



Unforeseen Mystery

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Picture: 1 Nuan and Maesa on April, 12 2010

On April 12, 2010 the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project joyfully welcomed newborn Maesa into their gibbon family. Maesa was the first baby of Max (father), and the third baby for her mother, Nuan. Unfortunately, after only a few days it was apparent that all was not well in their family. This being Nuan's third baby, after successfully raising two others, it was expected that Nuan would be a good mother. It quickly became apparent that Nuan was not interested in being a mother to Maesa. A gibbon mother will carry her baby on her at all times until approximately one year of age.

However, Nuan was often seen without Maesa on her, and would frequently leave Maesa hanging on the side of the cage, or lying on the bottom by herself. After witnessing this neglect for about two weeks, Nuan and Maesa were moved to a smaller cage with smaller holes in the wiring to prevent Maesa from being left hanging by herself. They were also put on observation for twelve hours a day, with all staff members observing their interactions in shifts. When it became apparent that Nuan was still neglecting Maesa, the decision was made to separate the two, and have Maesa hand raised by the staff and volunteers at GRP. This was not an easy decision to come to. If Max and Nuan had been successful at parenting, they would have been able to be released into the forest once Maesa reached one year of age. Now, Maesa will stay at GRP until she has a family of her own, at about ten years of age. The decision to separate Maesa from her family was not taken lightly, but it was thought to be in her best interests as her chances for survival with her mother were not likely. It is unknown why Nuan rejected Maesa, but is still hoped that Max and Nuan will have another baby that will be raised successfully, so that they can be released as a family.





WARF's NEWS update

Maesa has been doing well in the care of staff and volunteers, and is a quiet, well behaved baby. She often seems curious in looking at her surroundings, and has been eating and sleeping regularly, on a normal gibbon schedule. She has already started to learn some gibbon behaviors, such as hanging and moving with her arms. Maesa will start interacting with other gibbons at three months of age, and can be paired with other gibbons of similar age once she reaches six months. This will ensure that she learns gibbon behaviors, and that her reliance on humans is minimal, which will help to ensure her success in having a family and being released.

The Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand
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