



APES CHATTER

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Baby Bullet

FIRST QUARTER UP-DATE FOR 2008:



The Sun rises at APES

The year started quietly here at the Sanctuary all the animals are very happy and content unfortunately we did have a tragedy in the last week of January, EJ, Mandy's son he was just over a year old, was electrocuted on the pylon that was supposed to have been totally insulated but unfortunately it was not, we are glad to report however it was done almost immediately after we had contact the manager, thank you Mr. Joubert and staff for your prompt attention



Bush Camp at Khoboto

NEW ADDITIONS

Thombi, who's infant died August last year, is pregnant, it possible happened quite soon after her infant died, perhaps its nature's way of helping her get over her terrible loss, she was really a very sad monkey for quite a few months, having Karen's new son Walt and Many's new daughter Kirsten to help care for, certainly helped her through her ordeal. Sherry who really was a frustrated mum to be gave birth to her infant Nungu was born 27th November she was over the moon at last having her own previous bundle, what a fantastic mum she is too. She still protects any other infant that needs any protection as well. Also another 'new arrival' Ngome, his name decided by Henry our trainee African Manager, who incidentally is fantastic with the animals at the Sanctuary, especially the monkeys. He does not want me to feed Eyeless and company in the "Lame & Lazy" enclosure, insisting they "prefer his company".

Ducks have gone mad, thinking I'm sure that the only way to "take over the world" is to produce ducklings by the dozen! We raised 4 on an electrical infant heating pad, as we didn't have an incubator, they hatched out at different times so it's a bit of a mess, but we do have Guy born on Guy Fawkes day, her sister born the next day, called Fawkes, then along came Dorothy was rescued half born and had to be helped out of her egg as it had been squashed accidentally by mum, Dorothy, now called Dot as she/he turned out to be a male, The have now been taught to be ducks as for the first 6 weeks all slept in the bedroom then in the scullery, Dot is a most amazing duck he speaks and follows you about leading his 54 friends behind, when we had to keep them in the scullery they used to go out during the day to introduce them to the other ducklings but came in at night all you had to do was to call Dot he would come running and head for the scullery... amazing behaviour. Fortunately he hasn't lost his endearing way of talking to you.

UPDATES

Frank has really taken over from his late father N2, of course all the bad habits, for instance he is a born thief, mischievous, a passion for sweets but generally an endearing primate. Incidentally he has inherited his father's cross-eyes!

Geese, well what can I say they still think they rule the sanctuary, their 2 youngsters have grown so fast, no longer gawky teenagers, and it is difficult to tell them apart from their parents?

Dogs all well except poor old DingBat he has had to have an operation but unfortunately they could not remove the cancer, thank goodness he isn't in pain and is still his cheerful and happy self, our vet Jane and her staff adore him, when we have to go into town he thinks he can go as well to see his "friends" and often howls with disgust being left behind. To keep his leaking wound he wears a pair of Rods old underpants to hold his dressing in place, he wears these with pride. Unfortunately we know that in the not too distant future it will be time to say goodbye to one of the happiest animals we have ever had, but as long as he isn't in pain we will make his life with us as comfortable and happy as possible, Bless him. Grumpy Guts (Adolph) still the same his disposition doesn't change, but his saving grace is his love of the "little ones" no matter what they may be. Khoboto has stopped growing at last, his friend EllyMay still a pain nothing is sacred as far as she is concerned and still is a very talkative young lady. Landy, he never changes has stopped growing.

Cats are all well, the old man Healey is still the same talkative old gentleman.



Stylo Sunbathing



Star Hunting Flying Ants

Sad News

On the 25th of January Karen's daughter Phil who would have been a year old was electrocuted while playing with her friends on a pole outside the property, because it didn't not have the correct insulators! In shock Rod rushed out to pick up the little body without realizing that Karen saw him and must have thought he had something to do with her death. From then with she decided he had to be punished both for the move and for her daughter's death. She caught and ambushed him a number of times and caused a great deal of pain with her bites, actually she almost crippled him! She also decided that I had something to do with all this and I also got a couple of nasty bites, my poor legs are beginning to look like a road map as well. We had to be extra careful when outside and this would continue until she has another infant! We called the man in charge of the electricity, he promptly sent out a crew to insulate the pole correctly but we discovered too late that they had not done so. Sadly a month later Mandy's first-born son Chris was also electrocuted. Needless to say there was an outcry and the electricity people rushed out and did their job correctly.

There was great excitement when Thombi gave birth in August, a female infant we named Kirsten, Ally Thombi's last born, immediately became the "nanny" or tried to as she is an extremely small monkey, it was comical to see as she had to walk on her hind legs to manage her charge. Sherri, Thombi's adopted daughter (her mum Molly stayed behind in Mphlopeni) who is now a mature female also showed great interest in the new born and was devastated at the infant's death. Sadly Kirsten only live a few days, we are not sure what caused the death but feel it was the sudden change in the weather from warm to freezing cold. Poor mum was devastated and carried the little one for four days before we were able to bury her.



Ally & Paddy



Mandy & Kirsten



Karen and Bobby



Star



Mums and Offspring

Updates.

Good News

Paddy: He started showing interest in being off on his own soon after arriving here, then he started disappearing for a few days at a time, gradually increasing it to a week, 2 weeks a month eventually he found his new path in life at the Bush camp, we are told that he is still there to date, now completely rehabilitated. Yes I in particular missed him and still do but its what we work for, another success story proving many that the so called "humanized" primate can be rehabilitated though it takes a lot of time and effort. Of course some of our volunteers were sad about him going while others were delighted, because he certainly had his favourites.

MANDY: As mentioned before has stepped down as Alpha female as Karen has taken over. She has become so loving towards me it is quite remarkable as she used to be so aggressive. She gave birth to a healthy daughter on the 7th September 07, this little one has a pronounced "widows peak" Mandy is an excellent mum, however she does allow Thombi to assist sometimes!

Karen: She has calmed down now as predicted now that she has had another infant, who was born 3rd September 07 actually her "mothering ability" seems to have improved! We have yet to determine the sex of this one and then name it accordingly. Karen now wants to shower Rodney with affection by getting onto his shoulder with the infant and rubbing her 'gland' on him. We have noticed that this gland only seems to be activated when the females becomes an alpha.

BOBBY: (Alpha) He has taken over extremely well being "boss" also enjoys having a little time to himself now that Karen is occupied, she was a total pain before her new infant was born, not allowing Bobby to have a minute to himself and becoming very aggressive if anyone human or otherwise went near her beloved!

STAR: Now a full grown male but still not mature enough to stand up to Bobby, will I'm sure take over as Beta one of these days, as poor Bobby has his work cut out managing his troop without a beta, East was becoming the beta male in Muden but as he decided to stay with the wild troop it left a gap in our troop here. Star is now doing the usual actions of a great uncle proving to all who will notice how wonderful he is and what an excellent dad he will make.

FRANK: People who knew N2, will be pleased to note that Frank has inherited his fathers loving nature, and cross eyes BUT unfortunately his mischievousness as well!!

THE DOMESTIC FAMILY

Last but not least of course, the dogs, elderly ones first, UGIE still seems content to sleep her life away no progressed to a lounge chair! DINGBAT poor chap has cancer but isn't suffering at present. ADOLPH is his usual grumbling self, age you know, one of our volunteers re christened him GRUMBLEBUM. LANDY has grown and now a look more like a giraffe than ever, KHOBOTHI grew up this month and now wee's like a man! ELLE MAY has made it her mission in life to destroy what ever she can find be it books, fruit sticks etc. She is a very vocal lass and seems to use quite a vocabulary

The duck population seems to have exploded, Laura and Louise had 17 ducklings between them, now the Mallards are trying to break records as well. Geese are also on the breeding kick, not sure yet how many new goslings, this will have to wait until the next Chatter.



Laura & Louise

All 8 cats are well, except Healey who seems to be going through his second childhood!



Khobothi



Healey



Lame & Lazy Sunbathing

I almost forget the artists in the monkey world both in the enclosure and the outside troop. We now refer to it as the "Artist experience" promoted by our volunteer Narina, with amazing results! Narina has taken some of "their work" back to Holland, to see if she can fund raise for us, thanks Narina.



We are very happy to report that Katie Baker one of our last year's volunteers is back with us, she has done amazing fund raising in the UK for us, thank you Katie. Hopefully we will see the return of more of our volunteers in the not too distant future, we need your support please.



Artists at Work

LAME & LAZY

All's well with the occupants, the youngsters are still there in their "Hilton" enclosure. only because moving here and getting settled took time, then winter was upon us before we could let them out, they will be out in a few weeks. More drama? We wait with baited breath! LES is definitely the aggressor, while LOGIE is the clown. SNIP makes sure he doesn't get into anyone's bad books, while STYLO is the ladies man! EFFA still the sweetest monk like her mum. EYELESS is well considering her age and when being feed is very particular, and will only eat what she wants, sometimes she will only feed herself. MAYMAY is still the darling of the enclosure looking after everyone's needs! While SCAR is still "miss unfriendly" but well all the same.

Humans, Dirty Jobs & San Francisco

As usual we come last where the animals are concerned. As some of you are aware by now is that we were on Discovery Channel's Dirty Jobs series earlier this year, because "Paddy the terrible" as they portrayed him to be, was such a success with the viewers they had a follow-up! In July we had a wonderful surprise, both of us were invited to visit San Francisco, expenses paid for their 150th celebration! Unfortunately Rodney could not attend but yours truly did, 'what a wonderful experience'. On arrival at the venue, I was the first to arrive, in a

bright shiny dumpster, climbed out onto a "brown recycled plastic mat" and having hundreds yelling Paddy's name. Having numerous interviews as well, it was like being a film star. Last but not least, the friendliness of all the people I met and to have the wonderful experience of seeing their very beautiful and clean city, THANK YOU MIKE AND ALL AT DIRTY JOBS and to all the other "Dirty Jobbers" I hope we all meet again one day.



Yours Truly with Mike Rowe

Thank You

Last but not least. To all those wonderful caring people past & present who have donated and supported us, we would like to say a 'BIG THANK YOU' without you we would not have been able to continue our work at APES. Bless you all and thank you for caring. Once again I do hope you will forgive the long delay in receiving this edition of APES CHATTER, but hope the delay has been worth it. Best wishes from ALL AT

APES.



The Sun setting over APES

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