

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project

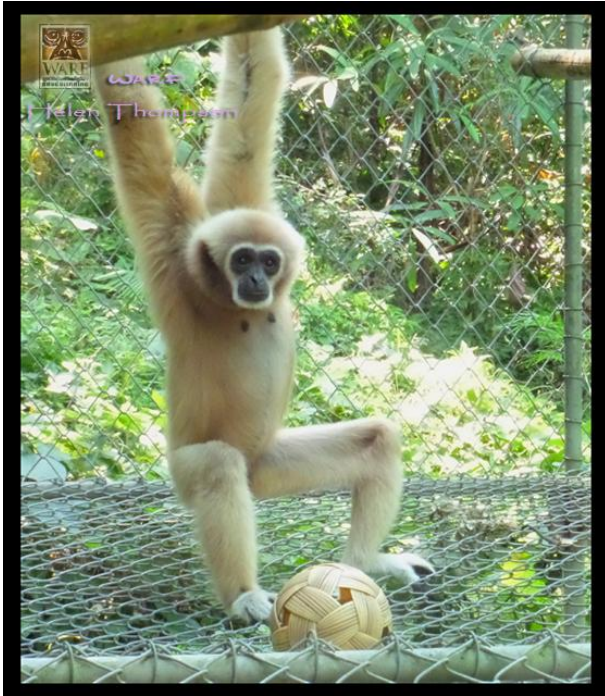


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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket) : GRP



Endoo: For those who don't know her story, Endoo is one of several troubled gibbons that reside at the Wildlife Rest Centre, a quiet area where we can provide the extra care and attention these animals really need. She came to the GRP in 1999 after having been mistreated by her owners. Some neighbours in the village witnessed the abuse, and decided to save up and buy the young gibbon to bring her to the GRP where she would have a better life and a chance to return to the rainforest. Sadly the mistreatment she had experienced took its toll, and as she grew up Endoo developed a severe self-harming problem, repeatedly biting her upper arms and causing them to bleed. Eventually her adult canine teeth had to be removed to

save her life. Sadly she can never be considered for release into the wild.

Since she moved to the Rest Centre in 2012 Endoo's condition has become much more stable and her abnormal behaviour is rarely seen. Despite her troubled past, Endoo remains an active and playful gibbon. Recently she's been enjoying the lovely dry weather – she is often heard singing loudly and is very active, swinging and playing in her enclosure all day long. To see a gibbon like Endoo simply enjoying herself is a real pleasure and we hope that her good mood will last.

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Tam: Lovely Tam is a real icon here at GRP – abused by humans, and attacked by other gibbons, Tam’s past could hardly have been more traumatic, but despite her awful experiences she remains mentally strong and doesn’t let her physical disabilities hold her back.



Last June, Tam and her neighbour Bo were moved to the very front of the Rehabilitation Site, right above the Education Centre. Her new enclosure is significantly larger than her old one, so to cater for her physical requirements our staff and volunteers equipped

this new space with many extra bamboo poles and swinging ropes to help her navigate the enclosure. Since the move she has become noticeably stronger and can be seen almost flying around her enclosure, swinging on the ropes and even doing little pirouettes when she gets excited! Although Tam and Bo are not in the same enclosure together, they can be seen socialising everyday, often enjoying several long grooming sessions, or simply ‘hanging out’ together on either side of the fence.

Back in January our new tourist viewing area was opened to the public, and at first there were a few concerns that the proximity to her enclosure might cause problems. However, since she has had time to get used to the change nothing seems to be bothering her and we couldn’t be happier to report that she seems to just be really loving life!

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The Langurs: Over the past 5 months, we have been slowly introducing Grape, our newest dusky langur, to the rest of the troop. Balloon (left picture), Jackie Chan and Kluay have already been living together for several years, and can be seen grooming and interacting with one another on a daily

basis. However, introducing another individual into the group, especially another adult male, will take some time and patience. Grape (right picture) came to GRP back in September after being kept as a pet in Phuket Town for many years. Although the family who cared for Grape tried their best to look after him, the effects of social isolation can be devastating and many wild animals recovered from the pet trade are never able to interact normally with members of their own species. This being said, we're please to report there has been some interest between Grape and the others, and we're optimistic that he will one day be fully integrated into their group.

Viewing Area Development

The Education Centre is one of the most important areas for the project to provide information to the general public, and engage people in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade. To give tourists a more in depth experience, early this year we build a new viewing area that gives visitors a better view of the gibbons living at the front of our rehabilitation site. At first we were worried that Tam was becoming stressed by the close proximity of the tourists. However, after a short while she seems to have become accustom to the change, and is now quite at ease with everyone who comes to see her. We have also learned to keep a close eye on all visiting tourists, after two separate people tried to throw food to the gibbons. Some clear signs have now been put up, and our volunteers are ever watchful to ensure no one else tries to give any of the gibbons an irregular snack! Despite these few teething problems, over all it's been a great success, and a much-needed improvement to our visitor centre!

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Bangla: We're very sad to report the tragic news that a snake has killed our slow loris Bangla.

Bangla came to GRP in October 2013 in very poor condition. We're unsure if she had been kept as a pet, or used as a photo prop, as the people who handed her in simply claimed to have found her in Patong. Upon arrival she was very underweight and had a long wound on her back. She also had multiple tooth root abscesses, injured fingers and was missing an ear. Over time her condition improved, although she remained very small and seemed to suffer from a skeletal abnormality, most likely caused by rickets. Sadly many pet primates suffer from rickets because they are often kept indoors and receive an inadequate diet.

Bangla was quickly introduced to another female loris, Abu, and the pair became great friends. Despite her physical problems Bangla was clearly very intelligent and had strong social skills. Together they shared one of our largest loris enclosures at the Wildlife Rest Centre, which we believed to be very secure. We were therefore deeply shocked when one morning a python was found inside their enclosure. Unfortunately by the time the snake was found it was already too late and Bangla had already been killed. We have since reinforced all of our slow loris enclosures to ensure every gap, no matter how small, is blocked up, and we sincerely hope this tragic incident will not be repeated.

Although we're deeply saddened that Bangla's life has been cut short in this way, we're glad that for a short while we have been able to offer her the care and respect she deserved, and help her to recover from her traumatic experience at the hands of the illegal wildlife trade.