

## APES CHATTER UPDATES Mid 2008 to April 2009.

It is quite amazing where the time has gone too but as everyone tells me the older you get the quicker time passes! Hence the combination of the above, hopefully we will catch up on all the happenings here at APES Khobotho. A number of interesting happenings, some good, some not so good.

. Firstly I would like to pay our respects to our beloved Nkosi M.Zondi and sympathies to his family, as some might not know that he was murdered early January this year, a great loss to us and to all of his people, as his foresight and strength was amazing a man who recognized the important of the environment the animals and the upliftment of his subjects. God bless you our adopted son and May we help make your dreams for all that you believed in a reality.

ADDITIONS: We were blessed I think! By a number5 of new additions to our primates and domestic animals.

DUCKS decided that this should be a Duck Kingdom we are having to remove the eggs on sight but of course Muscovies being what they are they hide their nests, until suddenly you see a mother guiding her brood back home in one case 22 ducklings marching behind mum! That is just one incident! The fowls decided they were not going to be out done and produced a batch of chickens, sadly not all survived but from 4 we now have ten in all. Most are named but its now time to 'steal "their eggs as well.

MONKEYS: It was not a good beginning for us as 3 of our beloved monkeys, were electrocuted on the same pole within 3 days of each other. Mandy lost 2 and Karen 1, even though the pole was supposed to have been sorted by Escom, anyway I must complement them as they rushed around in force when I phoned re the deaths. Also a very sad incident Mandy's last born Helen-Terri lost the tip of her nose we think that one of the ducks must have tried to steal something from her and accidentally did the damage, we managed to sort it out but a few weeks later after some very unseasonal cold weather she passed away, it was so sad as she had done so well too. The other youngsters are all doing well, Ngome, is really an example to all who say that monkeys that are "so called humanized" will not be accepted or manage if released as we do, well he is a permanent member of the outside lot does not come to us and now is the self appointed guardian of Willo and Buddy, He has also taken a liking to Les and these two seem to have formed a partnership looking out for Buddy and Willo These two had to be hand reared by us, both are now intergrating with the outside troop but still have to come in at night as they are too young to stay our permanently at the moment. Buddy is really a show off and as some human youngsters thinks he knows it all!, while Willo is a little "princess" who can act totally terrified or charming what ever she decides, both are extremely endearing at times. Our 4 males who were in the Lame and Lazy are free of their own accord but unfortunately Stylo who went off and came back injured although he had treatment he died from tetanus. Logie, Les, Epha and Snip were eventually accepted as "one of the troop" then Epha decided he too would prefer to be off into the forest with Bobby and Star. Bobby who left us and headed off to the forest . Big Boy the wild male has moved in helping Frank to run the troop. Others who have left are Star he went just after Bobby and we do have reports coming in from the locals that they are in the forest close by. It is hard to say goodbye but they are totally free of their own free will. SadlyThombi had another

infant but it was still born, it seems so sad that this has happened to her on so many occasions, and to see her carrying the little body around until it was almost totally decomposed is heart breaking but we have to accept that in the wild this would have happened as well, after all she is now quite an old female, this shows in her appearance and the way she moves, although she is part of the troop she keeps to herself but acts as Grandma to the youngsters when necessary and will assist if the troop or any youngster is under threat Ally is still her constant companion and sometimes she is joined by Logie or Les. .

**DONKEYS:** The 5 remaining ones doing well, named Sugar, Blackie Grandpa, Spice and Jack, the most tame are Sugar and Jack hopefully yours truly managed to ride one of these in the near future it remains to be seen if I survive the effort!

**CATTLE:** We still have Becky, her mum Bones has gone off to find a husband! Snowy is getting quite portly now one of these days she will be off to find a husband as well, I'm sure her and her good friend Becky will do well. We also have an ancient bull by the name of Nackerless Zondi so named as he has lost "all" due to a snake bite on his private parts which nearly caused his demise if it had not been for Rod/'s help. "Oh for a cine at the time," Nackerless was on his death bed lying on his side unable to urinate with a bladder that was like a kettle drum, Rod had to insert a catheter in the shape of Landrover plastic fuel tube, vasaline etc, this did the trick and you could visibly see Nackerless revive. Unfortunately the bite destroyed his penis sheath but he is okay now though he will never win any prizes for you know what! Only disadvantage for him is he will never be a dad again, not that it worries him as long as he has plenty to eat. His owner is quite happy to leave him with us to see his last days in peace. Our last but not least orphan is Ferdinand he was brought to us by his owner ( another Zondi) as his mum was killed by a snake bite when the little one was a day old, they unfortunately only brought him to us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> days nearly dead from starvation, ticks and mange! He was a little skeleton but with lots of care food (which to date has cost us over 1000 Rand) for the first few months he slept in the monkey kitchen in the house on cardboard covered by a blanket. Claire Polo one of our volunteers was his nanny until she left to go back home to France, thank your Claire your "little boy" is doing fine. He now lives out side permanently, still has his milk formula but also loves the left over fruit etc from the monkeys and thinks he is a dog, lies like a dog, Nasher the ex SPCA pup ( one of the 4) is now his nanny brings him to the kitchen door when necessary and gets groomed and ticked by the monkeys! Nasher's permission of course!

**DOGS:** Forgive the repetition but in case I didn't mention the 4 additions to the family in the shape of Nasher who looks like an Australian cattle dog and acts one too her "cage companion" at the SPCA was Dingbat she was so like our beloved dog that passed away we named her in memory of him, but sad to say she is a nut does listen sometimes but perhaps she will get better as listening as she gets older. Then there is a golden spaniel x, Goldie (so named as she is as dilly as the actress she is named after) her cage mate and reputed to be her sister! Buttons she is a Maltesex and must be the scruffiest one in the world who's whole aim in life is to get as dirty untidy as possible unlike her sister a real spoilt brat who lives in town decked in bows, powdered and you name it! Khobotho is an eating machine with the dimmest expression every, Landy still as gangly as ever but now he also talks, Maggie getting a middle aged spread,

**Adolph is still as grumpy as ever but he is really getting old and grey now, Elle-May still scatter brained and thinks she is the best guard dog on earth! Last but not least Ugie who is now 16 and getting senile she rushes out to do her business, gets to the gate rushes back in forgetting what she when out for!**

**CATS: All fine and dear old Healey is really getting on but still talkative, complains if he doesn't get his biscuits by slapping you as you pass-by! Wobbles a bit over-weight Bush cat is spreading sideways as well, Amber still has a great opinion of her self and can be a real "B "at times. Smudge, when not chasing rats and mice, spends most of her time on top of the gas freezer, no matter the weather, as does Healey of course. Cheetah still slinks about like his name-sake occasionally allowing me to pat him! Now the big news, Hercules, she surprised us with 4 kittens last Sunday she produced them on the lounge chair, this was a complete surprise as we thought she had been spayed, and there was no sign of her being pregnant! So now our cat population has increased to 11.**

**Hopefully this will bring us up to date but things change daily here as many volunteers have experienced. Talking of volunteers where are you the sanctuary needs you to survive"**

**A Big thank you to all of you who have supported our work especially all at IPPL UK and to the Volunteers who came to us and those who still keep in touch.**

**BLESS YOU ALL**

**We hope you have enjoyed this up dated Chatter. Until next time!!  
DAWN AND ALL AT APES.**