

Story Book Farm

PRIMATE SANCTUARY



Winter newsletter

December 2021

Dear Friend,

The craziness of this festive season is well underway. Hopefully you can sit down and relax for a few minutes and read about our beloved monkeys and lemurs. This time of year is a very busy time at the sanctuary. We all become Secret Santas so that each monkey and lemur gets a gift. We also get together to make enrichment treats for them all. There's no rest over the holidays – the monkeys need to be cleaned and fed even on Christmas Day.

We were very fortunate to receive a large grant from the Annenberg Foundation this year to allow us to hire staff for the first time in the sanctuary's twenty-one year history. This means that the monkeys now receive even more attention and, in these uncertain days of COVID, we can guarantee that they get the best care without having to rely solely on our faithful volunteers. Unfortunately, the grant only covers salaries to the end of 2021 so we are actively searching for other funding opportunities. Can you help?

George's Haven

In the past I have mentioned the nine monkeys and lemurs who came to us almost two years ago after they were seized from a zoo in Quebec that was closed down because of the cruelty and neglect of over 200 animals. With the help of Humane Society International we were able to build a completely new state-of-the-art

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building - *George's Haven* - for the monkeys and lemurs who arrived without names. Some of the lemurs also arrived without digits lost due to frost bite.

The court case that the Montreal SPCA brought against the owner of the zoo has finally been resolved and we can now name this shameful place – St. Edouard Zoo. According to many accounts, no veterinary care was provided, there was no heat or winter shelter and no regular access to water and many of the animals were at risk of dying of starvation. Many people commented that they had never seen such terrible conditions at a zoo.

We are glad that we were able to create a home for all the primates who suffered there.

Samson, our very handsome Japanese macaque, had severe arthritis and had difficulty walking when he arrived. After a thorough health check, he was prescribed joint supplements and pain meds, and we designed an enclosure specifically for his needs. The enclosure he shares with **Bella** has ramps to make movement between different levels easier for him and has in-floor heating that all nine primates who share the Haven also enjoy. Two years later Samson is much more mobile and dexterous and the addition of our youngest new arrival, **Mishaa**, seems to have helped him mentally, too, as he has become less introverted. He is very protective of two-year-old Mishaa and spends time playing with her and grooming her. This has taken the pressure off Bella who, initially, seemed to be a little overwhelmed by Mishaa's constant attention.

As a sanctuary, we do not allow the primates to breed. However, we have discovered old photos of Bella at St. Edouard Zoo with a baby. We don't know what happened to her baby/babies but she was not allowed to keep them. So we are very happy that we have been able to create a little family, not only for sweet Mishaa, but also for Bella and Samson. It is wonderful to see them all together peacefully grooming each other.

Despite having been rejected by her own family, Mishaa is very resilient, curious and strong-willed. With the first cold weather she discovered icicles and was breaking them off and sucking on them. When it snowed, she was playing and jumping in the snow – perhaps for the first time in her life.

The fact that many of the animals from this zoo were starving explains the frantic behaviour of the baboons, **Judy** and **Johnny**, at meal times. Even though they still anticipate their meals with great excitement, two years later they are a little less panic-stricken than they were initially. We still, however, have to make special

provision to ensure that Judy gets most of each meal. We give Judy easier access to her food so she can stuff her cheek pouches full before Johnny comes to steal it. We often make the monkeys forage for their food as they would in the wild. We also pack their meals in boxes inside boxes inside boxes – all to make it a little more difficult for them to get to their food. We tape up Johnny’s boxes a little more securely so he is occupied longer before he goes to take Judy’s food.

Giving them both treats at the same time is impossible – Johnny steals them all. Sometimes I will go outside and, if Judy is there alone, she knows to come to me so I can give her the treats before Johnny realises what’s going on and intervenes.

Diabetic Rudy

It is several months since we diagnosed **Rudy**, our colourful squirrel monkey, with diabetes. Since then he has been on a strict diet designed by one of our volunteer veterinarians. Unfortunately, no more grapes for Rudy. The good news is that he has gained some weight. However we may have to start training him so he will allow us to regularly measure his glucose levels – not an easy feat. For good reason. I don’t know if you’ve ever had to prick your finger - it’s not fun.

Superstar Pockets Warhol

Pockets has had a very busy year. He’s even become best friends with Martin Gore of the music group *Depeche Mode*. Martin commissioned Pockets to create the artwork for the album covers of his newly-released music “The Third Chimpanzee”. He has also collaborated with Belinda Carlisle of the *GoGos* to help raise funds for her animal sanctuary, Animal People Alliance, as well as ours. Pockets has not let all this attention go to his head – he still eats his cashews one at a time.

Newest member of the Story Book family

Ricky, the Black lemur, our newest addition to the Story Book family, continues to thrive. When he arrived his coat was very sparse and patchy, probably due to the diet he was fed before he came to us. He is enjoying his vegetables - he especially loves Chinese cabbage – and his coat is getting much thicker. He also loves the children’s vitamins we give daily to everyone.

Unfortunately, I don’t have any news to share about the blind baboon we hope to care for soon. After having spent all her life in a small enclosure alone in the dark, we hope to give her all the care necessary to make the rest of her life more

comfortable. To make space for her, we will be moving some of our residents around and we have already committed close to \$20,000 to renovate the spaces needed.

In order to save more monkeys like her, and to be able to take in more lab monkeys who are allowed to retire, we are reviving our fund-raising campaign - *Story Book: The Next Chapter*. Our goal is \$1 million. This would allow us to build indoor and outdoor spaces roughly twice the size of George's Haven which provides a home for 9 monkeys and lemurs and includes our new medical facility.

Our expenses are higher than ever now that we have salaried staff and, of course, the general upkeep and feeding of our 25 residents. There is also the veterinary care – regular health checks and emergency care – which increases in demand and in cost as our primate population ages.

Looking after primates isn't easy and it isn't cheap, but we do it so that monkeys and lemurs can come to us and enjoy a better life than they had before. We are so fortunate that we have monthly donors who give us a financial cushion and the assurance that the same amount of money will be there again next month. We are grateful to all of you who continue to donate from year to year.

We continue to do this work so that Samson can run again; so that Mishaa gets to feel the gentle touch of another monkey; so that we can provide Darwin with a macaque family.

We are able to do this work because you care.

Thank you for your continued support.

Season's Greetings to you all from us all and wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.



Daina Liepa
Executive Director

P.S. We have just launched our beautiful new website. Please check us out at www.storybookmonkeys.org