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# REACHING OUT



Newsletter of the Primate Rescue Center, Inc.

Volume 6, Issue 1 • Spring 2004

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## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

To our extended family,  
Hallelujah! It's Spring, and time to announce the details of the 5th Annual PRC Open House! Please plan to spend the afternoon in our idyllic valley meeting and getting acquainted with our staff and simian residents. This is our main fundraising event, so please bring your friends and your checkbook!

**WHEN:** May 22, 2004 (Raindate May 23)  
1:00-5:00 PM • Gates Open at 1PM Sharp!

**WHERE:** Wilmore, KY

Please note: our mailing address is not our location! We'll supply directions when you RSVP.

**WHY:** So that you can see firsthand the work made possible through your support

**RSVPs** are a must, via e-mail, phone or fax

We are looking for 6-10 energetic volunteers to help out at the Open House. The pay is peanuts (literally - all you can eat!) and a really fine T-shirt. If you're interested, please contact us no later than April 30.

If you're fortunate enough to live in Central Kentucky, please make a special effort to stop in at Wild Oats Marketplace in Lexington before June 30. As one of the proud participants in their *Wooden Nickel* program, the PRC will receive a real nickel for each grocery bag you reuse to tote your purchases home - at no cost to you! What are you waiting for - get out there and shop!

Thank you for your support, and we'll see you at the Open House!

- April

## READER'S CORNER



### The New Work Of Dogs

by Jon Katz

Hardcover

256 pages • May 2003

ISBN: 0-3755-0814-7

Villard Books

*The New Work of Dogs* profiles a dozen human-dog relationships in the author's hometown. Through his encounters with various dog owners, author Jon Katz

recognized that many pet dogs are being treated as surrogates for human relationships. He surmised that in our increasingly fragmented society of long commutes, spread out families, divorce, isolation and overwork more people are turning to animals for much-needed emotional support. While many of these relationships are healthy and mutually beneficial, Katz noticed that an increasing number are having negative consequences on the dogs, who often become stressed and neurotic when humans' expectations exceed or contradict their innate abilities.

At the PRC we see identical motives for purchasing primates, and similar negative outcomes for the animals. People mistakenly perceive nonhuman primates as children who will never grow up - a permanent source of unconditional love, one they can control. Such owners feel especially confused and betrayed when the primate inevitably attacks them later on. Unlike dogs, which have been evolving for millennia to be compatible human companions, primates are still wild animals and nearly all attempts to keep them as pets fail. Sadly, we see the results of these failed relationships everyday.

I strongly recommend this book for anyone interested in psychology, sociology or animal welfare. Katz skillfully combines engaging anecdotes with the observations and research of breeders, veterinarians, rescuers, trainers and psychologists to create a compelling look at our evolving expectations of our pets and the impact this has on their behavior and well-being. By extension, the question as to why humans are increasingly seeking deep emotional support from nonhuman animals points to some of modern society's most disturbing trends - trends that need to be addressed for the sake of human and nonhuman animals alike.

-Jen Caravello

# Reaching Out

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volunteers!

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## **NEWS, VIEWS AND ISSUES**

### *Large Tiger Captured In Harlem*

October 6, 2003 • A pet tiger rescued from a Manhattan apartment after biting its owner will have a new home at an Ohio sanctuary with plenty of grass, trees and birds.

An alligator also recovered from the apartment was to be sent to an Indiana preserve, while their owner recovered from wounds from the 400-pound cat.

Police said Antoine Yates, 31, faces reckless endangerment charges after he gets out of a hospital in Philadelphia, where he fled. He was listed in good condition Sunday.

Yates told Philadelphia TV station KYW in a phone interview from his hospital bed that the tiger grabbed him and "tore open my whole leg down to the bone."

A veterinarian was to examine the tiger Monday at Noah's Lost Ark preserve in Berlin Center, Ohio, 15 miles west of Youngstown. The licensed facility takes abused and neglected exotic animals and warns that wild animals can't be tamed.

"We should just stop letting people buy them," preserve director Ellen Whitehouse said. "We absolutely shouldn't be breeding them in the United States."

A team of animal control officers, police and Bronx Zoo workers used a camera to track the animals in Yates' fifth-floor apartment in a Harlem housing project before tranquilizing and removing them Saturday.

Wes Artope, director of the city's animal shelters, said the tiger had been kept in the apartment since he was a 6-week-old cub. The 20-month-old tiger now weighs at least 425 pounds, Artope said.

The tiger and 5-foot alligator, both in good condition, were taken first to a local shelter, then to a Long Island animal sanctuary before authorities sought homes.

"Clearly this tiger should not have been in any place in New York City outside of a zoo," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Sunday.

Yates was taken into custody Saturday night at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, police said. Yates told the TV station he was "trying to create a Garden of Eden, something that this world lacks."

*-The San Francisco Chronicle*

### *Officials Seize 39 Pets*

January 3, 2004 • Investigators rescued 39 exotic animals, including seven monkeys, a rat and four tortoises that were living inside a woman's two-story home here.

Police discovered the animals and an overwhelming stench Wednesday when they executed a search warrant at Linda Castle's home in Milton, 80 miles north of New York City.

Some animals were caged, and others were loose. Animals were segregated according to species, the Times Herald-Record of Middletown reported. The monkeys were in one room, dogs filled another and turtles had their own room, too.

Castle, who has some experience caring for animals, told police she was trying to protect the pets.

However, a veterinarian told the newspaper some animals needed medical care because they appeared neglected.

Police said no charges have been filed against Castle, who was hospitalized a day before the pets were removed. Authorities didn't disclose the reason for the hospitalization.

*- The Ithaca Journal*

*Pending the outcome of a legal appeal, the seven monkeys are being nursed back to health at the Primate Rescue Center. We hope to bring you the complete story of this rescue in our next issue.*

*- A. T.*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



University of Kentucky graduate student Rebecca Singer has been volunteering at the Primate Rescue Center for nearly a year. In addition to helping out with daily animal care duties, Rebecca has been conducting a study of the chimps' personality traits. We hope to share the results of this fascinating work with our readers in a future issue.



## CHIMP HOUSE EXPANSION

We were thrilled to be able to complete a much-needed addition to the chimpanzee building recently. The enclosure of a port at the front of the building has enabled us to expand our food storage and preparation areas. Any of our volunteers who have worked in the former kitchen area know just how cramped it could get!

We had lots of help on this project, and couldn't have done it without the assistance of:

**Dwight Foster of Foster & Associates • Concrete Work**  
**Clark Communications • Wiring**  
**Jim Doll & Lexington Winnelson • Plumbing Fixtures**  
**IMI Materials • Concrete**  
**John Burnside • Construction**  
**David Ice & TeleNet • Telephone Equipment**  
**MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED!!**

## Q&A

I'm sure it takes lots of money to keep the Primate Rescue Center in operation. Does the PRC get money from the Federal government or the state to help cover these costs?

*David K.  
Sadieville, KY*

This is one of the most common questions we're asked, so I'm glad to have the opportunity to respond. Although we wish that there were such a funding source available to animal sanctuaries in the U.S. - there simply is not. Perhaps a primer in nonprofit organizations will help to explain why.

Rather than directly fund such programs with taxpayer dollars, the Federal government instead allows the PRC and more than 1.1 million other charitable organizations to apply for tax-exempt, nonprofit status. Once qualified under the restrictions of the IRS tax code, such organizations are eligible for state and federal exemptions from payment of corporate income taxes, most sales taxes, and may qualify for other benefits, such as reduced postal mailing rates. To encourage public support of these "good works," donors to nonprofit organizations may - subject to certain restrictions - deduct the amount of their donations to charitable organizations from their income taxes. It may help to think of this structure as the government's way of encouraging the public sector to take on and fund those social services which - while necessary - are best not undertaken by government entities.

The term "nonprofit" is somewhat of a misnomer, and does not literally mean that such organizations are prevented or prohibited from taking in more dollars than they expend in conducting their activities. Rather, any tax-free profits may then be used only to further the mission and purpose of the organization. The major distinction between a nonprofit and a "for profit" corporation is that a nonprofit may not distribute such profits for the benefit or "inurement" of officers, directors or employees.

Unfortunately, not all nonprofits take these restrictions seriously, as evidenced by the fraud and conspiracy trial of former United Way executives. On the bright side, there are a great many resources available today for prospective donors to check into the effectiveness and efficiency of organizations to whom they may wish to give. Among the best are: [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) and [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org).

*- April Truitt*

## THE EINSTEINS OF THE MONKEY WORLD

The Primate Rescue Center is currently home to five capuchin monkeys (species: *Cebus*). Capuchins are native to South and Central America and are therefore considered “New World” monkeys. New World monkeys are generally smaller and less cold hardy than their Old World cousins who hail from Africa and Asia. For this reason, we do not permanently house many New World primates at the PRC. Capuchins and spider monkeys are some of the few New World species that are actually able to leave their heated houses for a breath of fresh air in the dead of a cold Kentucky winter without becoming gravely ill.

In the wild, capuchins live in large groups comprised of both males and females, with one male being dominant to all the others. The dominant male is very defensive of juveniles in his group that are likely to be his offspring. Females often help care for each other’s offspring, who remain dependent for two years. Capuchins’ natural life span is forty years. Capuchins are some of the few primates with a prehensile tail, which they can essentially use as a third arm.

Capuchins are very intelligent and curious creatures. It has been hypothesized that intelligence may be related to the way an animal searches for food. Tufted capuchins consume a huge variety of foods (including 96 species of fruit, seeds and animal prey), most of which are available for only short times during the year. Year after year they must remember locations of fruiting trees and insect nests as they weave their way through the thick tropical jungle. Capuchins must also be able to devise different strategies for obtaining various items. Recently, wild capuchins have been observed using rocks as hammers and anvils to crack nuts. This level of insight and tool-use was previously considered to be solely a trait of the “higher primates” - apes and humans. There is also some dispute over whether capuchins are able to recognize themselves in mirrors. Based on our experience at the PRC, we believe that they definitely

do. Not only have they never threatened or appeared frightened by their images, as are most monkeys, they also appear to use the mirror to examine parts of their body they would otherwise be unable to see.

Unfortunately, their intelligence and social nature has caused capuchins to be mistaken as good pets or even appropriate helpers for disabled persons. However, capuchins are wild animals and are very independently-minded. While they may be capable of learning an array of complex tasks, they are not docile or obedient in the way domestic animals, like dogs and cats, are. They much prefer exploring the world on their own terms and will resist violently when they are prevented from doing so. They are also very high-strung and attack when frightened. Generally, the only way to control adult capuchins and prevent injury is through the use of inhumane tactics, such as shock collars, teeth and nail removal or regular beatings.



Kelsey eagerly unwraps a treat concealed in layers of kraft paper.

Many former pets are locked away in small cages where they become severely depressed and lonely. When owners realize that this pathetic life is all they can provide, they often seek sanctuary for the animal.

Indeed, this is how Kelsey, Grady, Ellie and Cysgo came to call the PRC their home. All four were pets and all four inevitably became too much for their owners to handle. What’s more, all were single monkeys and their owners recognized how desperately they needed the companionship of other capuchins. Today, these four live together along with a fifth companion, Koko. Koko is an elderly female who came to the PRC after the zoo at which she had lived was forced to close down because of budget shortfalls. She immediately became very close with Grady. They spend hours carefully grooming one another or snuggling underneath piles of blankets. Ellie, who interestingly is the dominant individual, was not so immediately taken with Koko. Initially she would chase Koko around, screaming, sometimes poking her or grabbing her hair. After about a week of running and



Although her exact age is unknown, KoKo is certainly the most senior citizen of the group.

hiding, Koko began to stoically take Ellie’s abuse head-on. She would just stand there, looking right at Ellie while she screamed and poked. Within a day or two, Ellie gave up picking on old Koko and the five housemates were able to live in peace. →



Although many PRC visitors mistake Kelsey’s “saluting” behavior as playing peek-a-boo, this is actually a compulsive or “stereotypic” behavior common in ex-pet monkeys.

The five capuchins are the lucky residents of one of the larger, newer enclosures at the sanctuary. Their outside area encloses trunks of several trees and reaches all the way to the ground. This enables them to gather more insect prey, a source of endless entertainment as well as essential protein. In addition to fruits and seeds, wild capuchins eat insects, birds, reptiles, eggs and small mammals, all high in protein and necessary to maintain their larger, smarter brains. We regularly supplement the capuchins’ diet with mealworms and hard-boiled eggs, which they devour greedily.

Not only do capuchins crave protein-rich foods to keep their brains and bodies healthy, they also crave constant mental stimulation. They quickly become bored with toys, so we must constantly replace them with new items. They love figuring out how to obtain a special treat from a feeder puzzle and will spend hours patiently manipulating levers or twisting PVC tubes until it’s solved. Grady is especially determined and we are constantly amazed at his ability to focus and understand the problem.

If you would like to help us to continue to provide an enriched environment for these little Einsteins of the monkey world, just mark your next donation “Capuchin Care.” Grady, Kelsey, Cysgo, Ellie and Koko thank you in advance!

- Jen Caravello

**SEEN OUR WEBSITE  
LATELY?**  
*We’ve recently updated it to include all back issues of our newsletter, and added a nifty online donation option. Many thanks to Ralph Henderson of Base256 who donated his time to help with the many improvements. If you need a good web designer for your business, you can reach Ralph at: [ralph@base256.com](mailto:ralph@base256.com) Hop on over to: [www.primate-rescue.org](http://www.primate-rescue.org) and take a look at his handiwork!*





**I CARE!** I want to help the monkeys and chimpanzees live healthy and enriched lives.

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•None of our directors receive a salary •

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We'll be introducing a 2004 T-shirt design at our upcoming Open House, so this is your last chance to purchase our 2003 T-shirt featuring Alan Li's drawing of former lab subject Dewey, whose story we shared in the Spring '02 issue. Or how about a roomy canvas tote bag featuring the PRC logo; a stoneware coffee mug with our "Reaching Out" image on one side and PRC logo on the reverse; or perhaps our beautiful notecards featuring PRC residents drawn by Alan Li with details on each individual animal on the reverse (7 different designs in each pack). Specify assortment #1 or #2, or let us choose.

**Prices include domestic shipping/handling.**

**LAST CHANCE TO ADD DEWEY TO YOUR T-SHIRT COLLECTION!!**

**PLEASE HELP!** The Primate Rescue Center receives no government funding. We depend entirely on your generous donations to continue our work on behalf of those who have no voice.

# PRIMATE

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*Lisa Rauwen leads her first grade class at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in their Lenten service project on behalf of the PRC . . .*



*. . . and Jenny chimp is delighted with the tasty treats they prepared! Many thanks to all who helped with this effort.*