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VERVET MONKEY FOUNDATION

REHABILITATION • EDUCATION • SANCTUARY



Vervet Monkey Foundation

Annual Report 2018

25th Anniversary



Table of Contents

Vervet Monkey Foundation Annual Report 2018

VMF map.....	3
Introduction.....	4
25th Anniversary.....	6
Arrivals.....	8
Releases.....	10
Foster Mums.....	12
Integrations.....	14
Veterinarians.....	16
In Memoriam.....	18
Staff and Interns.....	20
Education.....	22
Outreach.....	24
Events.....	26
Ethical Volunteering.....	28
Visitors / Special Guests.....	30
Fundraising.....	32
Maintenance.....	34
Vervet Forest.....	36
PASA / GFAS.....	38
The Year Ahead.....	40



Introduction

Happy 25th Anniversary Vervet Monkey Foundation (VMF)

An incredible way this year to celebrate 25 years since the VMF was first established was the opening of V-bandits vegan restaurant in Germany by volunteer Lisa Bakavos. The restaurant is themed around the VMF and part of the proceeds go towards the Vervet Forest.

The school cooks plant -based programme as part of the Unbound Project was phenomenal in the way they were trained and also the education programme about the monkeys that went alongside it.

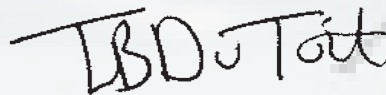
The new office and shop area sponsored by IPPL is complete and looks more professional for visitors in addition to increasing in productivity from our managerial team.

Our local staff are an integral part of evolving the sanctuary and new housing was built for them to be more comfortable out of hours.

The Eurotour was a success raising more funds for the Vervet Forest as well as spreading awareness to Europeans in the plight of the vervet.

This year we aimed higher regarding our goals for the monkeys and achieved all with the exception that the samango enclosure was started but not completed, we intend to finish it within the first quarter of next year. Thank you to everyone for being part of this evolutionary year and the past 25...

Signed,



Dave (Founder & Director) & Josie Du Toit (Director & Rehabilitator)



25th Anniversary Celebration

On November 17th, the Foundation celebrated its 25th Anniversary! We held a party for all the staff and volunteers with a variety of canapes, sweet treats and craft cocktails. The highlight of the evening was watching the “VMF Through the Ages” presentation made by our social media intern Primrose. Compiled of 100s of photos, this video showed different achievements of the foundation, as well as the progression of the sanctuary. The party and anniversary were also written about in an article in the Bulletin, a regional newspaper.

In honour of this milestone, we have launched a campaign to fund 50 additional hectares for the Vervet Forest before November 2019.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the foundation over the last 25 years, helping us grow and providing ever better care for the monkeys!



Arrivals

In 2018, we welcomed 40 new arrivals to the foundation (more than previous year), many of whom required specialised care:

- 34 vervet orphans (of which 3 were road accident victims, 1 was bitten by a dog, and 3 whose mothers were shot by farmers)
- 2 samango monkeys (Jesse & Zea)
- 1 blind adult vervet (Sybil)
- 3 adult vervets (Kesie, Suzi & Mpame)
- 3 wild juveniles car accidents (all released)
- 1 bushbaby baby (Toni)
- 2 rescue dogs (George & Rocky)



Darcy



Kesie



Jesse



Maysie

Releases

Whenever possible and appropriate, the Vervet Monkey Foundation releases wild monkeys back in their troops after recovering. When wild monkeys are brought to the foundation, we record the day, time and location they were found so that the team can eventually return to find the family troop.

We are unable to release orphans back to their troop as they require their mother's milk to survive. Unfortunately, ex-pets are also unreleasable as they have no wild troops.

In 2018, the team was able to release 7 injured vervets back to their wild troops after they recovered. Notable among our releases were Tylee and Fiona, two juvenile females who each spent about 4 weeks recovering from injuries and Pellet Pete, who suffered a double pelvic fracture after being hit by a pellet gun. The team also briefly cared for and transferred 2 baboon infants to other local rehabilitation centres.

Monkeys that are unable to be released are kept onsite and are integrated into social groups. These onsite troops allow monkeys to form social bonds and live in spacious enclosures with indigenous flora. The Vervet Monkey Foundation is currently working towards the Vervet Forest, to one day release rehabilitated troops into a much larger, protected. indigenous forest.



Tylee



Pellet Pete



Fiona

Foster mums

The VMF foster mum programme is well-established enabling vervet orphans to live in indigenous bush, simulating their natural habitat surrounded by electrified fencing. They live with groups of up to 50 monkeys and from as young as 3 months old. As early as 6 weeks old, the orphans have no human interaction after they have learnt how to use the milk feeding cage, all the care is given from monkey foster mums. This ensures the least possible trauma for the orphan and ensures they form close bonds within the troop from an early age.

The foster mum programme continued in 2018, enabling 34 orphans to live a more natural life in 9 troops (Goliath, Engeltjie, Skrow, James, Dino and Daniel & Sickbay, SAAV, Koko, Gismo). For the first time ever, the team used SAAV troop for the foster mum programme and successfully integrated 2 babies into the enclosure. There was a 100% success rate of foster mums adopting orphans during 2018.

Rehabilitating orphans this young into social troops enables them to maintain their inherent fear of people and ensures the best possible outcome for them to live in a wilder state.



*Mrs. Gold with
Foxy and Mayrise*



*Luka with
Loustic*



*Phylis with
Merlin, Conjo and
Emmy*

Integrations

45 monkeys were successfully integrated into social groups (an increase from 2017):

- 34 orphans were successfully integrated with foster mums in 8 enclosures.
- Thandi, Count and Snow White were integrated in Holt and Barrington Enclosure
- Sybil joined the Blind Troop off Engeltjie Enclosure
- Baromir joined James troop
- Grace joined Alec and Lalie in their Koko enclosure
- Jesse joined Mango in the current Samango Enclosure
- Several introcage integrations, including: Robert joined Minnie (Camelot), Titan moved in with Beebee (Goliath), Jinx joined Amber and Jasper (Skunkey), Rocio joined Kesie (Bachelor Block)

The foundation integrates individual monkeys into social groups for their own benefit, as social enrichment is necessary for primates. With troop integrations, the single monkey gets acquainted with the troop through an introduction cage on the side of the enclosure, monitored closely by the integration team. Once the monkey is confident with individuals in the group, they are released into the troop. The team continues to monitor the monkey until they demonstrate that they are comfortable within the troop.



Sybil and Jay-Bee



Thandi



Eliza

Veterinarians

In a change from previous years, in 2018 the VMF welcomed American Veterinarian Dr. Cheryl Chooljian, DVM for our vasectomy season in August/September. The team completed 28 vasectomies and 1 canine castration, as well as autopsies from several of our deceased monkeys, and helped the foundation with parasite detection for our troop monkeys. In addition to the routine procedures, a number of monkeys required local veterinary intervention:

- Ringo (Skunkey troop) and Lola (Engeltjie troop) both had broken arms which required specialised veterinary pins to facilitate recovery
- Pellet Pete (wild juvenile) suffered a double pelvic fracture after being shot by a pellet gun
- Jesse (wild samango) electrocuted both arms which required amputation
- Logan (Sickbay troop) and Fiona (Dino and Daniel troop) both suffered injuries to their leg and arm (respectively) which also required amputation
- Several monkeys also required dental extractions, which significantly improved their ability to eat afterwards



In Memoriam

In 2018, we sadly said goodbye to a number of our older monkeys, all of whom were loved dearly. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to care for them during their lives and know that they are at peace in the Vervet Forest in the Sky. Among them were:

- Skunkey, who passed away peacefully at 26 years old. An ex-pet, Skunkey was kind and gentle towards humans and became the VMF ambassador. Many staff and volunteers grew close to Skunkey with his daily grooming sessions. He was a truly special monkey and is missed everyday.
- Whitey was possibly one of the oldest vervets ever when she passed away at 33 years old. Whitey was known for her sassy attitude and for being one of the first onsite foster mums for many orphans, including Regus, the monkey that started the VMF.
- Brownie from Engeltjie troop lived a long and happy life at the foundation. Much like Skunkey, she was known for her sweet demeanour and love of sunflower seeds.
- Charlie Samango joined the foundation in 2012 from C.A.R.E. sanctuary in Phalaborwa. In 2018, he was able to spend more time in the outdoor Samango enclosure and play with Mango. Everyone who knew Charlie will fondly remember his morning booming calls.



Skunkkey



Brownie



Whitey



Charlie

Staff and Interns

In 2018, the foundation took on a larger voluntary staff team, enabling the foundation to get more done. Enormous thanks to all of our local and voluntary staff and interns!

- 7 new voluntary staff were appointed: Hana Bruger (Volunteer Manager), Edward Sharp (Middle Section Primate Carer), Joanna Dupont (Baby Mum), Nico le Franc and Tracey Grey (Integration), Sami Petzer (Meds/Special Care), Rentia McClenson (Sickbay)
- Torie Curr-Smith was promoted to Animal Manager
- We also took on 10 interns, 7 of whom were return volunteers to assist staff in Integration, Meds, Section Care, Baby Care and Milks, Social Media
- We continued to incorporate training sessions for staff and interns in each monthly staff meeting
- Our Local Staff team continued to be led by the ever-smiling Local Staff Manager Innocent Mahuwa



Staff Photo



Intern Team

Education

Representatives from the VMF held several education sessions at the Valoyi Trust in N’wamitwa to complement our School Cook Training Programme. While Chef William was busy in the kitchen, our team spoke with different age groups to discuss vervet monkeys, conservation and plant-based living. We also screened the Vervet Forest Documentary to a group of 40+ students, parents and staff.

We are eager to welcome these students out to the foundation in early 2019 and to expand this partnership with other local schools in the future.

In September, a group of 76 students from Progressive Primary School in Venda, Limpopo. The students took a tour of the foundation and enjoyed some activities to learn more about the monkeys.



Valoyi Community Education



Progressive Primary School Visit

Outreach

2018 was a big year for outreach at the Foundation as we launched our Unbound School Cook Training Programme. and participated in a number of vegan food stalls at local food festivals.

With support from the Unbound Project, the VMF completed the first phase of our School Cook Training Programme. This programme involved training 9 school cooks from the Valoyi Trust in nearby N'wamitwa on vegan dishes to eliminate animal products in their school lunches. Chef William taught them new techniques and how to use local produce in creative and tasty ways for the school children. The school cooks had a great time with Chef William in the kitchen and we are eager to expand this programme in early 2019 to more schools in the area.

The VMF also had vegan food stalls at 5 different local food festivals in the area. These stalls were a great way to spread the word about the foundation and to also demonstrate how delicious and versatile vegan food can be.



School Cook Training Programme



Events

In February, Director Josie Du Toit went on a two week Eurotour in Belgium and Germany. Her trip included 3 screenings of the Vervet Forest Documentary, silent auctions and a mini reunion. With the help of our European Events Coordinator Hilde Olbrechts, and the Jane Goodall Institute, Josie and other volunteers who helped organise the European events raised over £2,000 and garnered lots of volunteer interest!

With the assistance of Shellie Robinson (UK Events Coordinator) and Hilde, the VMF had stalls at 9 UK festivals and 14 European festivals (mainly in Germany and Belgium). This was a marked increase from 2017 and a number of former staff and volunteers help Shellie and Hilde at the events. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Several former volunteers also arranged screenings of the Vervet Forest Documentary, the proceeds of which all go towards the Vervet Forest campaign.



UK Events with Shellie



Andre Tam's German Screening



European Events led by Hilde

Ethical volunteering

The VMF believes in ethical volunteering and aims to continue developing the volunteer experience at the foundation. Thank you to all the ethical volunteering organisations ensuring there are always people to help the VMF continue its work.

165 volunteers arrived at the VMF in 2018 from 19 different countries, the top five being from France, UK, USA, Belgium and Germany. 48% of volunteers booked directly through VMF (an increase from last year) and at peak season we housed 42 volunteers, with several extending their stay. An additional 12 volunteers have returned or are returning (some for staff and intern positions).

We also began a new program to include short-term volunteers (from 1/2 day-3 days) with great success. 10 short-term volunteers were able to experience life at the foundation and assist with daily caregiving activities.

The renovation of the communal kitchen helped elevate the quality of the food prepared for the volunteers. We also began scheduling cooking classes for volunteers who were eager to share tasty vegan dishes with their family and friends back home.



Visitors / Special Guests

- 126 local and international visitors for tours (which was a decrease from the previous year)
- We welcomed a group of 22 guests from East Rand Hospice Group, half of whom took a tour of the foundation, the other half enjoyed the Vervet Forest Documentary
- We had our first ever public cooking class and welcomed 4 local guests who learned how to make tasty vegan dishes
- PASA trainers, Lee-Ann Rottman and Tiffany Blake returned in February to continue with training sessions for our local staff
- In May, a caracal, dubbed Caticus Finch, jumped into Goliath enclosure. Luckily he was safely darted by a local vet and released nearby back in the wild

Security

- Bush Fires – several bush fires reached the foundation in 2018, luckily no enclosures were damaged and no injuries sustained
- Security – there were 3 instances of theft and break-ins in 2018 which led to the installation of several new security systems to ensure continued safety of the team and the foundation.
- Timmy and George (Dave's dogs) continue to act as guard dogs, keeping volunteers protected at night



Cattlebird



Public Cooking Class

Fundraising

2018 was a fantastic year for fundraising with several events and donors adding an additional 9 hectares of land to the Vervet Forest wall. Our staff continued holding fundraising workshops for volunteers to brainstorm different ways to continue their support from home. We hope to see an increase in international events and Vervet Forest Screenings in 2019!

Josie Du Toit, William Laurent, Sami Petzer, Nico le Franc and Nicolas Moreau all ran the Uitsoek 10km Mountain Run as a fundraiser. They raised an impressive 5 hectares and had a great time on the run!

Managers Meg and Torie spent 24 hours in an introcage (living as monkeys) and raised 28,400 rand to build a new enclosure for our blind monkeys and smaller satellite enclosures off Sickbay building for long term Sickbay patients.

The VMF also launched a new website and online shop, thanks largely to volunteer Jiri Vaigl-King's design skills!

Former Volunteer Lisa Bakavos has partnered up with a friend and opened the V-Bandits restaurant in Ludwigsburg, Germany. This VMF themed restaurant offers tasty vegan meals, with a portion of all proceeds donated to the foundation!



The Uitsoek Runners



24 hour Intro cage Challenge



V-Bandits Restaurant

Maintenance

Our local staff and volunteer team kept very busy with building and maintenance onsite. We welcomed our first maintenance intern to assist our local team with expansion projects. Some of our projects include:

- Construction of 7 onsite concrete cabins for our hard-working local staff team
- Renovation of Communal Kitchen area (funded by Unbound Project)
- Completion of New Office and Gift Shop Area (partially funded by IPPL) which significantly helped with administrative productivity
- New toilets built in Staff Village, near completion of new toilets and showers in Volunteer Village
- New sports pitch behind Cottage Area
- Moved around several introcages between troops
- Added three new cabins in Staff Village
- Renovated Security System to prevent future break-ins
- Massive lantana removal around troop enclosures
- Additional shelters were made for enclosures
- Began construction of new Samango Enclosure



New Office, Gift Shop and Veranda



Additional Staff Cabins



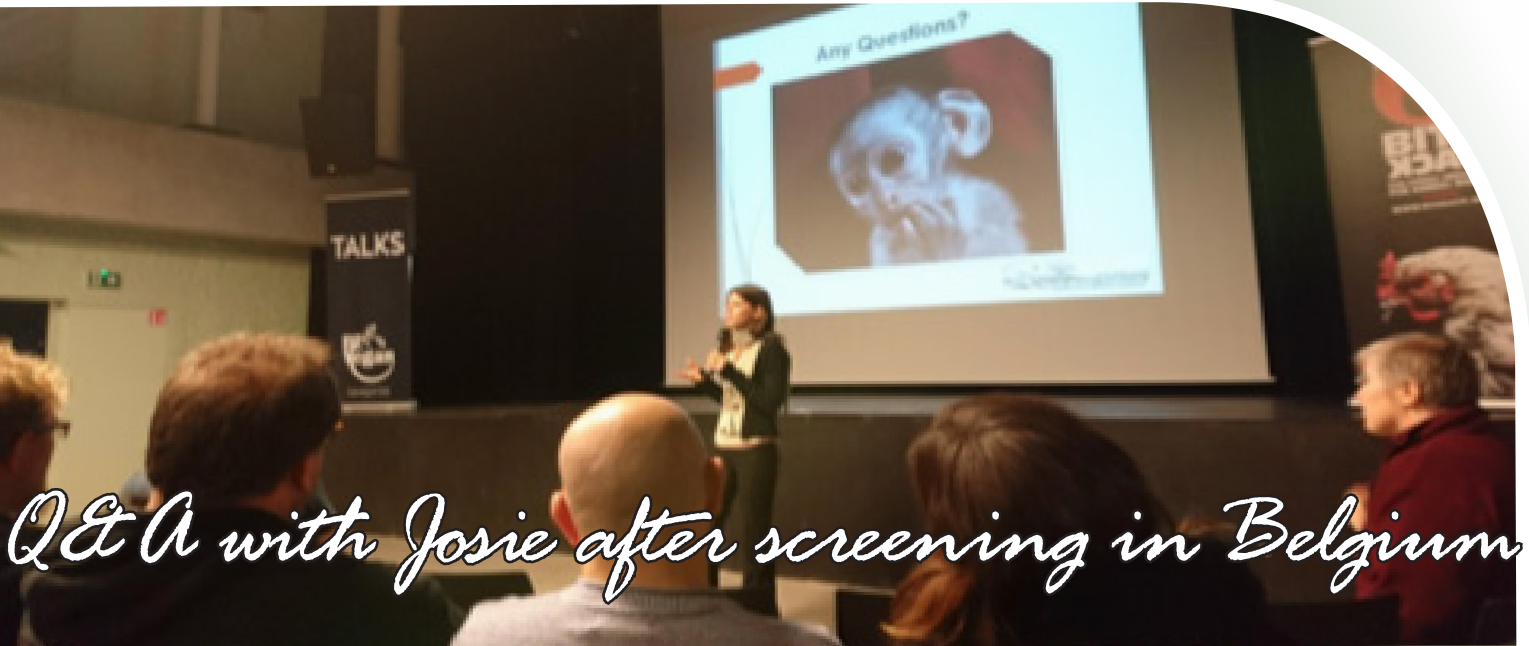
Renovated Communal Kitchen

Vervet Forest

The Vervet Forest is becoming more well-known around the globe and continues to attract support for the foundation and the Vervet Forest vision. There were 10 private screenings of the acclaimed documentary in 2018, with an additional 2 of the shortened version “Little Monkey House” on National Geographic Wild (following 3 others in 2017). Some volunteers even got to enjoy the documentary on airplane screens on Qatar Airlines!

Vervet Forest Director, Kyle Salazar has begun the second season of the Vervet Forest Youtube Series and is gaining more followers every day. He also began a new series called the “Bandit Diaries” which chronicles the life of our wild troop onsite. A number of individuals found out about the foundation through the online series and were motivated enough to become volunteers! The Vervet Forest also started an online shop in the USA with a number of exciting VMF themed items for sale.

As of December 31st, 36 individuals and organisations raised 1,000 GBP for one hectare of forest, earning themselves a brick on our Vervet Forest Wall!



Q&A with Josie after screening in Belgium



New Vervet Forest Logo



Kyle filming for the Youtube series

PASA / GFAS accreditation

VMF has been an active member of Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) since February 2006. The PASA code of conduct requires all members and staff to exhibit:

a) a concern for the primates, b) integrity, c) transparency, d) fairness, e) conscientiousness, f) professionalism, g) personal and institutional commitment to conservation.

The VMF was represented at the 2018 Strategic Development Conference hosted by Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Sierra Leone by Dave Du Toit.

VMF would like to thank PASA for providing such informative and inspiring workshops and GFAS for providing standards for legitimate animal sanctuaries.



The Year Ahead

The team is eager to continue with many of our new projects from 2018 and has big plans for 2019:

Complete construction of the Samango Enclosure

Build new enclosure for Blind troop and Sickbay outdoor cages for long-term residents

Rebuild Sickbay troop to create larger and more secure enclosure

Begin fundraising for the Skunkey Memorial Unit

Grow and populate online shops and website

Continue promoting the Vervet Forest documentary

Add at least additional 50 bricks to the Vervet Forest wall

Improve Main Feed storage facilities

Continue and expand outreach and education programme

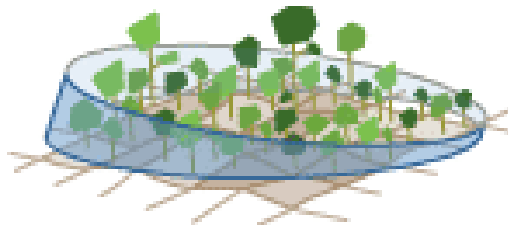
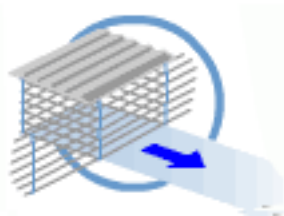
Increase number of stalls at vegan/animal festivals in the UK and Europe



Japie



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