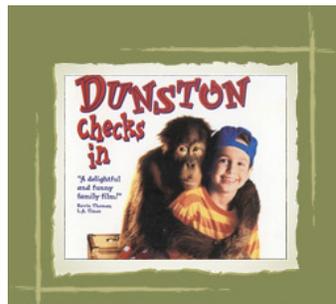


Great Apes Have Sad Lives Entertaining Humans

By Lori Perkins

Even as the public becomes more enlightened about animal welfare, orangutans continue to be exploited to perform in live stage shows at tourist attractions, television productions, movies, advertisements and circuses. Audiences see cute, cuddly human-like animals and they often form the impression that they are easily handled. These images make apes popular as pets and for use in the entertainment industry, and the cycle continues.



Sami as Dunston

Photo courtesy of Center for Great Apes

Many people are familiar with the “No Animals Were Harmed”® tag the American Humane Association (AHA) grants to many movies, commercials and TV shows. The AHA has exclusive on-set jurisdiction from the Screen Actors Guild



Berosini with Popi

Photo courtesy of Center for Great Apes

to such productions. Unfortunately, while conditions during a video shoot may be monitored, there is no way to know how apes are treated when they are not “working,” and trainers especially use fear and physical discipline to control their apes; the degree of force increases as the apes grow and become more powerful

and strong-willed. Our concern for the well-being of orangutans cannot be limited to their time on-set; we must give consideration to what has happened and will happen to these individuals throughout their lifetimes – from removal from their mothers to their options for post-performance lifetimes.

Performing apes are always infants or juveniles. This is the only way to achieve the training necessary for unnatural, humanized activities like swimming, wearing clothing, and



Suriya and hound dog

interacting with human props. Adult orangutans cannot be handled in this way, so for owners wishing to create such performances, infants are

taken from their mothers for training. This causes tremendous emotional and psychological distress to the mother as well as to the infant.



Thai boxing orangutan discipline

Similarly, little attention is paid to the long-term outcome for such orangutans. It is critical for the public to become aware of what the options are for performing apes when they are too big and strong to be handled. Because they have been raised by humans and trained to perform human tricks, they cannot be readily integrated into an orangutan group – they do not know “how to be orangutans.” Further, enclosures capable of safely and humanely housing apes require substantial space and careful adherence to strict construction standards – the empty shed on grounds, a chain-link cage in the children’s zoo, or that monkey enclosure from which the current residents could be moved simply will not contain an ape. Together, these factors mean that ex-performing apes cannot just be moved to a zoo or sanctuary after they –

inevitably – grow too dangerous to be handled. Zoos and sanctuaries can neither immediately place an ex-performer with an existing orangutan group, nor do they readily have the space or resources to build new enclosures for such apes. The vast majority of these orangutans are placed back in the pet/dealer trade and all too often in very inhumane conditions, caged as breeding stock to produce more infants, or relegated to small, substandard cages for the remainder of their very long lives (orangutans can live more than 50 years, but can only be safely handled for the first 6-8).

In addition to the very real and very serious welfare concern, the use of apes in commercial entertainment also detracts from the inherent dignity of these magnificent animals. Apes are almost always demeaned in advertising. They are trained to do silly things to make us laugh. It diminishes our humanity to mock and ridicule endangered animals. Importantly, these activities have been proven to undermine conservation efforts; a 2008 article in *Science* showed that people are less likely to think that chimpanzees are endangered because they see them so often in movies and TV. The same is certainly true for

orangutans, and with the Sumatran orangutan’s status as one of the 25 most endangered primate species in the world, this is an especially dangerous effect.

The Orangutan SSP Steering Committee understands that humorous entertainment, just like wildlife, plays an important and positive role in our lives. It is our hope that society continues to find ways to balance the two to the benefit of all. We also understand that it is our responsibility to educate the highly influential news media, which may be unaware of the adverse consequences a seemingly harmless programming decision can have on wildlife conservation.

ACE appreciates Lori being a guest contributor for us this month.

Lori Perkins is Chair of the Orangutan SSP and Director of Animal Programs for Zoo Atlanta

ACE Funds Complete Fundraising for Freedom Fence at GRACE

The orphaned gorillas at the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education (GRACE) Center in Congo need more space. Now that the gorillas are no longer fragile infants and are

learning to be independent of their human caregivers, they need safe areas of forest where they can practice being gorillas. This is a critical step in the process of achieving the goal of eventually reintroducing these orphans back to the wild.



Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International had to raise \$160,000 to build a special fence in the gorillas’ natural forest habitat, so that they could be safe as they have their first experiences exploring the wild and learning skills they need to one day live freely on their own.

ACE donated the last \$5,000 needed to reach the goal of \$80,000. With the help of an individual supporter matching this amount, the \$160,000 needed to build the fence was achieved. Construction on the fence will begin soon. ACE is proud to have given the support to push the campaign to its goal.

The \$9,758.24 ACE donation was achieved from a very successful first annual Gorilla Golf. Not only were funds donated to GRACE but also to the Tanya-Maiko-Kahuzi-Biega landscape reserves project.



First Trivia Night Is A Success

The first ACE Trivia Night was held on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at Augustine's Restaurant. This new event raised over \$458.00.

Special thanks goes to Chris Johnson and Augustine's for hosting our event. Adding to the fun, he and his staff surprised us with some special drinks for the occasion. Some of the drink names included Vanilla Gorilla, Orangutini, Chocolate Chimp Shooter, and Flying Bonobo.

Thanks to Jailhouse Brewery for donating a keg of beer for happy hour. Matt Glasser was our MC. We thank Matt and Outspoken Entertainment for keeping the game fun and lively. Tell us Matt, how many of the questions did YOU know the answers to?

There were at least four or five teams seriously participating in friendly combat to win. Prizes were furnished by Augustine's, Six Feet Under, and Republic Social House. We appreciate the support of

these generous eateries and all of the guests who came to Trivia Night.

Our wonderful fundraising committee worked to make it a great time for all. Thanks goes to Lisa Westin, Scott Wright, Ron Matonak, Julie Gaines, and committee chair Michele Dave. Congratulations for a good time and a financial success.

Brush up on your trivia – Trivia Night #2 will be here before you know it.



Apes in the Arts

Apes In The Arts Is Back – Mark Your Calendars

The fifth annual Apes In The Arts party will be held **Thursday, July 12, 2012**. We are excited to be returning to J. Tribble Antiques on Miami Circle. Add this date to your calendar. Exciting details will be given in the June issue of *Ape Vine*.

Zoo Atlanta will participate in M.O.M. on Mother's Day



Guests visiting Zoo Atlanta on Mother's Day, May 13, 2012, will have a special learning experience at the orangutan exhibits. Zoo Atlanta is participating in M.O.M., a project started by Orangutan Outreach to inform the public about the plight of these beautiful red apes and encourage people to help protect them and their rainforest homes.

M.O.M. stands for Missing Orangutan Mothers. Orangutan mothers and babies have an incredibly close relationship that helps the babies learn where to find food, build nests and other survival skills. But things are not so happy in the rainforest now. It is literally being wiped out due to the creation of oil palm plantations. This leaves many orangutans (as well as other animals) without a home. The lucky orangutans are rescued and end up at a rehabilitation center. At the present there are more than 1,000 orphaned and displaced orangutans being cared for in these rehab centers.

That's a lot of missing orangutan mothers!

Several ACE members, who are staff and docents at Zoo Atlanta, will be participating in this special event. Come by and say hi, and learn more about M.O.M.

Did you know???

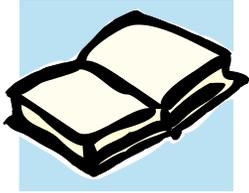
Claudine André, a Belgian conservationist, founded Lola ya Bonobo in 1994. It is the only sanctuary for bonobos in the world. In the Lingala language, Lola ya Bonobo means "paradise for bonobos." The sanctuary is located outside of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Due to the increase in pet trade of bonobos (even though this is illegal) and with the slaughter of adults for bushmeat leaving infants and young without support, Lola ya Bonobo plays an important part in providing a safe place for confiscated bonobos. Also, working with the communities, Lola ya Bonobo educates people on making a living without killing bonobos.



To read more about it: www.friendsofbonobos.org

Interesting Reading:



The following article appeared in the January 31, 2012, PASA Newsletter.

Conservation and Animal Welfare Groups Submit Comments Urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Increase Protections for Chimpanzees

The Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, the Humane Society of the United States, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Jane Goodall Institute, the New England Anti-Vivisection Society, the Fund for Animals, and Humane Society International submitted public comments yesterday applauding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for reviewing the status of the chimpanzee under the Endangered Species Act and urging the agency to act swiftly to protect all chimpanzees, captive and wild, by designating them all as endangered.

Today marks the beginning of the next phase of the agency's review as the public comment period comes to a close.

Captive chimpanzees in the U.S. are deprived of protection under the ESA even though their wild counterparts are fully protected. This disparity allows the exploitation of captive chimpanzees in the pet and entertainment trade and in invasive biomedical research, undermining efforts to conserve the species.



The USFWS, in response to a petition submitted by the coalition groups, announced in September 2011 that there was sufficient scientific evidence presented to warrant review of the status of the species under the ESA. The public comment period concluded yesterday. Coalition members submitted new scientific evidence to the agency that further supports the need to list all chimpanzees as endangered. Numerous experts, including the International Primatological Society, the IUCN Primate Specialist Group and the United Nations Great Ape Survival Partnership, as well as more than 50,000

interested people submitted comments in favor of federal action.

According to Dr. Jane Goodall, "Commercial exploitation of Pan troglodytes contributes to the species' decline, regardless of whether the exploited chimpanzee is born in captivity or in the wild." Multiple studies show that media depictions of chimpanzees, such as in Super Bowl ads, drive global demand for pet chimpanzees and decrease the public's support for conservation efforts. Such frivolous exploitation is facilitated by the current USFWS chimpanzee regulations.

A recent study by a committee of the National Academies Institute of Medicine has also shown that nearly all biomedical research using chimpanzees is unnecessary – the committee did not identify a single area of research for which the use of chimpanzees is critical.

Populations of wild chimpanzees have fallen 66 percent in the last 30 years, primarily due to habitat loss and related poaching, which is driven in part by U.S. exploitation of captive chimpanzees. To protect this species in the wild, it is imperative that the federal government fully protects all chimpanzees, including those in captivity in the U.S.

PASA was formed in 2000 to unite the rehabilitation centers across Africa that care for thousands of orphaned chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, drills, and other endangered primates. To find out more, visit the PASA website – www.pasaprimates.org.

Reminder - Earth Hour is March 31, 2012

Turn off lights for one hour at 8:30 pm on Saturday, March 31. This demonstrates your concern for our planet and a desire to do something positive to save it.

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