



VERVET MONKEY FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

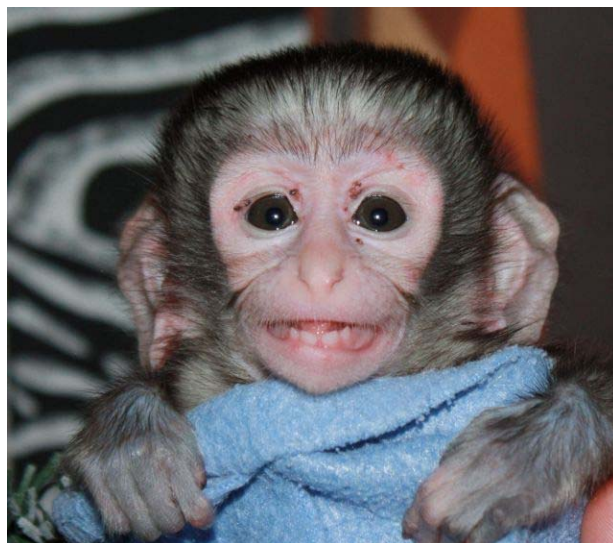


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INTRODUCTION

The Vervet Monkey Foundation ('the Foundation') is proud to present its Annual Report for the year 2010. The year's focus for the sanctuary was to become non-breeding and to work on integrations of monkeys singly housed into social groups for the benefit of all animals within the sanctuary and to be able to accept more new arrivals.

On behalf of all the volunteers involved with the Foundation, it is our pleasure to present the 2010 Annual Report.

Signed,

Dave Du Toit (Director & Co-Founder) &

Josie Du Toit (Animal Manager / Rehabilitator)

WORLDWIDE VOLUNTEERS

In 2010, 136 volunteers in total visited the Foundation. 2 volunteers from another primate sanctuary in UK, 78 volunteers were from volunteer organisations, 58 direct volunteers of which 18 were returning volunteers from previous years. 8 voluntary veterinarians also came out to help in 2010.

In total the Foundation saw volunteers from at least 19 different nationalities in 2010 alone including:

English, Irish, Scottish, British, French, Spanish, Belgian, New Zealand, Israeli, Peruvian, Swedish, American, Canadian, Italian, Australian, Portuguese, Norwegian, German, Danish, Dutch. The range of nationalities volunteering shows widespread care and awareness in conservation and how people from different countries can all work together towards one goal.

The impact of volunteers extends not just to the Foundation but also to the local communities some of which may depend on travel and tourism for survival.

As ever, in 2010 volunteers had an incredible impact on the success of the Foundation, and all the achievements listed in this year's report could not have taken place without the outstanding commitment shown by volunteers from around the globe. The Foundation would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to each and

every volunteer, both long term and short term, for the achievements that made 2010 such a success.

ENCLOSURE UPGRADES



Volunteers painting and digging for the erection of the new one hectare enclosure

The following enclosure upgrades were completed in 2010:

- **A new Bachelor Block was completed for 5 adult males that at present are unable to be integrated into larger social groups.**
- **Replacement of all wood for plastic pipes in introduction cages to enable better hygiene.**
- **A new baby cabin was put up where orphans could be stabilised before joining other monkeys.**
- **Construction of the new Orphan Enclosure started.**



The new Bachelor Block houses 5 adult males



Construction of the new orphan enclosure

SICK BAY

- **Use of new faecal analysers (donated by PASA in conjunction with a grant obtained through Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago) allowed for improved diagnostics in parasitology using in house microscopy methods.**
- **Tiling of floors in preparation areas & the surgery was completed.**
- **Re-painting of sickbay was completed.**



Left: Scritch (a male juvenile) was hit by a car and arrived unconscious. Right: Scritch a few weeks later regaining his balance.

Four monkeys were brought in as a direct result of car accidents, two survived and two were euthanased due to the seriousness of their injuries.

VET NURSES

Completion of all adult vasectomies meant the centre became non-breeding to maintain populations and to enable the orphaned vervets to join stable troops.



Claire (veterinary nurse) assisted during the completion of all adult male vasectomies.

ORPHAN ENCLOSURE



Construction of the new one hectare orphan enclosure was nearing completion at the end of 2010 and the 13 juveniles will be moved into their new natural environment at the beginning of 2011. The enclosure will provide sanctuary to numerous other monkeys that arrive at the centre allowing them to live as natural an environment as possible.



Forest Gump - one of the orphans waiting to go into the new enclosure

ORPHANED VERVETS

Twelve orphaned babies in total arrived towards the end of 2010. Their mums had either been shot or hit by cars. This is an increase in the number of orphans in comparison to the previous year. Building of a new baby hut was made to allow those smaller individuals needing one on one care to stabilise before being introduced to the rest of the group. The plan for these orphans will be to introduce them to a stable troop within the Foundation and to be adopted by foster vervet mums within the non-breeding troops.



Frankie was the first orphan of the season to arrive – he was found alone without his troop

At the beginning of the year, one of the sanctuary mums lost her baby the same day as an orphan called Lola arrived, the Foundation were able to give Lola to foster mum Thandi to act as surrogate mum which was an immediate success.

EX-PETS

Each year the Foundation continues to see the arrival of monkeys that have been kept as pets, the most common age being from 1yr upwards. Some of these are orphans that have been cared for but not handed over to a rehabilitation centre soon enough, others have been bought as babies for the sole purpose of a pet. Education is key and is something the Foundation works towards with the local community. Monkeys that are brought to the Foundation from a young age are much easier and quicker to be integrated into a natural social group with less trauma.

The Foundation saw the arrival of two one year old ex-pets Bebe & Malandro towards the end of the yr who will join the juveniles in the new orphan enclosure in 2011.



Malandro was bought and kept as a pet for one year before being handed in to the Foundation. Monkeys kept as pets have many social skills to learn.

INTEGRATIONS

Integration of vervet monkeys into natural enclosures moved forward in 2010 as a priority allowing 11 monkeys to be integrated into natural enclosures.

- Tweedledum, Tweedledee & Opal (2 male juniors and an adult male) into Skrow Troop
- Scritch into Disneyland with 12 other juveniles
- Scat, Nigel, Nigella, Skittles into James enclosure
- ET (adult male) into Gismo troop
- Frenchie & Shasta (2 adult females) into Engeltjie troop
- Honeybear, Lalie, Shortie (3 ex-pet female adults) started their integrations into troops which will continue in 2011.



Tweedledee & Tweedledum were integrated into Skrow troop



Scat was integrated into the James enclosure



ET was integrated into Gismo troop



Frenchie went out into Engeltjie enclosure



Volunteer helping with integrations of Shasta into Engeltjie troop

RELEASES

A wild male who was hit by a car was brought in suffering from concussion and head injuries, made a full recovery at the Foundation and was returned to his troop in the wild after 3 weeks of care in Sept 2010.



Gerrard 3 days after he came in



Gerrard being released back into the wild 3 weeks after he arrived with head injuries



To enable a vervet to be released directly back into the wild, it is important to know where the troop is and the exact location he was found to be successful.

BUSH FIRES

Bush fires are always a major threat to the Foundation in dry season. Two large bush fires were fought in October 2010, thanks to staff and volunteers neither reached the Foundation property.

EDUCATION

In April 2010, soccer uniforms with a picture of a vervet and a conservation message were donated to a local school 'Rainbow combined school' to establish whether it would enhance learning about conservation. A football and book were also given. A questionnaire was given on the presentation of the uniforms to establish the level of knowledge already acquired. Follow up

questionnaires will be given to the children to ascertain whether the project made a significant contribution to long term understanding of conservation.

The conservation message chosen by the Foundation on the front of the soccer uniforms reads: *"Protect our wildlife today and it will be here tomorrow"*

Thank you to all who supported / granted the soccer uniform initiative – USFWS, PASA, Conservation International and Brevard zoo. A soccer game was filmed between Rainbow combined school and the Meridian High School Team.



Soccer uniforms & kit were presented to a local school as part of an education initiative

NEW UNIFORMS FOR LOCAL STAFF

Thanks to PASA and to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo in Nebraska, USA, the Foundation has been able to distribute some second hand uniforms for a more professional look to all the local staff at the Foundation.



In Feb 2010, the Gift Shop was opened to provide an on-site source of funding and increased awareness for the Foundation .



RESEARCH

1 student from UK studying behavioural research as part of her BSc in zoology visited the Foundation and did a feeding enrichment study.



Abbie Morris – feeding enrichment of coconuts for juveniles for university project.

PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING

A Podcast interview was conducted with Josie Du Toit on the Voluntary Traveller to discuss the background to the Foundation, what volunteers are involved with and what they do to help. The podcast can be listened to on the volunteering section of the Foundation’s website www.vervet.za.org

Mini cards were made with the Foundation logo on the back to promote further volunteering. A campaign was started by a volunteer in the UK across universities and other educational centres to encourage more volunteers.



Some awareness events were attended overseas to increase the Foundation's profile, recruit volunteers and spread awareness about conservation:

Portsmouth Green Fair, UK, July

Kensington Animal Charities Fair, UK, Dec



The Foundation attended the Kensington Animal Charities Fair, UK

VOLUNTEER VILLAGE

The volunteer village houses the short term volunteers. Security improvements were made in 2010 including solar lights in the toilet areas and individual alarms on each volunteer's cabin accommodation.

VISITS FROM OTHER PRIMATE NETWORKS

Brandi Wren (Ph.D student), dept of Anthropology from Purdue University, and Shawn Hurst visited the Foundation once again with 14 students from the Primate Study Group, Ball State University, to observe vervets and learn about their behaviour. Brandi also presented a training presentation on vervet behaviour to long term volunteers at the Foundation to extend their knowledge.

PAN AFRICAN SANCTUARY ALLIANCE

The Foundation remains an active member of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance since its joining in 2005. The PASA Code of Conduct assumes a number of values that require all members and their staffs to exhibit, including:

- a) a concern for the primates
- b) integrity
- c) transparency
- d) fairness
- e) conscientiousness
- f) professionalism and
- g) personal and institutional commitment to conservation.

The Foundation attended the following PASA workshops in 2010:

- PASA Management conference, Yaounde, Cameroon, May 2010
- PASA Education workshop in South Africa, May 2010
- PASA Veterinary workshop in South Africa, November 2010

A visit to the Foundation from PASA to perform a routine inspection was welcomed and carried out in November 2010.

Further information can be found at www.pasaprimates.org



PASA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE – Yaounde, Cameroon



In addition to the PASA workshops, the Foundation also attended the following:

The Second African Symposium of Zoological medicine held at Pretoria zoo in September 2010.

GLOBAL FEDERATION OF ANIMAL SANCTUARIES (GFAS)

The Foundation proudly became a GFAS verified sanctuary in March 2010. “The verification status means that each PASA member sanctuary meets the comprehensive definition of a true sanctuary, and provides humane and responsible care of the animals in accordance with GFAS guidelines. GFAS is a Washington, D.C.-based organization that is the only internationally recognized body providing standards for legitimate animal sanctuaries.

The verification status also provides a clear and trusted means for the public, donors and government agencies worldwide to recognize PASA and its member sanctuaries as credible organizations that adhere to the true mission of providing safe haven and humane care for the primates entrusted to their care.”



THE YEAR AHEAD

Key achievement outcomes proposed for the 2011 year include:

- **The movement of 13 juveniles into a new one hectare enclosure.**
- **The completion of an 'adopt a monkey' programme, allowing donors to adopt a specific monkey and to receive information and updates on the progress of their monkey and the Foundation, in order to promote a more personal relationship between sponsors and the Foundation.**
- **A focus on education and awareness and to attend more events overseas and in South Africa.**
- **Completion of the online shop to raise more funds**
- **Further integrations of sanctuary monkeys into social groups.**

The year 2011 promises to be one of continued progress for the Foundation, the staff and volunteers look forward to another year of great achievements, friendships and successful care and rehabilitation of vervets.