institute (API) website: http://www.api4animals.org/a3b_exotic_pets.php
- Pet monkey stories are at: <http://www.blackpineanimalpark.com/pets/monkeys.htm>
- International Primate Protection League (IPPL) article on pet monkeys: <http://www.ippl.org/apr-03-23.html>.
- Comprehensive report written by the Allied Effort to Save Other Primates (AESOP): www.aesop-project.org/Monkeys_in_Private_Sector.doc

After googling and goodsearching “pet monkey” and “exotic pet”, Swati and I discovered that there is a wealth of information on the internet regarding pet monkeys. There are websites that promote “responsible” pet monkey ownerships, websites who claim to have monkeys for sale, websites instructing a person on how to get a monkey; and finally, several websites that discourage purchasing monkeys as pets and shed some insights on the exotic pet trade.

Primates Incorporated strongly discourages the ownership of monkeys as pets because of the following reasons:

- So often, pet monkeys are raised in unnatural environments and without a social partner - and monkeys normally live in complex social systems in the wild.
- Monkeys can lash out at their owners or other people as they age and then he or she becomes a serious liability for the owner.
- Monkeys who become unmanageable get sent to primate sanctuaries who are working hard raising funds for the primates who are already under their care.
- Pet monkey ownership endorses the exotic pet trade where thousands of monkeys are bought and sold each year. Although there are primate breeders where the monkeys do not come from the wild, there are also cases where baby monkeys are taken from their mothers in the wild (the mother is shot for bush meat) and smuggled across the border.

If you know someone who thinks they want a pet monkey, here is what I (Amy) recommend: Please tell them to reconsider and to do more research on the matter – they can read this meeting summary or type in “pet monkey” into Google (or Goodsearch). Tell them it is best to have monkeys housed with monkeys since they are highly social animals. Review the exotic pet trade and the research industry statistics with them and mention the thousands of monkeys in need of primate retirement – it is better to help these monkeys than endorse the exotic pet trade. Tell them if they like monkeys and want to help them that they should do one of the following: volunteer at the nearest primate sanctuary, sponsor a monkey at a primate sanctuary, or plan a trip to visit the monkeys in the wild and perform more research on nonprofits that support primate conservation.

-Testimonials

There have been numerous incidents where pet monkeys have gone wild and have harmed the owner themselves. Stories are listed below and are quoted from the website:

<http://www.blackpineanimalpark.com/pets/monkeys.htm>

- A woman who was eight months pregnant was hospitalized after one of her two "pet" rhesus macaques suddenly turned violent while her cage was being cleaned and bit the woman's nose. The woman was given an anti-viral medication, which was a hazard to her pregnancy, in case the monkey tested positive for herpes B. She had been inspired to purchase "pet" monkeys when, as a child, she saw monkeys riding bicycles in a circus.
- A capuchin "went crazy" and bit his owner. The owner shot the monkey seven or eight times, killing him. This is the same monkey who bit a neighbor.
- A "pet" spider monkey escaped from his cage and attacked two teenage girls. The girls were treated at the hospital for scratch and bite wounds to their faces, heads, and arms. The monkey was captured the next day. The same monkey had attacked a woman six months earlier.
- A "pet" Japanese macaque got loose and attacked two people. The monkey grabbed a neighbor around the waist and inflicted four bite wounds to the leg. Moments later, the

monkey bit a postal carrier on the hand. The monkey was captured and killed.

- A 7-year-old boy, riding his bicycle, was attacked by a neighbor's "pet" rhesus macaque, who jumped from a tree and bit the boy's arm. The child was subjected to a two-month ordeal involving doctors, needles, tests, and the fear of contracting the deadly herpes virus.
- A "pet" Japanese macaque escaped from his cage and attacked two people. One man was in serious condition after the monkey severed one of his arteries.
- An escaped 2-foot-tall spider monkey chased a woman who had just stepped outside her home and bit her on the thigh, then ran away.
- "An escaped "pet" vervet ran wild in a house, knocking over a lamp and attacking two women, biting one on the arm and slashing the legs of another with teeth and claws. A police officer responding to the frantic 911 call was also attacked. The monkey threw a picture frame at him, then jumped on and bit him. Both women needed stitches. The monkey was killed."
- "A "pet" Java macaque attacked his owner, inflicting 6-inch-deep bites and cuts on her head, arms, and legs and causing her to lose a pint and a half of blood. She underwent three hours of surgery and 12 weeks of physical therapy. The monkey was killed for rabies tests."

-More pet monkey information (compiled by Swati from the aforementioned websites)

- Monkeys need an environment that mimics the nature. Primates will not subside quietly and get into a remote cage.
- A lot of people have been granted permission to have exotic pets in their homes, which restricts the animals and binds them to a very tiny boundary.
- Monkeys need constant attention. If overlooked, they can develop behavioral abnormalities and health complications.
- Having a exotic pet such as a monkey needs more than being just mentally prepared, because a monkey's behavior is such, it has been said that monkeys make themselves part of a human family but have a different relationship with each member. A maturing monkey generally picks on the youngest or the weakest family member and can get extremely aggressive, especially if there is more than one member present in the room at the same time.
- Sometimes they tend to become possessive of the owner and are not ready to share the owner and start attacking anyone whom the owner interacts with.
- Monkeys tend to make a mess with the things that are unwanted by them. Though they are very tidy when it comes to their food and the housing area around them. If they become hyperactive, they might destroy their surroundings and dump food everywhere.
- Having an interactive relationship with a monkey means a continued daily investment. Infant females taken away do not develop parental skills to raise their own young.
- Young taken away, evolving on their own, are prone to depression.
- A monkey, if taken care of well can live for 40-50 years, that means an extremely long term commitment to domesticate an exotic pet is a challenge.

- **Why Pet monkeys get sent to primate sanctuaries, taken from the API article on their website:**

“...People working at traditional dog and cat SPCAs are frustrated by people who "dump" their family pets when they move or when the animal becomes an inconvenience, often due to behavioral problems.

The same is the case with monkeys. Usually "owners" get rid of monkeys when they are 4 to 8 years old. This is a major problem for pet monkeys. The few existing sanctuaries are crowded, yet they are offered more and more monkeys. Very few former "owners" who have bought baby primates provide donations for lifetime care of their once cherished pet, after they have ruined the animal's life for their selfish gratification...”

(http://www.api4animals.org/a3b_exotic_pets.php)

Do you have any comments on pet monkeys? If so, please email: amy@primatesinc.com.

Thanks to our 2007 Online Auction Donors and Participants!

Contributing Businesses

Arttogo, A Room of One's Own Bookstore, Benvenutos, Blue Lotus Tattoo, Blues Cut and Color Studio, A Woman's Touch, Ray's Furniture Perks, Earth Friendly Products, Essen Haus, Four Star Video Heaven, The Traveling Photographer, Hempen Goods, Ladies Must Swing, Just Coffee, L'Etoile, Marigold Kitchen, Water Over Stone Therapy, Studio Quest Salon, Mom and Pop Place, Muzzy Luctin, Greenbush Bakery, Nylabone, Orange Tree Imports, Overture Center, Primates Incorporated, Star Cinemas, Starbucks, Pomegranate, Pop Deluxe, The Chocolate Shoppe, Ultimate Arts Tattoo, and REI

Contributing Artists and Donors

Ann Casper, Amy Kerwin, Angela Divine Thomas, Forrest Espinoza, Aaron Hanusa, Bob Ramsdell, Chris Basset, Debbie Mauritz, Elizabeth Johanna, Erin Hall, Heather Braatz, Janine Micke, Jo Gabriel, Jonathan Balcombe, Maria Daines, June Dalton, Linda Frost, Mary Corolla, Michael Kerwin, Ruth Dunn, Sara Naatz, Susan Frikken, Philip Ashby, Polly Schultz, Vivian Siebers, Matt Semke, Kalpana Prakash, Lou Ely, Bob Rashid

Silent Auction Participants

Charles and Vicky Talbert, Tina Hauser, Angela Vellardita, Bridget Hauser, Diane Remeika, Emily Patterson, Kirk Hrabrich, Francis Mastri, Ginger Emel, Heather Geiss, Jennifer Feuerstein, Jennifer Jandt, Jehan Brown, GayeLyn LaFleur, Kevin Carey, Crystal Svoboda, Jennifer Lyons, Joan Vogel, Kim Hoffmann, Linda Fox, Liz Richter-Bryant, Marilyn Fisher, Mike McDaniel, Nancy Megna, Natasha Down, Patrick Sullivan, Ruth Casper, Scott Defever, Sheila Carey, Stephanie Turner, Victoria Gimza, John Watson-Jones

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