

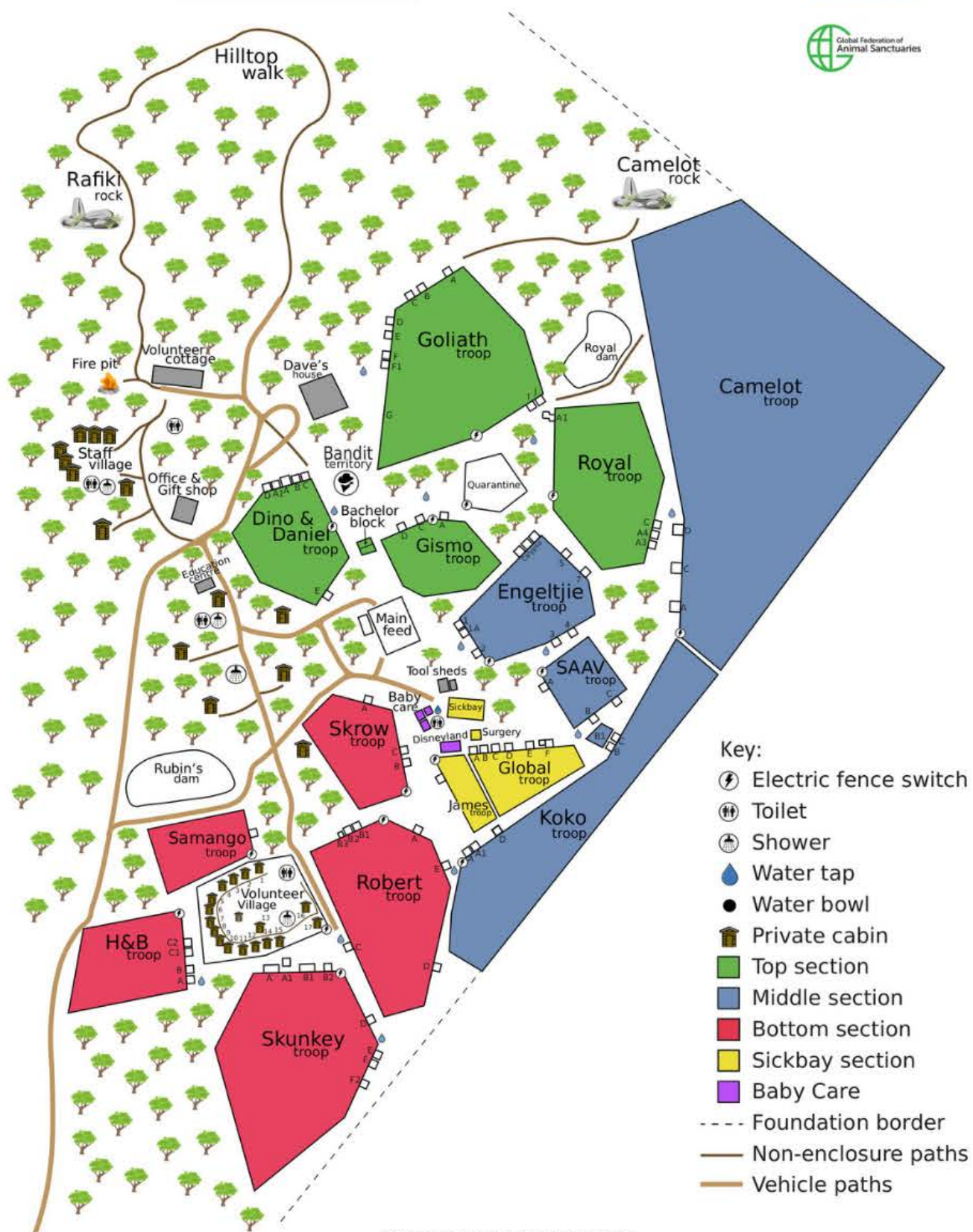
Floki

Vervet Monkey Foundation

Annual report 2020

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Introduction

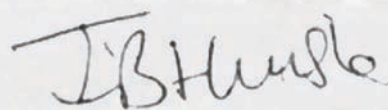
2020 was a year of uncertainty for most including the sanctuary with many people wondering how they would survive the impacts of the pandemic.

A new way of creating and funding online needed to be sourced immediately with borders closing overnight and food costs much higher. Organisation had to become more efficient and productive in order to just get the basics done in a day for the monkeys.

The Main Feed area and much maintenance was put on hold but at the end of the year we are happy to conclude we did more than just survive, it was a time of creation and keeping our minds open to new ways that we hope will also benefit the sanctuary in the future.

We are very thankful for the help and support from the Humane Society International & IFAW through PASA, GFAS emergency grants. In addition with IPPL's general operational funds and many of you supporting and donating we not only survived but also managed to get through the start of baby season with hardly any volunteers.

It was important to us to find ways of keeping all our local staff team on (some of who have been here for more than 15 years). We are so thankful to them and the small voluntary staff team who were able to stay through the lockdowns. It is incredible what a small team of dedicated people can achieve and we thank every one of you. It has shown us we can get through even the toughest challenges, it was never an option to give up on the animals in our care or our teams.



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



Jethro

Spock



Dave



Josie

COVID-19

In February 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. Consequently, nations imposed lockdowns and closed international airports. This had several major implications on the VMF which dominated the rest of the year.

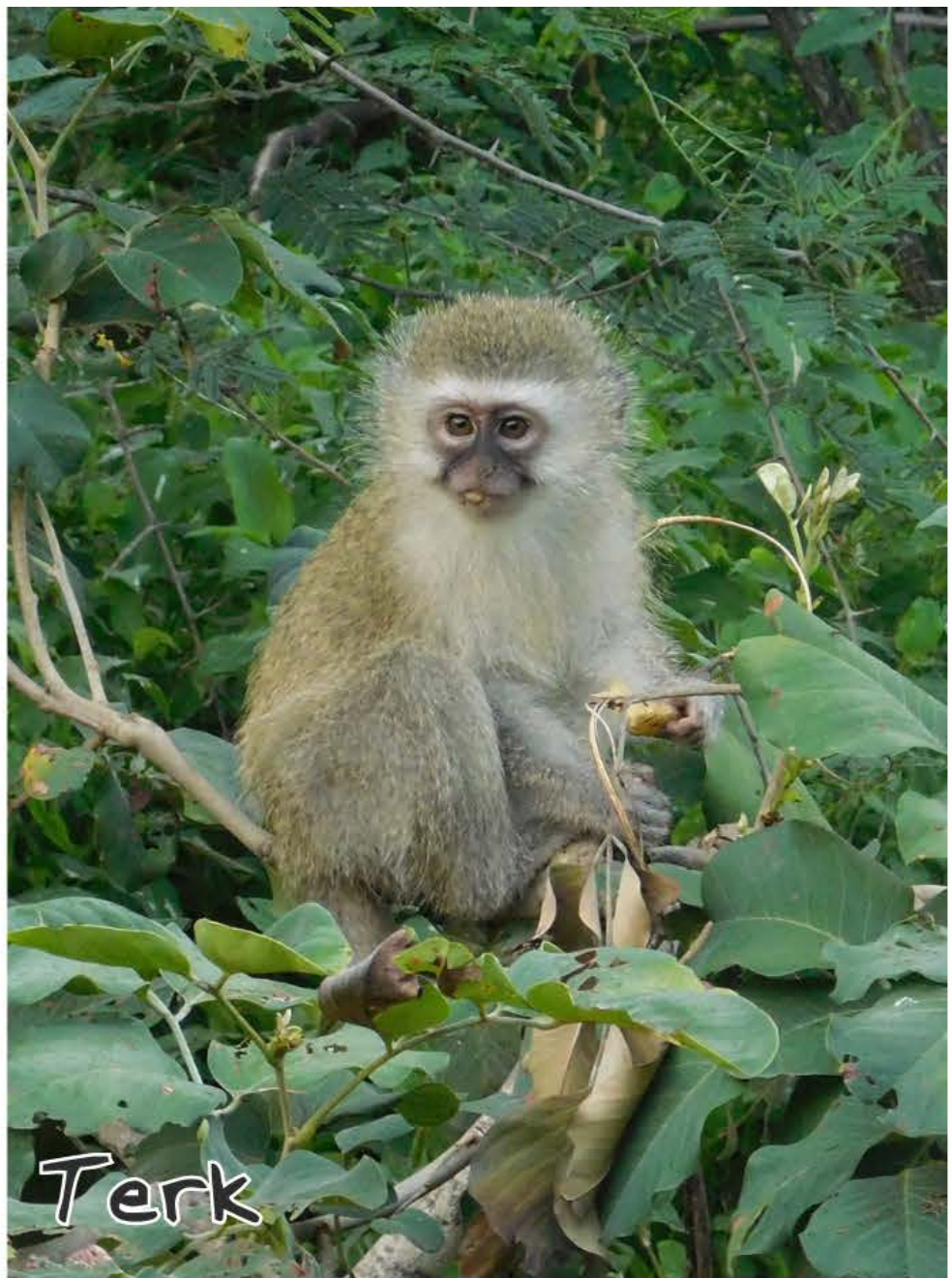
As we receive no governmental support, international volunteers represent our main source of income. Due to the international travel ban, we had no international volunteers from March to December and prior arranged bookings were cancelled. Many volunteering agencies do not expect to resume operations in the near future. This also imposed high pressure on our international voluntary team and local team who had to manage the additional workload.

We were also forced to close our site for guided tours until further notice and cancel all of our upcoming international events, which are an important source of funding and promotion for us.

We acquire the majority of our food from local small farmers in the area, supporting the local communities. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of these local farmers had no choice but to either close or sell food that is now only meant for human consumption as South Africa experienced food shortages during the pandemic. Much of the food had to be sourced at market price for the monkeys which is sometimes up to ten times higher in cost. This increase has been unexpected and contributed to increased financial pressure.



Shannon



Terk



new sink at
the office

Arrivals

The VMF welcomed 31 new arrivals to the VMF (2 less than the year before), many of whom required specialised care:

- 20 vervet orphans
- 1 orphaned baby samango monkey (Satchmo)
- 1 juvenile vervet whose both legs were dislocated (Floki)
- 4 wild rescues (3 juveniles, 1 adult. One juvenile was intentionally burnt, the adult female was shot multiple times - all passed away)
- 1 male baby bushbaby (Sassy, the baby of adult female Neve who arrived in late December 2019 - both released to the wild)
- 2 former pet juveniles (Jane and Arlo)

Baby Season 2019/20 was a quiet one in comparison, while in 2020 we have seen an increase in baby orphan arrivals. Luckily, most baby orphans are in good health when they arrive at the VMF.

Satchmo, the samango monkey, was a special arrival. The VMF had only one other orphaned samango monkey in their care before, Mango, who is now a healthy subadult. Satchmo's integration to the JALamango troop proved to be different from the usual foster mum integrations. Zea, herself just a juvenile girl, and Mango weren't our usual foster mums but they did great nonetheless. Gladly Mango found a profound liking in Satchmo and treats him as his little brother. The three samango monkeys have formed close bonds as a peer group and they can often be seen spending their time together.



Releases

Whenever possible and appropriate, the VMF releases wild monkeys back to their own troops after recovering. When wild monkeys are brought to the VMF, 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 such as Arlo and Jane are also unreleasable as they have no wild troops after so many years living in captivity.

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 bush. The VMF is currently working towards the Vervet Forest, to one day release rehabilitated troops into a much larger, protected, indigenous forest.

The year 2020 was an unfortunate year for vervet releases. The wild rescued monkeys were so severely injured, that they passed away not long after their arrival.

The female bushbaby Neve who arrived in late December 2019 was reunited with her baby boy Sassy in January 2020. Neve who suffered from burns after she was electrocuted on a power line recovered completely and regained full mobility. Mother and baby bushbaby were released in the onsite woodlands.



Neve and
Baby Sassy

Foster Mums

The VMF foster mum programme was first established in 2011. Since then we enabled 181 vervet orphans to live with groups of up to 50 monkeys and from as young as 3 months old in enclosures rich in indigenous bush, simulating their natural habitat surrounded by electrified fencing. 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. The success speaks for itself; 99% of all orphans in the foster mum programme are now living a happy life with a new family and 100% were matched with foster mums.

In 2020, 15 orphans were integrated through the foster mum programme to live a more natural life in 8 troops. This year Skunkey troop was used for the first time as part of the foster mum programme and our expectations were exceeded. All adult females in Skunkey troop showed exceptional interest in the babies. First, orphaned girls Rene and Button were adopted by foster mum Changuito, later we added Rox to the troop. Martha cared for him in the introcage, after Rox went to the troop, adult female Pom carried him. In the end, to our surprise, adult male Jethro established himself as the caring foster figure, carrying and caring for Rox just like a mum would do.

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.



Jethro
and Rox



Mrs Gold,
Maddox
and Ellie

Integration

The foundation integrates individual monkeys into social groups for their own benefit, as social enrichment is necessary for primates. With troop integrations, the individual monkey gets acquainted with the troop through a large 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. In 2020, 18 monkeys were successfully integrated into social groups.

15 vervet orphans were successfully integrated with foster mums in 7 enclosures (Koko, Global, Goliath, Gismo, Skunkey, D&D) Jinx was integrated into Holt and Barrington Enclosure. Satchmo joined Mango and Zea in JALamango Enclosure. After a long integration period, ex-Pet Mika found the courage to stay in Skrow troop.

Arlo started his integration at Goliath and enjoyed playtime with Maggie Mae and Zoro. When Jane arrived, Arlo's integration was paused and the two juveniles are now sharing an introcage.

Smartie joined Global troop for a day. Unfortunately, the elderly male seemed to be caught up by his age. The troop life exhausted him and he returned to his introcage. The great friendship he had built up with the troop monkeys, especially subadult Dumbo, remains strong. Dumbo enjoys frequently visiting Smartie in his introcage, grooming and playing with him.



Mango and
Satchmo



Integration
staff Jason



Jinx

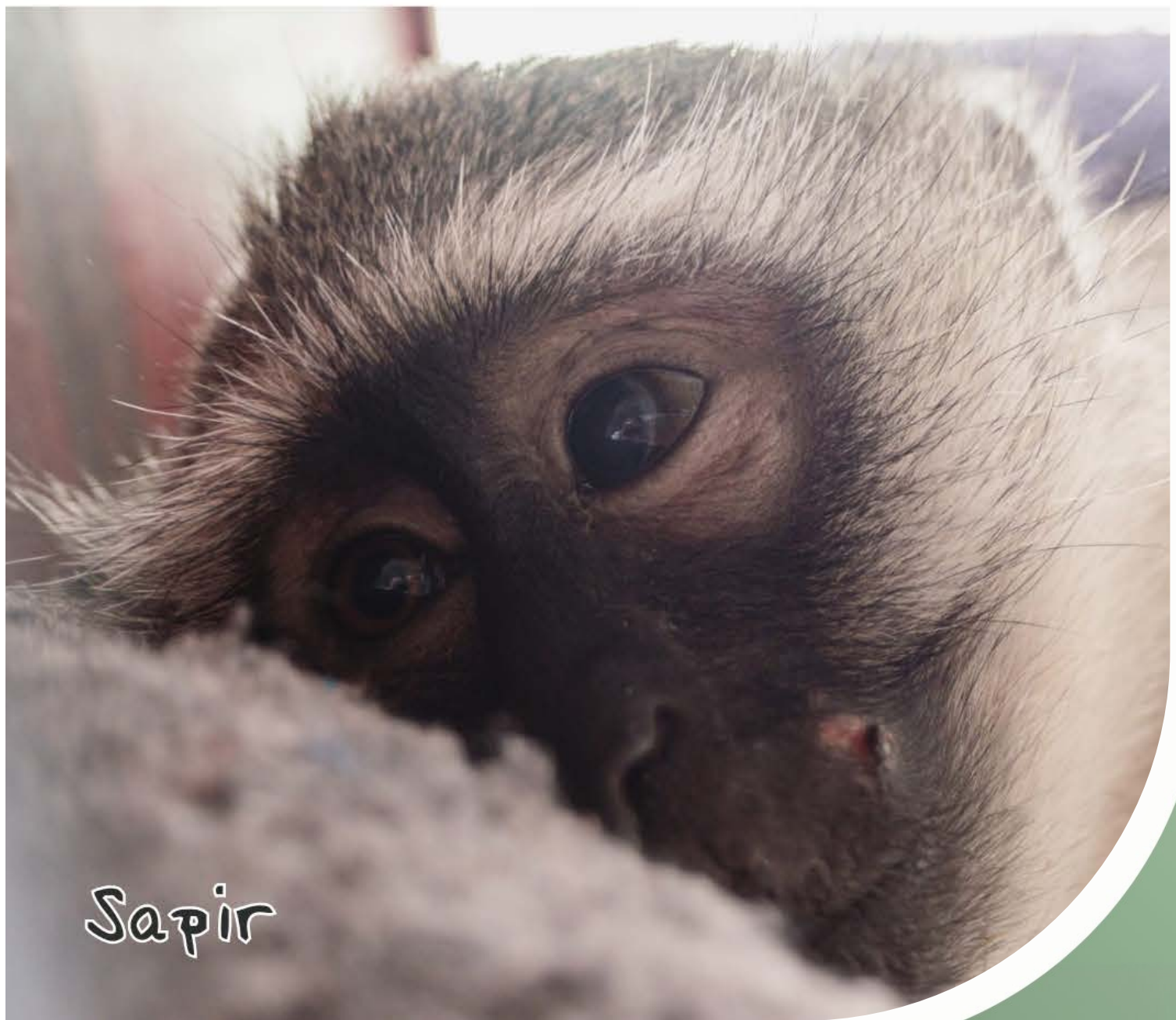
Human Wildlife Conflicts

Sadly, 2020 was a year in which we saw an increased number of human-wildlife conflicts. It seems like the more difficult the year became, the more people took their frustration out on the weakest individuals around them. 7 monkeys were hit by cars, some reported to be intentional. 9 have been kept as pets prior to their arrival and 6 endured otherwise human-made injuries.

Sapir, an adult female, arrived in July, reportedly falling out of a tree after being hit by a car. Straight away it was obvious that she had a tough life. Her right hand was missing, probably being amputated or lost to a snare. Her left eye was coloured blue. Her current state was dire as she was suffering from multiple injuries; she had a concussion, her left arm was abnormally bent and her leg seemed to be out of place. After a couple of days, her concussion subsided, and she was ready to be x-rayed at the

vet. The images showed she was shot at least five times, as five pellets remained in her body. One close to her spine, one in her arm, one in her leg and multiple in her abdomen. Unfortunately, these injuries were too severe to recover from and she was humanely euthanised.

Shortly after Sapir's arrival, Cooper, a male juvenile was handed in. He was set on fire barely alive rescued by a by-passer who took him to a vet. The burns all over his body were too many to recover from and he passed away peacefully two days later.



Veterinarians

Due to the travel restrictions American Veterinarian Dr. Cheryl Chooljian, DVM was not able to come out for vasectomy season in 2020. To support from afar, Cheryl thankfully raised the funds to vasectomise 19 of our male monkeys at the local vet Dr. Larissa Odendaal at the Serala Animal Clinic who also gave us a reduced fee.

Volunteer Julie Michaluk, a student of Natacha Berthon helped with osteopathy on Cuddy to improve her mobility and release tension in Cuddy's neck and shoulder.

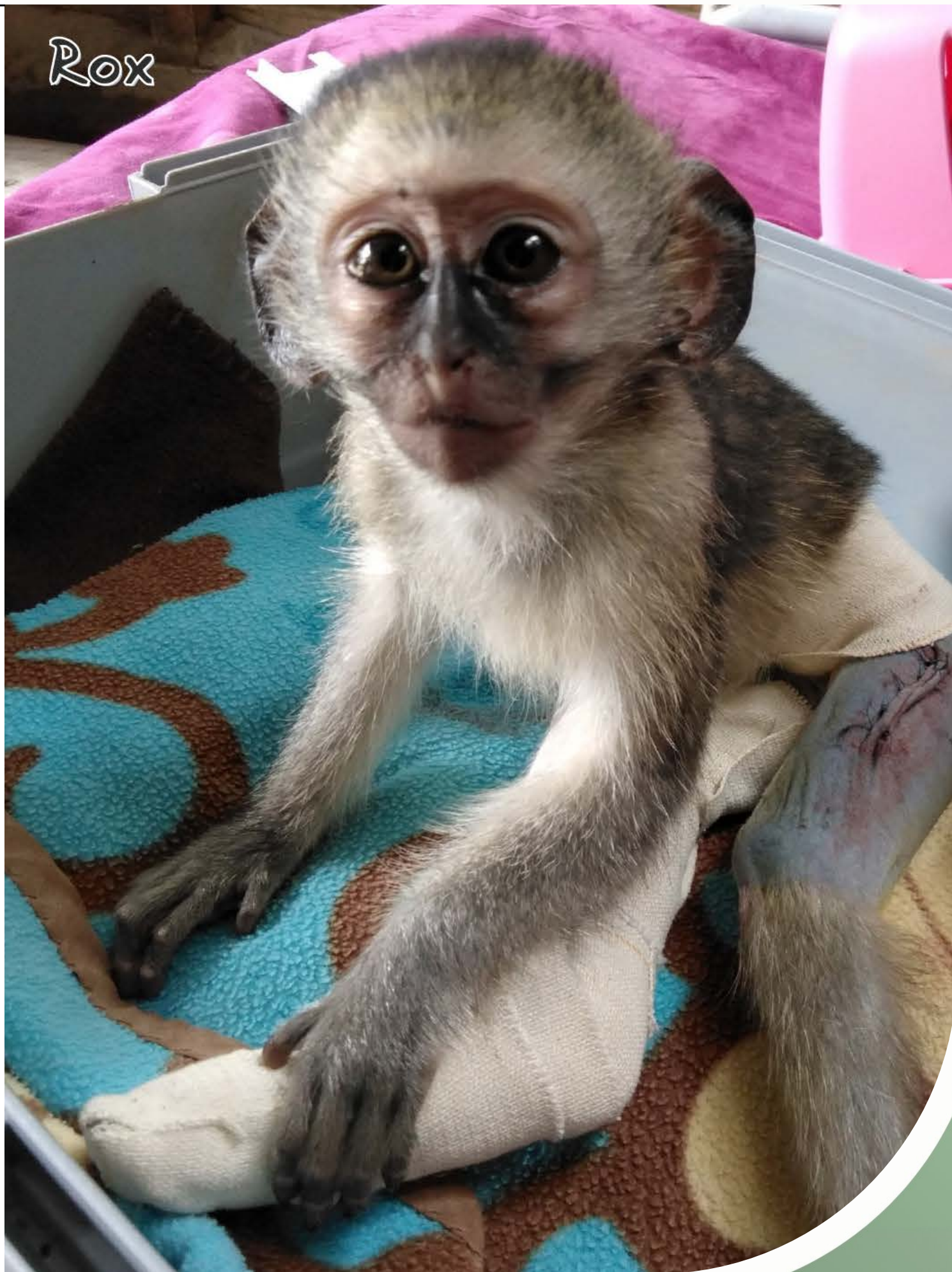
In addition to the routine procedures, a number of monkeys required local veterinary intervention:

Aurelia (Robert troop) fractured her hip. With a lot of love, tender and care, she recovered and returned to her troop with full mobility.

Rox arrived severely injured after he was run over by a car and lost his family. Both his legs were fractured, and his right ankle broken. He received a pin in the left leg, which healed up nicely. Unfortunately, his left leg suffered from infection and had to be amputated. He is now living in Skunkey troop with great mobility.

Floki was sold alongside the road as a pet before he arrived at the VMF. X-Rays revealed that he had a minor fracture at the head which had healed. In addition, both his legs were dislocated in the hip. Since Floki underwent a femoral head removal surgery in the right leg, he still remains with some disabilities in his hips, while his overall mobility has drastically improved.

Rox



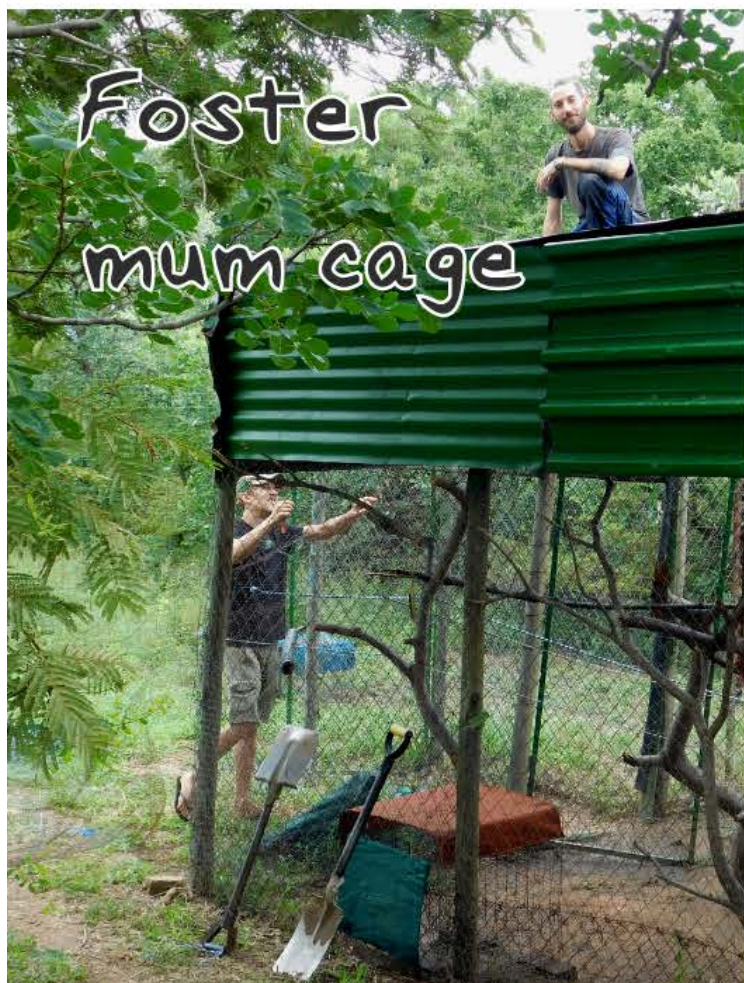
Maintenance

Usually, our local staff and volunteer team spent considerable time on maintenance during the wintertime (June-August in South Africa) or when we have high numbers of volunteers in November and December. This year, the COVID pandemic meant that we had very few volunteers throughout the year and the fund normally spend on maintenance had to be used for securing the food supply. Hence, many maintenance projects have been paused. Nevertheless, we managed to increase the quality of life for our monkeys and volunteers with several projects:

- Planted 40 indigenous evergreen trees
- Completed new shower and toilet block for private cabins
- Added additional shelters in enclosures
- Continued some of construction of new Main feed area
- Installed pump and utilised borehole which was drilled late December 2019
- Painted the volunteer kitchen, staff and private cabin showers for a more welcoming atmosphere
- Chicken-wired several foster mum introcages and Disneyland (nursery school for baby monkeys) to increase safety for the orphaned babies
- Painted Loveland and the back of Disneyland
- Built a bigger enclosure for Spiegel
- Revamping and rebranching of multiple introcages to increase environmental enrichment and improve hygiene



New Mainfeed



Foster
mum cage



Zoe
painting
showers

Staff and Interns

In 2020, a large number of voluntary staff and interns had planned their stay at the VMF. Unfortunately, the international lockdowns due to the pandemic meant many arrivals were cancelled or postponed. Enormous thanks to all of our local and voluntary staff and interns who stayed with us during the difficult year of 2020, worked tremendously hard to keep the sanctuary running and the needs of the monkeys met. Sanctuary Manager Hana Bruger and Animal Manager Mark Ashcroft had their hands full and many hours worked but still managed to keep humans and monkeys healthy and happy whilst being resourceful.

We hired 3 new long-term voluntary staff, two of which were returning volunteers. We welcomed one intern and two short-term staff.

Jason Van Der Bosch (integration staff, former volunteer), Erin Bidiman (temporarily middle section staff), SD Victor (security staff), Andrea Pichler (temporarily Top section, former return volunteer).

Ann Johnson started as Volunteer Manager but was stuck most of the year in her home country due to lockdown.

Jasmin Long completed an internship for sickbay and social media for six months.

Our Local Staff team continued to be led by the ever-smiling Local Staff Manager Innocent Mahuwa who now has his learners' license and will soon start driving himself. The VMF hired one additional part-time maid Susan to help with extra sanitising.



Ann



Hana and Mark



Innocent



Susan

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.

Due to the international travel bans, the numbers of volunteers who were able to join us in our work, has significantly dropped from 133 international volunteers in 2019 to 42 mostly at the start of 2020 from 16 different countries. Six of these volunteers were returning volunteers and an additional two came back to fill voluntary staff positions.

To support our voluntary staff team, we offered South African volunteers free board and meals for a month or longer volunteering. Due to the country's poor economy it was not an option this year for local people to pay to volunteer. 8 South Africans have arrived since mid-June at various times, some of them helping actively during baby season.

The VMF welcomed two day-volunteers for an overnight stay and introduced them to the work and life at a wildlife sanctuary. They left amazed with the new knowledge and admiration they have gained about vervet monkeys.

We are very grateful for our newest volunteering organisation. Red Line Expedition is a Czech agency who sent their first volunteer Ctibor in December. The team enjoyed Ctibor's helpful and friendly attitude and we hope for many more volunteers from the Czech Republic.



Visitors

As a result of international travel bans and the national lockdown, the numbers of visitors has dropped considerably. 18 local and international visitors arrived for guided tours to learn about the monkeys (this was a 91% decrease in numbers from the previous year).

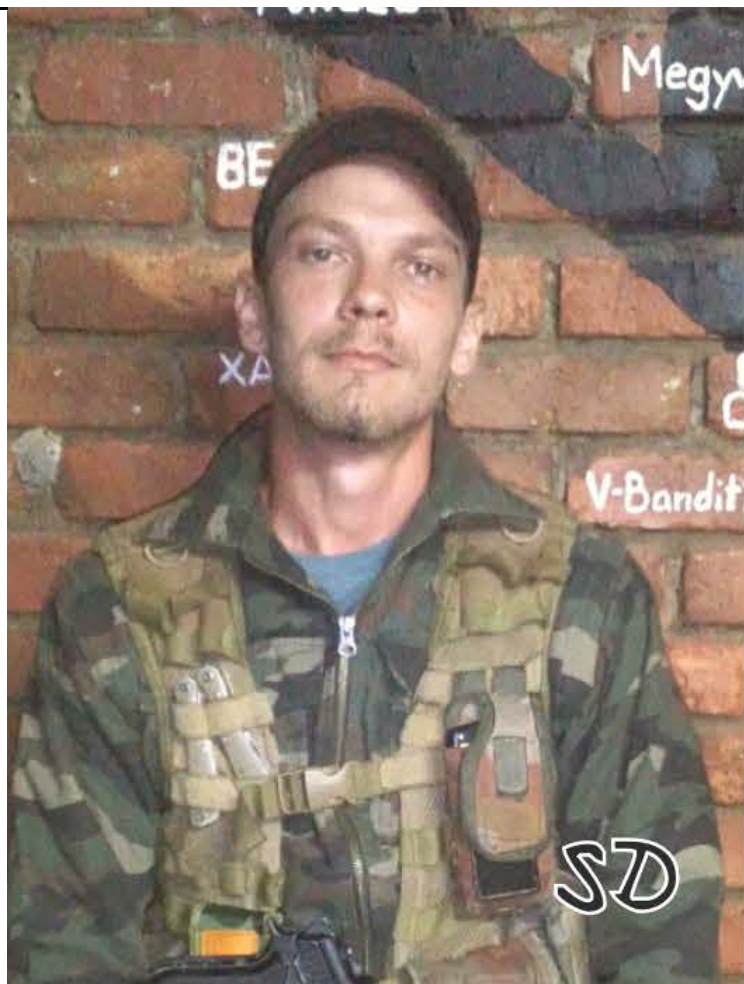
Security

Fires - in 2020 we back burned the perimeter in order to prevent bush fires reaching the foundation. The early rains also lowered the risk of fires drastically. Gladly, no wildfires occurred on the VMF premises and we were blessed with green vegetation.

Security – there was one instance of petty theft and break-ins in 2020 (same as the previous year). The VMF has a sanctuary wide alarm system and in addition panic buttons for the staff members. These buttons work all across the foundation to ensure continued safety of the team and the foundation. The alarm system is strictly tested every month.

SD Victor trained in security was taken on as security staff to keep the sanctuary and its habitants safe at night.

Timmy and George (Dave's dogs) are now strengthened by Rocky (Josie's dog) who keep watch at night time.



Work on the Wild Side

In May and June, the work in filming for Work on the Wild Side bared fruits when the show was broadcasted on Channel 4 in the UK. The Show portrayed multiple wildlife sanctuaries, rescue centres and game reserves highlighting the daily challenges, tasks and successes, one of them the VMF.

In six episodes, the stories of several different monkeys were highlighted:

- Blind monkey girl Bell and her family is trapped and moves to the newly build bigger enclosure 'Calypso's Corner'.
- Baby boy Dobby arrives as the first orphan of the season 2019/2020, receives loving care in Disneyland. As soon as he is old enough, he meets his foster mum Luka and eventually he is released to Koko troop to his new family.
- Cedric, former pet, learns how to behave like a monkey and made his first steps to his new troop Gismo.
- Josie, assisted by middle section staff Ed Sharp, deworms Camelot troop to maintain the health of the monkeys onsite.
- Animal Manager Mark Ashcroft monitors D&D troop and explains how to identify individual monkeys.

The show which was broadcasted daily for four weeks made a big impact on the audience. Many viewers reached out to us and acknowledged us for our work, or showing interest in volunteering with us in the future. This outreach was fantastic and very much needed during the pandemic. Big thank you to Channel 4 and Waddell Media for this amazing opportunity and the wonderful cooperation!

WORK ON THE WILD SIDE

**"NOW MORE
THAN EVER
WE NEED
TO DO
SOMETHING
FOR THE
PLANET AND
THE WILDLIFE"**



#WORKONTHEWILDSIDE

Media

The great awareness raised by the TV series Work on the Wild Side led to several media projects.

The News, Portsmouth, Josie Humble's UK home, portrayed her in a full-page article in May. Josie was able to speak about the obstacles the VMF is facing due to the international lockdowns and travel bans during the pandemic. The article was published while the TV series was still running and many residents of Portsmouth are proud to see one of them saving wildlife in Africa.

Mark Ashcroft was interviewed for Sunday Life, the Sunday paper from the wildly popular Belfast Times. In the interview, he explained his role at the sanctuary, why he started working here and how he lost his heart to the monkeys.

Earlier that year, the Washington Post interviewed Josie for an article in connection with PASA and their great effort to raise awareness and funds for the primate sanctuaries in Africa highlighting their challenges during the pandemic.

Filming later in the year was completed for a new South African TV series.

Kyle Smith arrived to document the vervets for a short movie and documentary (SA).

We're best primates: NI man Mark lands job on Channel 4's Work On The Wild Side after swapping civil service grind to care for monkeys



Mark Ashcroft, who packed in his job to look after monkeys in a sanctuary



Portsmouth veterinary nurse devotes life to rescuing monkeys in South Africa

The vervet monkey is a mischievous little thing. If it spots a bunch of bananas through an open window of a house in its native South Africa, it'll leap through and gobble them up – much to the homeowner's annoyance.

By Elise Brewerton
Tuesday, 26th May 2020, 9:27 am
Updated: Wednesday, 27th May 2020, 9:56 am



Social Media

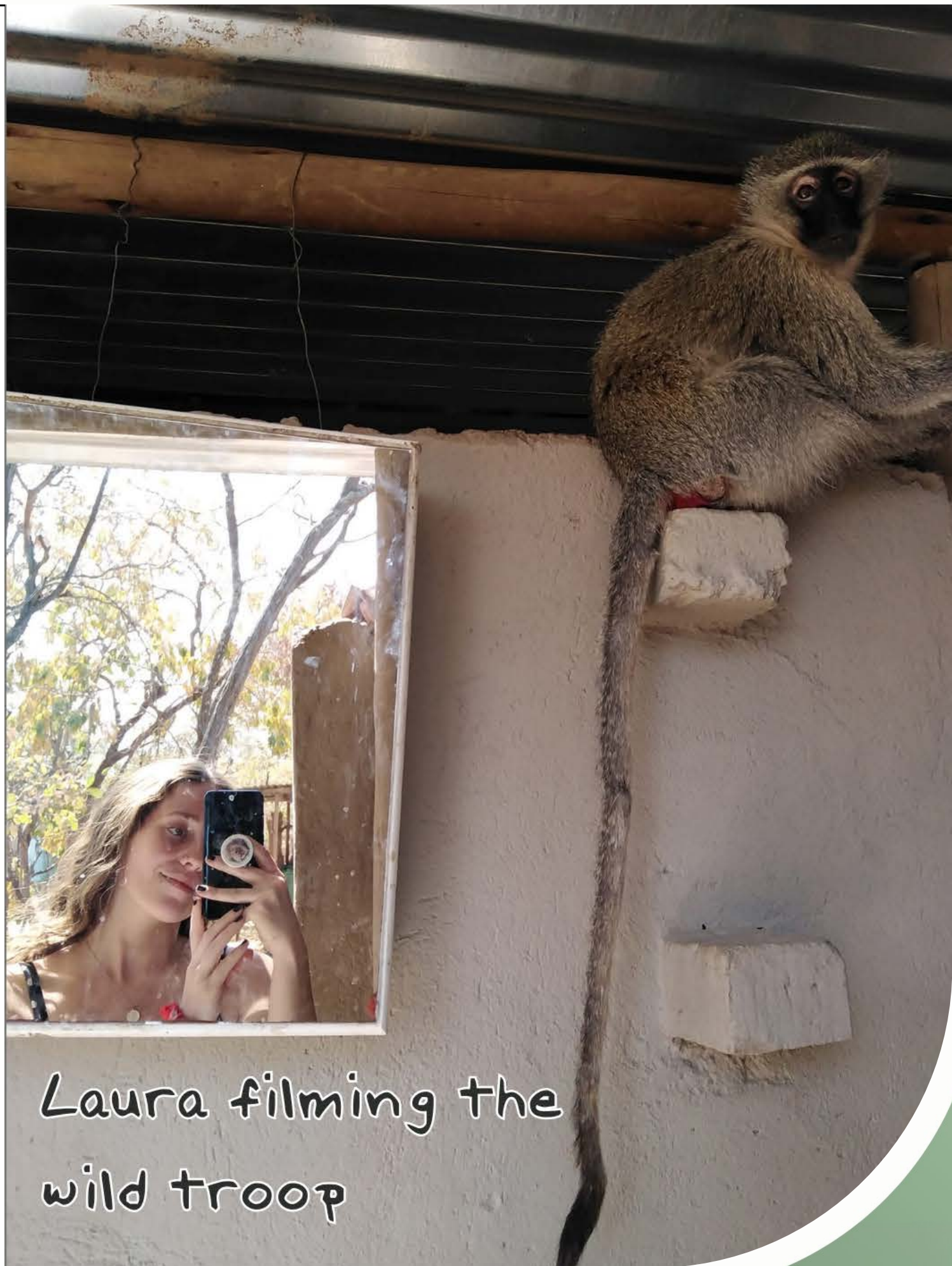
One of our goals for 2020 was to increase the engagement and outreach on our social media platforms which was successful.

Our facebook pages and groups as well as our Instagram has seen a larger number of followers. This led to an increase in engagement such as likes, shares, comments and ultimately donations and awareness. At the beginning of the lockdown, Josie and Sanctuary manager Hana made a 14 days at home challenge to raise awareness for the VMF and the monkeys, inspire fundraising ideas and lift the spirits around the world.

Instagram engagement and followers has increased currently at around 81,200 followers. A weekly Staff Sunday this year introduced local and international staff whilst updating daily about the current lives of the monkeys and orphans in our care helping to spread awareness and educate people about primates.

The Youtube series is now in its 4th season. The views and engagement are higher which can be seen in the statistics. Since the beginning of the year, the subscriber numbers have more than tripled from 11 thousand to 35 thousand!

Dave's informative yet compassionate way of narrating the footage taken by voluntary staff and volunteers makes the series special as it comes straight from the Founder. Many viewers wish to see more of us and have enrolled in the youtube membership program with now 104 active members.



Laura filming the
wild troop

Education

In January the High School Ben Viljoen from Groblersdal visited with 32 teenagers to learn more about the monkeys and their natural habitat. Education manager Rentia McLenson explained about the terrible long-term effects of having a pet monkey and ways on how to live peacefully with primate neighbours.

Further scheduled events have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

Outreach

We hoped to increase our outreach programme in 2020 to inform the local population about monkeys, sustainable living and waste management. Unfortunately, these projects had to be cancelled. Instead, international awareness for the VMF and the monkeys in need has increased through online platforms.

For the future, the VMF will work with local communities to promote understanding for the monkeys and local wildlife, compassion for all animals through a vegan lifestyle and a sustainable living.

Education manager Rentia



High School Ben Viljoen



European Events

Hilde Olbrechts (VMF Europe Events Co-ordinator) is managing all the events on the European continent. Throughout the pandemic, she tried to find new forms of event management. Unfortunately, the year 2020 has been a non-starter for events as all 8 events were cancelled due to lockdowns all over the world and in many European countries.

Thank you, Hilde, for endlessly making the best of the situation. We are grateful to have you on our team.

UK Events

All 6 events in the UK were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Thanks to Shellie Robinson's (UK events coordinator) endless efforts for making connections within UK.

VMF Director Josie Humble was invited by the Humane Wildlife Solutions & Animal Aid to give an online presentation representing VMF at the Wildlife Summit, London Vegfest UK. The presentation was named 'Vegan volunteering and the Wildlife Connection' with the intention to spread awareness to the ethical side of volunteering, everyday lifestyle choices, connections to the animals we care about and how wildlife and habitat is impacted.

Thank you Shellie, for your hard work to raise awareness in the UK for the VMF and the monkeys in need.



Hilde



Shellie

Fundraising

The year 2020 had been a very difficult year financially and as much as we needed the funding, the amazing support and encouragement we received was very much welcomed. PASA enabled us to create Facebook Fundraisers, which had been more successful than previously anticipated. A total of 6 birthday and another 7 other themed fundraisers were started to support the monkeys financially.

Two justgiving campaigns have been started to raise funds to supply food for the monkeys during the lockdown and to lower the burden the increase of food prices.

For people who enjoy a treat for their donation, Hana has set up a Patreon page had been created where once a week a monkey is portrayed in a special story just about them.

The previously on-paper troop adoptions have been modernised to online adoptions. This does not only save paper it also allows us to update more frequently. Currently available for adoptions are Gimli and Calypso's Corner (the blind troop).

Former social media intern Primrose Manning launched an all-vegan recipe book with all time favourite dishes from different chefs, nutritional advice and stories about the monkeys at the VMF. Prime-eats has been a very popular gift for Christmas.

We are grateful for all the fundraisers, donors and supporters. Without your help, the VMF wouldn't have survived this year financially. Thank you!

Vervet Forest

VERVET MONKEY FOUNDATION

CHICKEN
Global troop



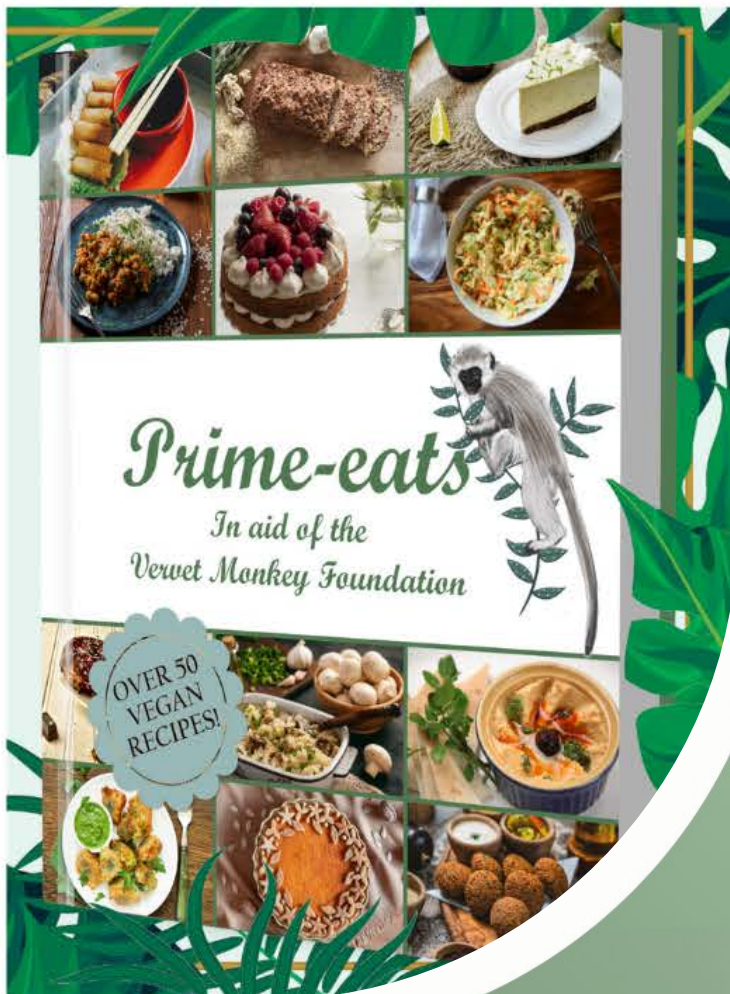
VMF - Vervet Forest



Josie's fundraiser for Vervet Monkey Foundation
Fundraiser for PASA Primates: Pan African Sanctuary Alliance by Josie Humble



Welcome to the VMF Adoption Site!

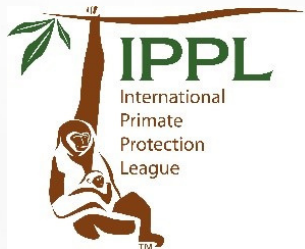


Grants

2020 had been exceptionally difficult financially. We are blessed to have received several grants without which truly helped the VMF survive this year.

The Humane Society International donated towards emergency grants via PASA (Pan African Sanctuary Alliance).

GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries) and PASA both granted emergency funds to help during the pandemic.



Gratefully we received a grant towards general funds from International Primate Protection League (IPPL). \$5000 was granted to be used where needed.

All grants have been used to cover the costs for food to secure the basic needs of the monkeys on site. After the lockdown, food prices increased tenfold as local markets closed and other suppliers had to be found. Without the generous grants by GFAS, PASA and IPPL, we wouldn't have been able to cover this increase in costs.

Thank you!

Thanks to
the grants
all
monkeys
got well
fed



PASA/GFAS

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 Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) is dedicated to the sole purpose of strengthening and supporting the work of animal sanctuaries, rescues, and rehabilitation centers worldwide. In October 2015, the VMF was the first in Africa to be accredited.

During 2020 no workshops were able to be held due to the pandemic. However PASA in conjunction with GFAS organised several online webinars for the sanctuaries one of which Dave Du Toit (VMF Founder) was asked to be a speaker on the topic of peer to peer funding.

VMF would like to thank PASA and GFAS for their emergency grant support this year and outstanding concerns for the sanctuary during these times.



Matti jr



Litchie
and Gimli

The Year Ahead

This coming year will be about rebuilding, completing unfinished projects and ensuring sustainability through the unknown pandemic as changes occur:

- Continue Main Feed storage and prep area
- Repair sickbay's leaking roof, paint floor, install new meds sink area & re-tile current surgery
- Re-build the voluntary staff team & local team focusing on engagement and training
- Increase revenue through new sources started last year, start Satchmo adoption, increase Patreon and youtube members
- New cupboard for Mariposa baby prep area
- Maintenance & painting of introduction cages
- Continue integrations of monkeys into social groups with a focus on Floki, Jane & Arlo, Skylar and partnering our current singly housed monkeys.
- Start a more comprehensive operations manual
- Implement more LEAN strategies to save on resources and time
- Rebuild better waste areas
- Improve volunteer areas for when international volunteers arrive again

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE VMF DURING 2020, THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT HAS TRULY WARMED OUR HEARTS & HELPED KEEP THE MONKEYS SAFE

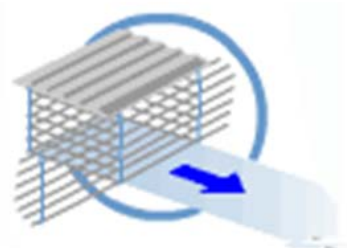
Panacur with Ducat





Vervet Monkey Foundation

Annual report 2020



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