

โครงการคืนชะนีสู่ป่า Gibbon Rehabilitation Project



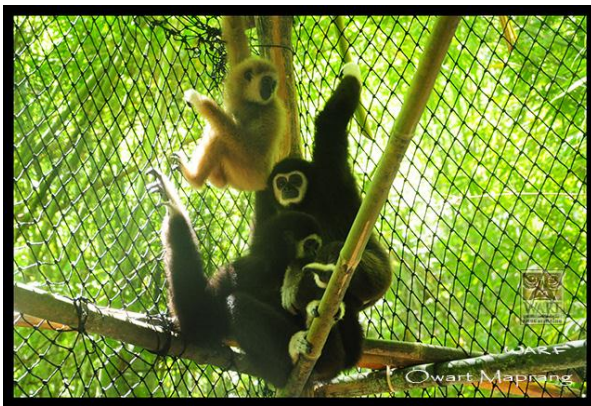
104/3 Moo 3, Paklock, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
Tel/Fax: 076 260 491-2

Email: grp@gibbonproject.org <http://www.gibbonproject.org>

August 2014 (Volume 13 Issue 8)

Gibbon Rehabilitation Project Chiang Mai (GRPC)

This month a new forest acclimatisation cage was complete and Beauty, Dodo and Dr. Tum were moved in preparation for release. Unfortunately the situation was complicated by the appearance of Bobbie at the cage. Bobbie, who was released earlier this year with partner Songkran, has grown very confident in the forest and was keen to check out the new neighbours straight away. Her presence has thrown a spanner in the works as Beauty has become very scared of her and is not coping well in the forest enclosure. Staff at GRPC will continue to monitor their interactions before deciding how best to proceed.



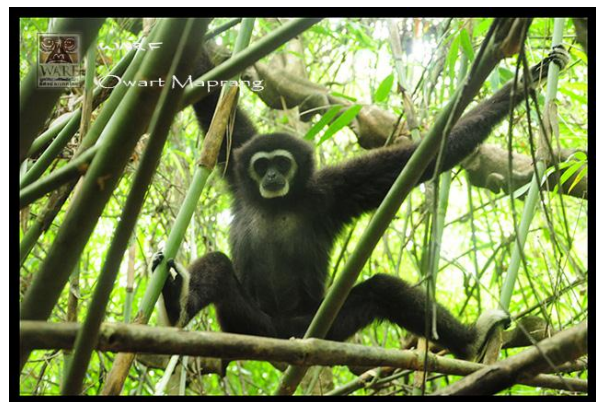
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

Dodo, Dr Tum and Beauty in release cage (1), Bobbie

checking out the family (2) (3), Songkran (4)

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Nat and Nuan move to Chiang Mai

On the 21st of August Nat and Nuan were moved from Phuket to GRPC; the 4th group of gibbons to be relocated since GRPC's establishment earlier this year.

Nat was born at GRP on the 19th of September 2004 to mother Kushta and father Bozo. Their family was released into KPT in March 2006 but sadly Bozo disappeared only two days after the release, so Kushta and Nat were returned to our rehab site. In 2011 they were released together again, this time with Kushta's daughter Peemai and Nat's young friend Muki. This time Nat adjusted well to living in the wild and even though Kushta, Peemai and Muki all later returned to GRP, Nat remained in the forest, befriending male Arun.



Nat and Nuan

Nuan, Born wild in 1986 Nuan was surrendered to GRP in 1996 after biting her owner's daughter. Here she was successfully paired with male Khao and in 2001 she gave birth to their son Payu. His younger sister Namthip followed in 2006 and the whole family were released together in 2007. All went well for the first year until Khao disappeared in 2008. Not long after adult female Dao came to pair with Payu, taking over the territory. During a fight with Dao, Nuan broke her arm and so we brought her back to GRP where we could help her recover from her injuries. Back at our rehabilitation site, and recovered from her injuries, Nuan was paired with Max and the couple had two baby girls together, Maesa in 2010 and Emily in 2011. Although she had previously been an excellent mother to Payu and Namthip, sadly this time she showed little mothering instinct and both Maesa and Emily were eventually removed and hand reared by

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Email: info@warthai.org <http://www.warthai.org>

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GRP staff. Later we planned to release Nuan and Max together, to give them a chance at starting a family in the wild, but a tragic accident took Max's life before they could be set free. It was then decided to try and release Nuan back into the forest alone, to pair with one of our Bachelor males. In April 2013 we released her in the territory of Arun and Nat, in the hope they she would pair with either of these young males. Initially Nat showed a lot of interest in Nuan, however after she was released from her forest training cage Nat was chased away by the more dominant Arun. Sadly Arun's interest in Nuan was fleeting and before long he moved away to pair with another female, leaving both Nat and Nuan alone in the forest. Eventually they both returned to our rehabilitation site voluntarily.



Since early 2014 Nat and Nuan have been happily sharing an enclosure together. They have been chosen to move to GRPC as we hope that in the absence of Arun they will have a chance to form a stable bond and one day start a family together. Both already have many years of experience living in the wild so we are confident they will adapt quickly to the new forest environment in Chumpee Community Forest.



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Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (Phuket)

New Arrivals

On the 22nd of August we received two new gibbons, Jan (♀) and Tong (♂), who came to us from WARF's



WildAnimal Rescue and Education Centre (WARED) in Ranong. Although little is know of their history, both arrived to WARED back in 2006 and were in poor condition, showing serious signs of physical and mental stress. After a trip to Lopburi Monkey History Jan was treated for pulmonary oedema, a condition in which liquid collects in the airspaces in and around the lungs. Since then both have made a good recovery and their blood tests have consistently come back clean. Although

little is known about their past, the condition they arrived in and their continued mistrust of people tells us all we need to know. Jan especially shows the tell tale signs of trauma and abuse, as she is very insecure and often shows aggression towards people. We hope that under the expert care of staff here at GRP we can help them both gain confidence and over come their earlier experiences.

Willy and Brany Update: Back in April 2014 we also welcomed Willy and Brany to our rehabilitation site. Four months on and we're happy to report they're both adjusting well to life here in Phuket. Although Willy, the smaller of the two, continues to show a bit of insecurity, over all we're very pleased with the progress these healthy, energetic young males are making and we look forward to finding them both a partner as soon as some of our younger females reach maturity.

Champ and Crystal: After many months of living side by side, we decided to try and introduce Champ and Crystal, in the hope that confident adult male Champ would not tolerate Crystal's habit of hair pulling. Unfortunately after just 10 short minutes together Crystal gave Champ an impressive new hair style, removing almost all the hair from the top of his head. Although his comical new look is only temporary, this behaviour represents a more serious problem for Crystal, who may never be able to share a cage with other gibbons if she does not stop this over zealous grooming. We shall continue to explore new options for her, including special enrichment, which may help her over come this life long habit.

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Jep: Following his relocation to The Wildlife Rest Centre last year, Jep's behaviour has improved dramatically. In 2001 Jep arrived at GRP extremely undernourished and distressed. Over the years he's been very slow to develop and has demonstrated very unhealthy behaviours, including repeatedly banging his head/body against his cage, and gorging on his food only to regurgitate and re-ingest it over again. Eventually Jep had to be separated from his friends in an attempt to manage his eating and ensure he was getting enough nutrition. However, we're very pleased



to report that since Jep moved to the Wildlife Rest Centre in May 2013 these behaviours have become less and less common; his tendency to body rock has become much less severe and most days Jep can now be observed eating his food calmly and slowly, even leaving some in his basket when he's had enough. His social behaviour has also improved and his relationship with long term neighbour Rumthai has developed to more than just friendship. Unfortunately Rumthai suffers from a physical disorder which means she would not likely survive a pregnancy and so we cannot allow the pair to live together, but none the less this development is a great step forward for Jep. Although he still has some way to go, if his behaviour continues to improve Jep may one day be introduced to another breeding partner, and potentially considered for reintroduction to the wild.



Joy: Twenty seven year old Joy is another one of GRP's permanent residents who has also shown a marked improvement since moving to the Wildlife Rest Centre. Before her rescue, Joy was a neglected and starved pet, locked in a tiny, filthy cage in a Bangkok back garden for more than 15 years. Unsurprisingly, she has been left with psychological problems and our efforts over the years to socialise her with other gibbons have not been successful.

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For the past year and a half however, Joy has enjoyed a large, secluded cage at our quiet Wildlife Rest Centre and the great results is that she has put on weight and acquired a new dignity, suitable for her mature age. She can often be seen casually hunting for insects amongst the climbing plants in her cage and perching high while listening to, and joining in with the gibbons' morning singing.

Although as an organisation our main objective is to rehabilitate gibbons for release back into the wild, we are also proud to offer individuals such as Joy a safe, loving home where they can recover from the abuses of their former lives, and live out the rest of their days with the respect and care they truly deserve.

Slow Loris Updates

Slow lorises have very active social lives in the wild, and it's important to try and house them together in captivity. Sadly social isolation at a young age deprives them of the experience they need to develop healthy relationships and lorises recovered from the pet and photo-prop trade do not always have an affinity for others of their own kind. Of our seven lorises, we've so far been able to socialise four of them successfully, males Cherry and Jora, and females Bangla and Abu.

Upon his arrival Jora was a particularly tiny loris, who could fit in the palm of your hand. Over the last year however he's grown up into a healthy young adult. As a result Cherry and Jora's shared enclosure was starting to look a little cosy for them both, and we decided to move them into a larger enclosure previously used by single male Monkey. The swap went very smoothly and has given all three new environments to explore and enjoy.



Visitors at GRP

In August we were pleased to welcome some visitors to the project. On Sunday the 3rd of August, journalists Sarah Reid from The Lonely Planet and Sarah Gilbert from Wanderlust Magazine came to learn more about our work, and the consequences of irresponsible tourism on Thailand's wildlife. We were thrilled to be able to share the gibbons' story with them and hope they will be able to help us share the truth about the real cost of photo-prop

tourism.

6

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The following week we were honoured to receive a visit from Professor Anna Nekaris, Director of the Little Fireface Project and Convenor of the Nocturnal Primate Research Group. Professor in Anthropology and Primate Conservation, Anna is one of the world's leading experts in slow loris conservation, and a prominent voice in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade. Her pioneering research has radically changed our understanding of slow loris physiology and behaviour, and 5 new species have been recognised thanks to her work. We were extremely grateful to receive her advice about how to improve the care for our 7 slow lorises, and following her visit we have been able to implement some new enrichment techniques to help keep them all healthy and happy. For more information about Anna's work to save the slow loris, visit Little Fireface Project at www.nocturama.org

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