


Story Book Farm

PRIMATE SANCTUARY



Fall 2025 newsletter

*“What you do makes a difference
and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*

- Dame Jane Goodall

Dear Friend,

Our Thanksgiving newsletter was ready to be sent out but then the unthinkable happened – Jane Goodall died. Even at the age of 91 everyone believed she would go on forever. She died while travelling around the world over 300 days a year, doing what she had committed her later life to – promoting a message of hope. As she said, *“Hope is about taking action in spite of it all.”*

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary this year, we recognize that Jane was integral to our success in saving the sanctuary in 2015. Because of various contacts and fortuitous timing, she agreed to record a message on our behalf while she was in Toronto.

“All Canadians can be proud of the work done by the Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary which rescues and cares for primates. Primates are our closest animal relatives. They deserve our help. Please go to www.storybookmonkeys.org and see what you can do. Thank you.”

Because of her influence and the financial help of many of you, we were able to purchase the property where the sanctuary had been established 15 years earlier. We were able to avoid having to look for another property and move all our monkeys and lemurs.

Jane was also instrumental in having Pockets moved to Story Book, plus our veterinarian had a close friendship with her and could update her on what we were doing at the sanctuary.

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Our Board Chair, Rachele Hansen, shares her thoughts of Jane:

"Think globally, act locally." Jane Goodall's words have shaped my path—from working with the Jane Goodall Institute as an intern, and Roots & Shoots group leader to the daily care and advocacy we lead at the sanctuary. Each Open Day, each outreach effort is a chance to speak for primates everywhere, grounding global compassion in local action.

One of our proudest achievements is the network we've built across the primate world. From sharing care plans and collaborating with experts, onsite volunteering, to raising funds for sanctuaries abroad, our work extends far beyond our gates. These relationships have strengthened our knowledge, expanded our impact, and affirmed that in caring for individuals, we honour the species—and in acting locally, we live the change Jane envisioned globally.

We are eternally grateful to Jane not only for what she did to help save the sanctuary but on a broader level to help primates around the world and the people living in the communities surrounding them.

In the last 10 years, we have faced many challenges that have turned into great accomplishments.

- Despite complications with the Canada Food Inspection Agency, we were able to save Cody, Pugsley and Cedric from inevitable euthanasia. As lab monkeys, the protocol in place is to euthanise them when they are no longer useful. At the sanctuary we were able to give them 4-6 years of relative freedom – freedom to move beyond their individual 4-foot square cages at the lab, freedom to go outdoors whenever they liked and walk on grass for the first time in their lives, freedom to groom each other and snuggle and sleep together. Saving their lives was precedent-setting in 2018 but, unfortunately, nothing has changed. We would like to save a few more of the 10,000 monkeys that are in research in Canada but there is little interest plus, at the moment, we have no space available.
- In 2019 we had plans and some funds for 'Story Book: The Next Chapter' – the construction of a new building so we could accommodate more monkeys and lemurs. However, when Humane Society International called to ask if we could take in 9 monkeys and lemurs rescued from abuse and neglect at the St. Edouard Zoo in Quebec, we had to say no. We didn't have space for the 'Group of Nine' and didn't yet have enough money to start construction. Fortunately, HSI called again a couple of weeks later and offered to pay towards the construction of a new building. The \$500,000 building would become a reality. We were able to welcome Bella, Samson, Judy, Johnny, Nora, Mojo, Bob, Colette and Marwood to 'George's Haven' – a place of safety and refuge.
- After working for over three years to provide necessary documentation and to demonstrate that we had more than satisfactory standards for the care of our residents to warrant verification by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), we were finally

recognised in August of this year. GFAS is the only animal sanctuary accreditation program in the world ensuring that abandoned, displaced, abused animals receive the highest standards of care for the rest of their lives. As the only monkey sanctuary in Canada, we felt it was important to achieve this milestone.

It is never easy to say goodbye but sometimes it creates an opportunity.

Bandit, a ring-tailed lemur, was the remaining brother of Smokey and Keanu. The three of them arrived at the sanctuary in 2006. Born in 2005, Bandit had just turned 20 when we noticed he was not himself - he was lethargic, not interested in his food, shivering when it was hot. He was seen by a veterinarian, and it was discovered he had several masses throughout his liver and his lungs. The prognosis was not good particularly given his advanced age, although ringtails in captivity can live to be in their 30's. Sadly, we decided that euthanasia was the most humane option for Bandit. Bandit is now free to roam with his brothers – tails held high.

Bandit outlived his brothers by several years but he always had other ringtails for company – most recently, Marwood. With Bandit gone, Marwood was alone; this gave us an opportunity to introduce him to our new arrival, Myste. It is never easy to introduce two monkeys or lemurs who are strange to each other particularly since Myste had never seen another lemur, having been kept as a pet all her 17 years. Thankfully, Marwood welcomed Myste with open arms – kissing her, grooming her, sharing his sleep box.

This is why we do what we do – giving Myste a chance to be a lemur, not a pet.

We have accomplished a lot but there is still a lot of work to be done.

We recently welcomed two very young monkeys who were seized by Ontario's *Provincial Animal Welfare Services*. Unfortunately, we can't say any more about them at the moment as the case is before the courts. Two other monkeys also needed sanctuary but, unfortunately, we had no space for them. For the first time we have not been able to accept monkeys who needed a home – who needed specialised care, a healthy diet and space to behave like monkeys.

As Jane said: *"The least I can do is speak out for those who cannot speak for themselves."*

- We will continue to work with several animal welfare organisations to enact stricter laws for roadside zoos to make sure that all animals kept in captivity are treated with respect and given the care they need. More than 50% of our monkeys and lemurs currently with us came from unregulated roadside zoos where they were denied appropriate housing, correct diets or the opportunity to walk on grass and sit in the sun.
- We need to change research policy for monkey retirement so that young, healthy monkeys can be given the opportunity to live life beyond a small cage.

- We need to continue enlarging our older existing outdoor enclosures so that all our monkeys have the same opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

Njeri, our beautiful patas monkey, who arrived from a zoo a few months ago, has settled in. She was the last of a troop of six and we were able to give her the opportunity to be around other monkeys. She is enjoying her enlarged outdoor space next to Mr. Jenkins and it is wonderful to see her running. As one of the fastest land mammals, this is what we were hoping for. This is why we do what we do.

- Over the last 10 years we have more than doubled the living space for our monkeys and lemurs, but we need to do even more. We need to construct another new building – another haven – to house at least 10 monkeys. The approximate cost is \$1 million.

We have raised 10% of the cost of a new building but there is a long way to go. I hope you can help us raise enough funds so we can start construction in 2026. There are two monkeys we know about who need a home and there are many more monkeys and lemurs that we don't even know about.

We are very grateful for your help and support over the last 10 years. Now we must plan for the next 10 years. We need to save more lives; we need to provide a home for monkeys and lemurs when no one else can.

My daughter is the primatologist in the family and, luckily, she got to work for the most famous primatologist in the world. Jane Goodall knew of the sanctuary and advocated for it when we needed help. She will never be forgotten, and her legacy will carry on her work. May she rest in peace. She deserves it.

We need your help again. I hope you will help us offer the possibility to extend lives and save lives of more monkeys and lemurs who did not ask to be captive. As Jane said, "*Let us develop respect for all living things.*" Please help us help those who deserve respect and are waiting to be saved.

Wishing you a warm, colourful and happy Fall.



Daina Liepa
Executive Director

P.S. As part of our ongoing fundraising, we will be holding a silent online auction during the first week of December. We have many exciting items. Check our website for more details at the end of November: www.sbfps.org. Also, we have Christmas cards designed by Pockets and Darwin and calendars for 2026 available through our website.

Turning Over a New Leaf.

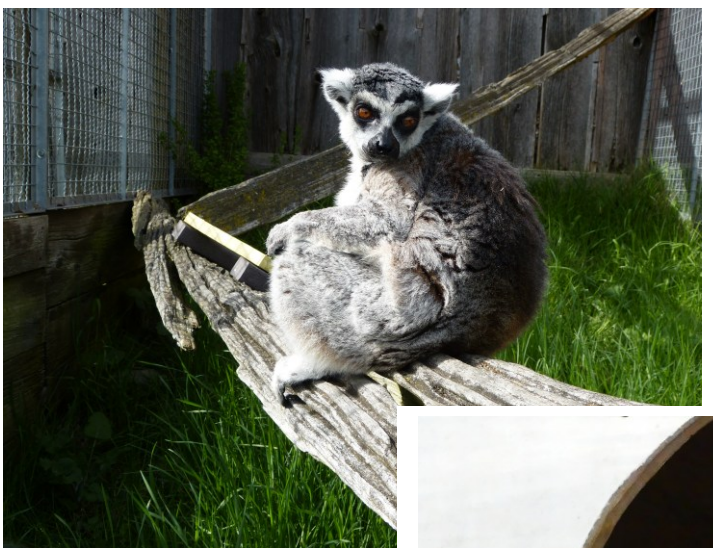
Mishaa in the sun.



**Bruno enjoying
summer corn!**

Njeri enjoying her newly expanded enclosure. (right)

Rest in Peace, dear Bandit. (below)



Marwood and his new companion, Myste. (right)

