


Story Book Farm

PRIMATE SANCTUARY



Summer 2024 Newsletter

A day in the life of a primate caregiver



Dear Friend,

It's the time of year when it is nice to take some time off, relax and enjoy the weather. However, when it comes to running an animal sanctuary, there is no time to rest. Looking after our monkeys and lemurs is a 7-day a week commitment week in, week out. A typical day at the sanctuary begins at 8:30am when a small breakfast of vegetables and fruit is prepared by the staff for all the residents and any necessary medications are dispensed.

Even though we couldn't accomplish all we do without the support of our loyal volunteers, the staff are there every day and are able to note differences in behaviours from day to day and bring them to the attention of our veterinarian.

Samson, one of our 9 macaques, continues to receive pain meds and joint supplements to alleviate the pain of his arthritis and, with the addition of Mishaa to the family, he now often runs around with her. The introduction of Mishaa was a win-win – Mishaa got the family she was denied at the zoo she came from and Samson gets his exercise.

After breakfast, there can be plans in place for the rest of the day but a lot of the work done is opportunistic. For example, there might be plans to clean **Darwin's** enclosure but, if he doesn't feel like going outside, we go onto plan B and clean out the enclosures of other monkeys who are easier to coax to go indoors or out depending on what needs to take priority.

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Registered charity #: 840817910RR0001

When cleaning, for the safety of all concerned and our strict health and safety protocols, caregivers do not go into enclosures with the monkeys. We don't want to impose ourselves on them as they are wild animals, are very strong and have very large teeth.

*We were reminded of a monkey's strength once when **Darwin** had the opportunity to bend rebar – and did. We can see how big and strong their teeth are when they yawn – an awesome and intimidating sight.*

Every day, while cleaning enclosures, our staff and volunteers change and move enrichment structures, add new forms of enrichment and leave behind food items such as bird seed and peanuts for them to forage – habits that they would perform in the wild.

We create various forms of enrichment. In order to enhance the quality of captive life, we provide enrichment in many forms: structural, sensory, food and social. These are all combined and tailored to each of the monkeys and lemurs in our care to provide environmental stimuli for optimal psychological and physiological well-being, encouraging species-specific behaviours and preventing abnormal behaviours. Fortunately, we never see any of our residents walking around aimlessly in circles.

We also sort the food in the fridges, purchase food or pick up food donations, make necessary repairs, do copious amounts of laundry and dishes and feed the barn cats. Around 2:30pm we begin to prepare the main meal of the day. The monkeys know what time it is when we start clattering the dishes in preparation.

***Bruno**, who is about 30 feet away down the hall from the kitchen, will start calling out for his dinner to make sure we don't forget him. **Mr. Jenkins** has a bird's eye view of the kitchen and will keep an eye on the activities and the bananas. **Stevie**, who is next to the kitchen, will ask for a taste of some of his favourite foods such as grapes or avocado as they are being prepared.*

However, making dinners is not as simple as cutting up fruit and vegetables and putting them on a plate. Dinner, too, is presented as a form of enrichment. The monkeys get their food packaged in boxes which we tape up to make the food a little more difficult to access. When we have lots of boxes and more time, we put these boxes in larger boxes with more food and tape those up and so on. We often add toys in their boxes so dinner time is a bit like opening a birthday gift – every day!

***Judy and Johnny**, two of our olive baboons, are particularly food centric. We believe this is because, while they were at an unregulated roadside zoo, they were not fed regularly. When they first arrived at the sanctuary, almost 5 years ago, they ate everything in sight including banana skins. Even now, when cleaning out their enclosures, there is very little, if any, food ever left over.*

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Johnny also likes to steal *Judy*'s food. To ensure that *Judy* gets her fair share, we try to occupy *Johnny* by putting extra tape on his boxes and we present *Judy*'s food in a tissue box, for example, so there is already an opening in the box and she can quickly extricate her food. She also has an advantage because of the cheek pouches baboons have – she can stuff her cheek pouches full of her favourite foods so that *Johnny* can't get them and she can save them for later.

Making dinners, handing them out and cleaning up afterwards takes us to the end of the day at 4:30pm.

After dinner it's great to see that some of the monkeys will be interacting with the toys that they got with dinner.

But that's not all....

We also do something we call "tuck-in". One of our staff will check in the evening to make sure everyone has access to water overnight, to have some of their favourite monkey chow to graze on and to make sure they are all safe and sound and ready for bed.

Max likes to cover himself with a blanket, *Jenkins* likes to climb up into his sleep box, *Nora* and *Mojo* like to snuggle together.

Before we took over the sanctuary 9 years ago, the monkeys and lemurs were cared for just 2 hours a day by volunteers, which essentially meant that they were fed and that was all – very little cleaning was done and there was no time for enrichment. On weekends there were typically more volunteers, so it was possible to do more cleaning but, again, very little time was spent on enrichment. Of course, this was not ideal. So when we took over, the primary goal was to provide more comprehensive holistic care for our monkeys and lemurs. This comes, however, at a very large financial cost.

The first few years we had part-time staff and three years ago we were fortunate that, because of a very large grant, we were able to afford to hire paid staff who work two at a time for 8-10 hours a day, every day. Unfortunately, that was a one-time grant so now we need to find funding to continue to give our monkeys and lemurs the very special attention and care they deserve – and are now used to.

Cody came from a lab along with *Cedric* and *Pugsley*. Setting a precedent, they were the first monkeys to officially be allowed to retire after no longer being of use to the research lab. After having been kept apart in 4-foot square cages, at Story Book they soon learned to enjoy grooming, snuggling and sleeping together. They discovered they could balance and climb and developed

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muscle tone they never had before and had the freedom and space to run for the first time in their lives. Unfortunately, Cody, the last of the three, died earlier this year, largely due to the research that was done on him. We miss him, we miss them all. We are so glad that we were able to give them a few years of a life they had not known before.

Thanks to you we have had successful fundraising campaigns in the past – to build new enclosures specifically for Cody, Pugsley and Cedric; to purchase medical equipment; to pay for generators and to extend and renovate enclosures. We have not had a fundraising campaign directed solely at paying salaries for our employees. It never seems as interesting as donating for specific items, but it is essential for the continued specialized care we provide. Having the time to box up dinners, to rearrange the ‘furniture’, to pick grass and cut down branches for browse - all these extra things we do for our monkeys and lemurs take valuable time.

Fortunately, our monthly donations cover approximately half our staffing costs. But we need your help to secure regular funding for the other half.

Without staff we could not have looked after our tiny squirrel monkey, Stevie. His mother died during childbirth at the Peterborough Zoo but they did not have the staffing capacity to look after him. He arrived at the sanctuary barely 36 hours old – needing to be fed every 2 hours, 24 hours a day for a number of months. We were able to save Stevie’s life because we had the staff to do it.

Unfortunately, we had another very sad loss this spring. **Keanu**, one of our older ring-tailed lemurs, died. Our staff had noted differences in his behaviour and eating patterns. A health check was scheduled and it was discovered he had a diseased bile duct and a compromised liver. There was nothing that could be done to make him comfortable so, sadly, we had to say goodbye.

Story Book is Canada’s only haven for rehabilitating monkeys and lemurs. We are their only hope and only home after their time in research labs, unregulated roadside zoos or as inappropriate pets. Please help us maintain our high standards of care which are only possible with a full complement of staff.

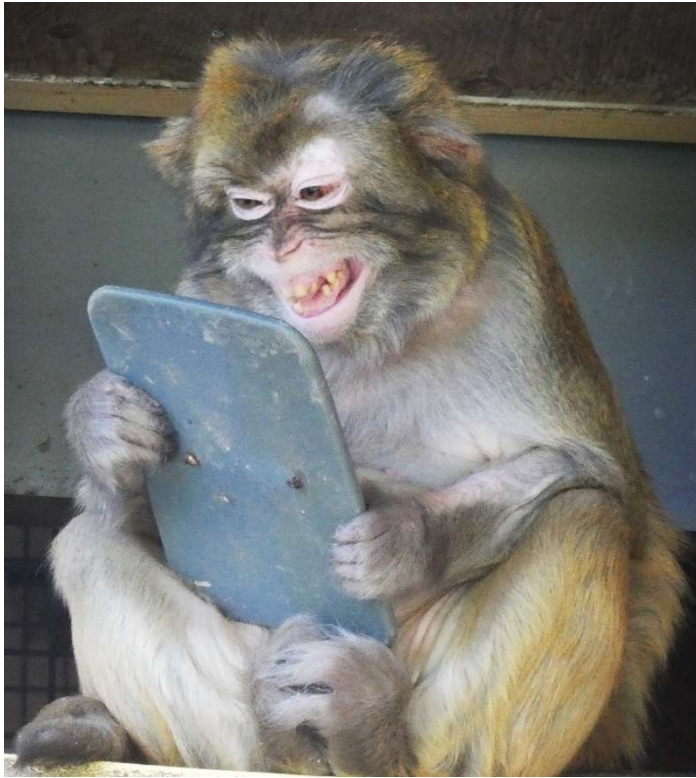
Wishing you all a wonderful summer while we give our monkeys and lemurs popsicles and frozen fruit as special summer treats and fill up their pools.

Daina

Daina Liepa
Executive Director

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Those Lazy Days of Summer



Boo, doing her own dental check up!

Mishaa
enjoying
sunshine
with
Samson

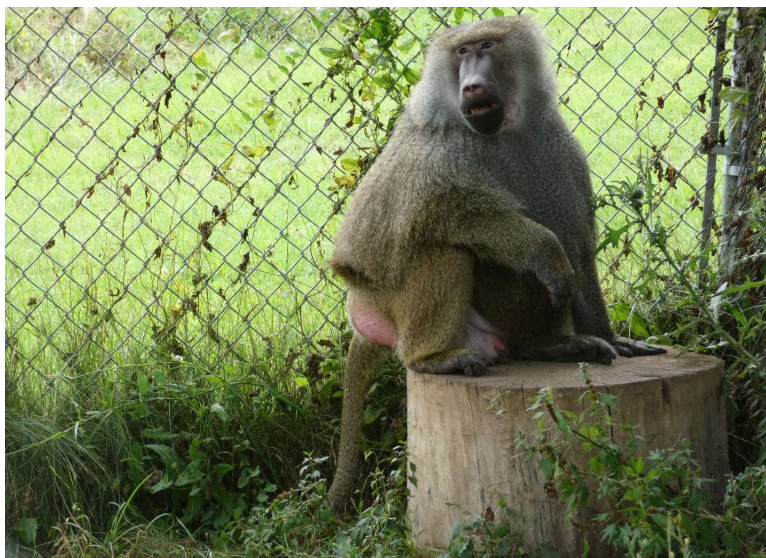


Cody, Pugsley and Cedric, together again



Laundry line!

Bruno



YES! I will help the monkeys at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary!

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Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
Prov. / Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

One time contribution:

If you would like to give a single gift donation to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary at this time (please check below):

- \$500 towards a health checkup
- \$250 for building materials
- \$100 for a month's supply of medicine
- \$50 for a month's supply of vitamins
- \$25 for peanuts
- Other \$ _____

Paid by:

- Cheque or Money Order (payable to **Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary**)
- Credit Card (**please complete required info below**)

*Donations may also be made via PayPal, Canada Helps or Zeffy through our website: storybookmonkeys.org

Postal Code: _____
Card Number: _____
Expiry: _____
CCV (3 digit security # on reverse of card): _____
Name on Card: _____
Signature: _____

Thank you for supporting us. With your support, we can continue our important work of providing monkeys a place of care, comfort and freedom. We could not do this critical work without your commitment.

Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary's mandate is to rescue monkeys from abuse, neglect and cruelty and retire them from a life of research. We are the only sanctuary in Canada focused on monkeys. Our work is unique and highly specialized. Caring for monkeys is long term commitment as their life expectancy is over 40 years. We have a number of senior residents who need medical care and specialized diets. Your support makes it possible to keep the monkeys healthy and happy.

Thank you for your generosity,



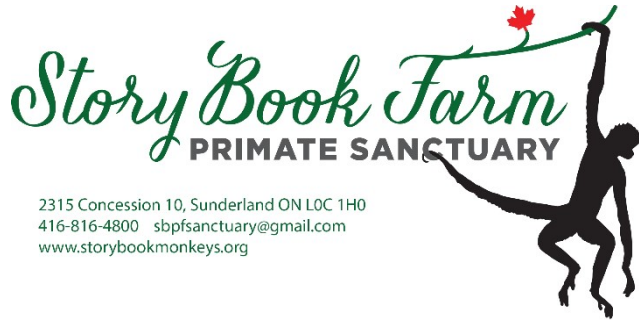
Daina Liepa
Executive Director

www.StoryBookMonkeys.org



Little Stevie Wonder
still sucking his thumb

Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary is a Federally registered charitable organization. Tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20 and over.
Registered Charity No. 84081 7910 RR0001



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The Importance of Monthly Giving

How you give can be as important as the amount you give. While every contribution is deeply appreciated, I urge you to consider becoming a regular monthly contributor.

This is why. Your gift of twelve equal monthly payments will not only allow us to continue caring for the monkeys to a high standard, but it may also afford us the chance of rescuing others who need our help. When you give a single gift we are very thankful but we don't know if your one gift is your first or last. We can't plan to use funds that we can't be sure we'll receive.

Because good planning is essential, a monthly commitment from you makes all the difference. If we know we can depend on you for \$5, \$10, or \$30 or more dollars per month, then we can create a more accurate budget.

For many donors monthly giving can also make their life easier. Modest, automatic withdrawals will go almost unnoticed, yet they will give you the knowledge that every day, every month, you will be making a measurable difference to the world we live in, to the people who share your life, and to the monkeys who are depending upon us.

With our Foster Friend program https://storybookmonkeys.org/foster_program.htm you will receive an exclusive certificate and a bio of your monkey, our newsletters, and more, while helping provide food and care to your special friend! What a great way to commemorate someone's birthday, wedding or other special occasion. We will be happy to send the certificate to someone on your behalf.

Please, take the time to give serious consideration to becoming a monthly giver.

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daina".

Daina Liepa
Executive Director

**To join our monthly giving program using your credit card,
please visit us online at <https://storybookmonkeys.org/donate.htm>**