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**VERVET MONKEY FOUNDATION**

REHABILITATION • EDUCATION • SANCTUARY



# Vervet Monkey Foundation

Annual report 2021





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Vervet Monkey Foundation 2021



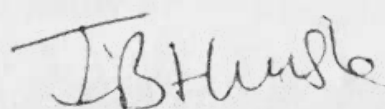
# Introduction

In 2021, the amount of monkeys in need of help nearly doubled. Thus, this year has been a juggle between the challenges of so many new arrivals and the limited human and financial resources but again much was still achieved.

As many of the arriving monkeys had been illegally kept in human care like pets, we have now added a new category in this report to address this issue and its complications. Furthermore, a large number of victims of human-wildlife conflict were handed in, all in need of special care. To accommodate the special care patients, we have focused our attention this year on improving sickbay and the adjusted meds kitchen. We were also able to build a new surgery through the generous donation which was a future dream for us. The increase in orphan arrivals meant we had to revamp many of our introduction cages for the foster mum programme. It did mean we had to pause some other projects such as the new food prep area which will be continued this coming year.

The Friends of the Vervet Monkey Foundation was officially registered as a US charity, a big achievement for the VMF with great help by Lana Bru and Trisha Fravel. With gratitude to PASA, GFAS, the QATO foundation, Lush SA and many more who granted us with funds to support the additional infrastructure needed to house the many new monkeys who call the VMF their home.

This year, the VMF welcomed some new volunteers at the VMF, while many were still unable to come due to travel restrictions. We are very grateful for every volunteer who was able to come and make such a difference during a year requiring many helping hands. Thank you to our local and the voluntary staff team who have been loyally standing with us during the past two challenging years, their endless dedication along with our many supporters has enabled us to accomplish far more than we could have hoped for.



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





Management team 2021



## Covid-19 impacts

In February 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic. VMF has since tried to find ways of overcoming various challenges caused by the consequential lockdowns and travel restrictions lasting long into the year 2021.

As we receive no government support, international volunteers represent for a long time have been our main source of income. Due to the international travel ban, the numbers of international volunteers remained significantly decreased from the years before travel bans. This also imposed high pressure on our international voluntary team and local team who had to manage the additional workload.

Throughout most of the year, international events to promote the VMF in the UK and Europe continued to be cancelled. Relief came in November, when finally we could represent ourselves at 3 events in the UK and 3 more in Europe. These events played a major contribution to recruiting many volunteers in November and December - desperately needed for an extremely busy baby season.

We acquire the majority of our food from local small farmers in the area, supporting the local communities. Many of these local farmers had to either close or sell food for human only consumption since the beginning of the pandemic. Thus, the VMF continues to purchase much of the food at market price for the monkeys which is sometimes up to ten times higher in cost. This increase has been a continued pressure on the finances that became very worrisome.





local team during lockdown



Pumpkin  
and Pokie



## Arrivals

The VMF welcomed 58 new arrivals to the VMF (87% more than the year before), many of whom required specialised care:

- 40 vervet orphans (100% increase from the year before)
- 1 orphaned baby samango monkey (Nino)
- 1 blind baby orphan (Leila)
- 6 wild rescues (Gordi, Charlotte, Cindy, 3 adult males who passed away on the way to the vets due to their injuries)
- 2 ex-pet bushbabies (Donna & Kyrie - both released to the wild)
- 5 former pet juveniles (Brendakaye, Lolo, Peanut, Mrs Potts, Chip)
- 1 former pet female Nita, 21 years old
- 1 former breeding pair for the pet trade with their son (Aaryan, Amaya, and son Aarav)

Baby Season 2020/2021 has seen an increase in baby arrivals than the previous year, while baby season 2021/22 started much earlier on 1st of October with many very small babies (less than three days old).

This year we also cooperated with Johannesburg Wildlife Vets who handed 19 monkeys over in 2021. They care for many former pet monkeys from the Gauteng Area, as well as many rescue monkeys. One of these rescues was Ozge, a four months old baby who suffered neurological issues and potential brain damage and was stabilised at the Johannesburg Wildlife Vets. Upon arrival at the VMF most of her symptoms were completely gone and she was successfully introduced to the James troop.





Claudette Marie



Chip



Leila



## Pet Monkeys

The Vervet Monkey Foundation continues to advocate not keeping any primate as a pet. Besides being illegal to keep any indigenous primate as a pet in South Africa, we have seen vervets, baboons, samango monkeys and bushbabies being kept as pets which can lead to major psychological and physical damage. For humans, primate pets can pose a risk due to aggression and often unpredictable behaviour as they cannot live the life they were supposed to in the wild.

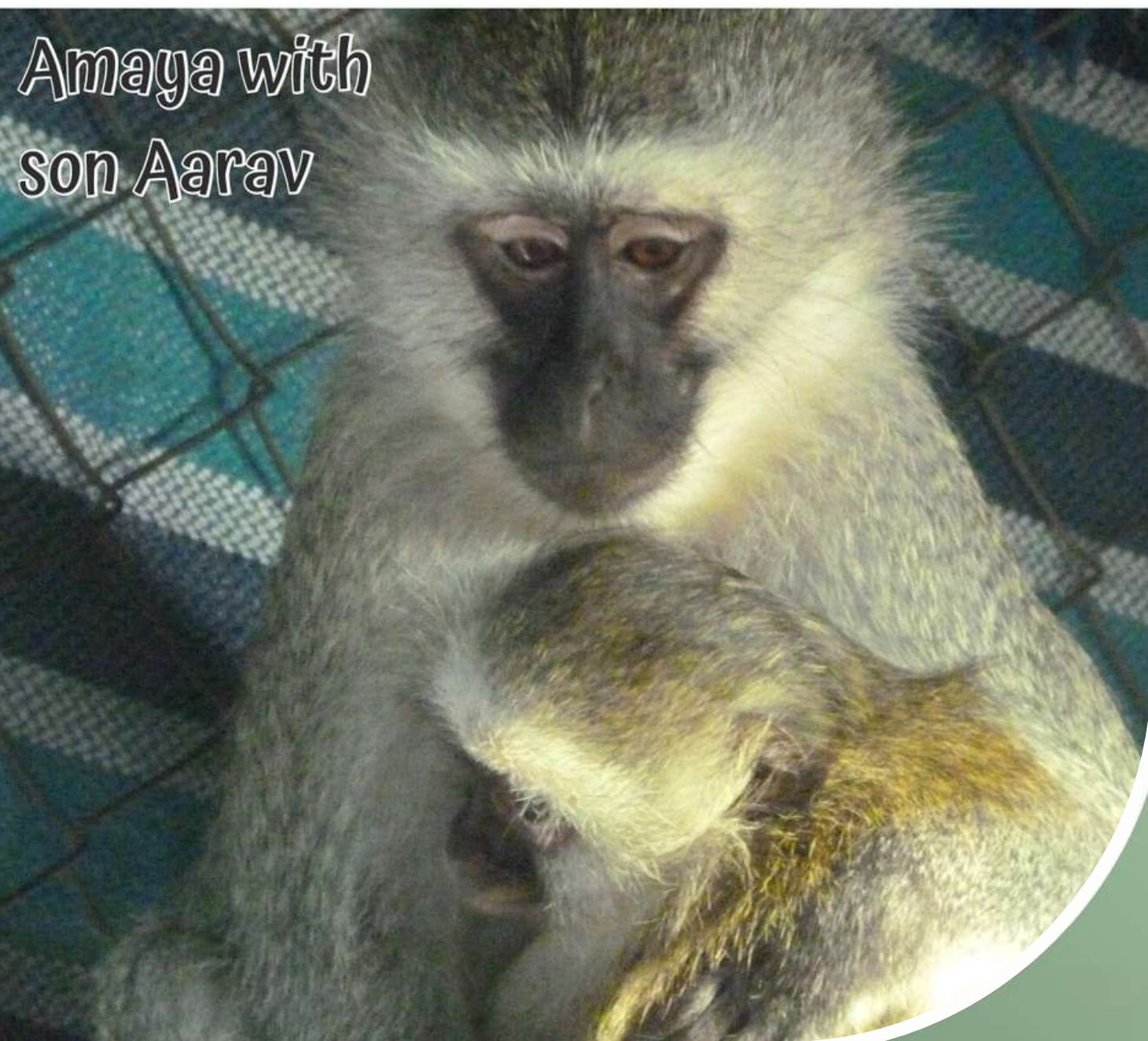
After years of outreach and education programs, the VMF has seen a decline in adult pets around the Tzaneen area, most pets are handed in whilst still a baby or juvenile (in their first two years in life). Sadly, there are exceptions to the rule such as Quinn who arrived in 2020. He was kept as a pet for 5 years since he was a small baby. As he never met other monkeys before his arrival at the VMF, he struggles communicating with them. Instead, he craves for human attention and presents himself to the staff team to be groomed. At the same time, he can be very aggressive and has been known to bite people as he is confident with humans. Therefore, only specially trained staff are allowed to groom him to give him the social contact he still needs. Quinn has regularly come to sickbay due to complex health issues. He suffers from nausea, weight loss and poor overall condition. An x-ray revealed his liver is enlarged probably due to poor diet in previous years and he needs to take medication for the rest of his life.

Another shocking case arrived in late May. Amaya (female) and Aaryan (male) were kept as a breeding pair in order to sell their babies into the pet trade. Both were confiscated when Amaya just gave birth to a little boy called Aarav. The three stayed with the Johannesburg Wildlife Vets where Aaryan was vasectomised to avoid any further breeding. Amaya and Aaryan are both exceptionally close to their baby and Amaya is extremely protective of him, showing aggression to humans when coming too close. One can only imagine the trauma she suffered when her babies were taken away from her shortly after birth to sell, as vervets are very caring and protective mothers.





Quinn



Amaya with  
son Aarav



## Releases

Whenever possible and appropriate, the VMF releases wild monkeys back to their own troops in the wild after recovery. When wild monkeys are brought to the VMF, we record the day, time and exact 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 Nita who was kept illegally with humans for 21 years are also unreleasable. Often former pets suffer from different mental and physical conditions. Monkeys like her 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 2021 was an unfortunate year for vervet releases. Three male wild rescued monkeys were so severely injured, that they passed away not long after their arrival. We hoped to return Pokie back to her troop. Pokie is a six month old baby who was hit by a car. Unfortunately, her troop couldn't be located and she was integrated to Gismo troop instead. There was one successful vervet release named Busi, a juvenile female, was handed over to the VMF in May. She suffered a mild concussion that she recovered from completely. Busi returned to her family troop in the wild.

Early November, the VMF welcomed two bushbabies who were kept as pets. Kyrie and Donna had a history of biting humans, thus their 'owners' kept them mainly in a cage. Fortunately for the release, this meant that both bushbabies didn't interact with humans too much and still had many wild instincts. Thus, we were able to release them softly in the onsite indigenous bush observing them to ensure they could hunt insects and live a fully wild life.



# Bushbaby Kyrie





## Foster Mums

The VMF foster mum programme was first established in 2011. Since then we enabled 217 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. 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.

In 2021, 27 orphans were integrated through the foster mum programme to live a more natural life in 11 troops. It was Skunkey troop's second year as a fostermum troop and they accepted three babies in their ranks. All adult females in Skunkey troop showed exceptional interest in the babies. The orphaned babies from the previous year, Rene, Button and Rox enjoyed having new playmates and welcomed the babies as soon as they moved to the introduction cage.

Sadly, three orphans who were older and kept in human hands for long were unable to be integrated with fostermums. Glenn, Katy and Jenny were very humanised and strongly bonded to each other. Despite a long integration process and the females trying to initiate contact, all three babies refused to engage with adult females. They were eventually united with three juveniles who also were kept as pets and with whom they stayed at the Johannesburg Wildlife Vets. All six now enjoy a larger double introduction area as their new home next to Robert troop.





Bru with Maggs  
and Rene



Kate holding  
Finley



## 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 2021, 34 monkeys were successfully integrated into social groups.

27 vervet orphans were successfully integrated with foster mums in 11 enclosures (Gismo, Goliath, D&D, Koko, Engeltije, SAAV, Skunkey, Skrow, James, Global, JALamango). Adult female Skylar was integrated into the H&B Enclosure.

Nino joined Mango, Zea and Satchmo in JALamango Enclosure. Satchmo (2 years old) showed a lot of interest in the baby samango monkey and accepted him immediately as a new playmate. Zea, a 4 year old female, attempted to carry Nino on her belly, but is not quite old enough to be a fostermum. Mango wants to play with the baby boys a lot. His rougher play frightened Nino at first, but now they get along very well.

Cindy, an adult female who is quite humanised, has been introduced to adult female Suzie. Both are living next to Gismo troop in an introduction cage. There, they already have contact with the troop monkeys and exchange grooms through the fence. Suzie and Cindy seem to really enjoy each other's company a lot and choose to share a sleeping perch at night.

Floki, a two year old male with mobility difficulties, was introduced to Leelo, a semi-blind 3 year old female. In April, the blind orphan Leila joined the little group of Leelo and Floki. All three live in the right side at Calypso's Corner with many perches and ramps to accommodate for Floki's restricted movements.





Nino and  
Satchmo



Skylar



Jamie during  
integration



# Human Wildlife Conflict

Sadly, 2021 was a year in which we saw continued high numbers of human-wildlife conflicts. 4 monkeys were hit by cars and 6 babies' mothers have been killed by cars. 4 monkeys had been shot, while 4 babies were orphaned because their mothers had been shot and two more mothers were stoned to death. 21 monkeys have been kept illegally as pets prior to their arrival (15 more than last year), Lolo has been kept by a traditional herbalist, while one other was going to be eaten (Ozge).

Floki arrived in October 2020 after he was handed in by a rescue centre who couldn't keep him as they don't have a permit for vervets. They confiscated him when he was sold next to the road. To prevent Floki to run away, his legs were tied up with wire and pulled back, which led to severe dislocations. Floki underwent femoral head removal surgery shortly after his arrival. Initially, Floki's movement improved and he was able to be integrated with a social group at special needs troop Calypso's Corner. Unfortunately, late 2021, Floki struggled increasingly with balance and moving around. His right leg no longer aligned with the hip joint properly. Thus, he underwent a second surgery to stabilise his right leg. He now needs to rest to allow his muscles to heal.

In June, the VMF team was called out to assist a wild male who was dragging himself around. As his abilities to move were severely restricted, he was quickly trapped and brought to the vets. An x-ray revealed the sad truth. He had been shot several times, some of his bones were broken and he suffered immense internal damage so he sadly was humanely euthanised. The VMF reported the case to the SPCA for animal cruelty.

In July, Charlotte arrived after being shot in the head. The pellet was located at the top of her head. After weeks of critical care, she recovered fully and is now in the process to be integrated into an onsite troop. Charlotte is now one of our virtual adoption monkeys as she created quite a fan club which means interested people can follow her journey more in depth.







## Veterinarians

Like the previous year, in 2021 no vet was able to come out to vasectomise onsite males. Instead, local vet Dr. Larissa Odendaal at the Serala Animal Clinic gave us a reduced fee to perform vasectomies and funds were raised by previous VMF vet Dr Cheryl Chooljian. In total, 12 vasectomies were carried out. This procedure allows males the full range of natural behaviour while it prevents any reproduction. Additionally, five stray cats were neutered who have settled in living on the sanctuary as part of the trap, neuter, return programme.

In April, volunteer Guillaume Ducci used his knowledge in osteopathy to provide Floki with different sets of massages and manipulations to support healing and muscle building. Furthermore, Guillaume supported Cuddy through massages and stretches for her neck which is stiff after she was hit by a car five years ago. Thank you Guillaume!

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

- Ayeshe (James troop) was found in the troop with a large stick in her hip. The stick was removed during surgery in Serala Animal Clinic. Ayeshe has recovered with full mobility and returned to James troop.
- Mini Max (orphan baby) was found on a farm and was probably hit by a car. His leg was broken and required a pin in the femur. While the leg is healing he has to avoid any rough playing or climbing. As a little active baby, following the vet's advice can be difficult. Luckily, the volunteers are great at restricting his movements during recovery.
- Yolanda (orphan baby) was hit by a car. She suffered from concussion with seizures, dislocated right leg and arm, as well as a bruised chest. She is slowly recovering but still needs to rest her arm.





Ayeshe with a stick in her hip



Yolanda



## Maintenance

In 2021, the local staff still helped out in many areas the volunteer team is usually responsible for due to the limited volunteer numbers. This led to several maintenance projects being paused, such as the building of a new mainfeed area. Nevertheless, we managed to increase the quality of life for our monkeys and volunteers with several projects.

The biggest improvements of the year benefit the sick and injured monkeys. The wooden roof structure of sickbay has been replaced and the roof has been fixed, making it waterproof once again. Furthermore, the sickbay kitchen in which medications are prepared has been completely taken down and rebuilt with bricks to improve hygiene and sustainability. A purpose built new surgery cabin was put up just behind sickbay making the transport between the two buildings more secure. The cabin is also larger and lighter than the old one, which allows for more storage and a better work environment when dealing with any emergency cases.

After the break-in and the theft of many tools, new more secure tool sheds have been prioritised. The foundations and most of the brick walls have been erected. The new tool sheds will be finished in 2022, before then focusing on the new mainfeed area once again.

Further projects were able to be completed:

- Revamping introduction cages for fostermums and babies
- Larger double cage for ex-pet juveniles Lolo, Peanut, Brendakaye, Glenn, Katy and Jenny
- Built a bigger enclosure for Apie and Jamba
- Revamping and rebranching of multiple introduction cages to increase environmental enrichment and improve hygiene for the monkeys
- Shade for voluntary staff cabins
- Improved volunteer village showers with doors and flower beds

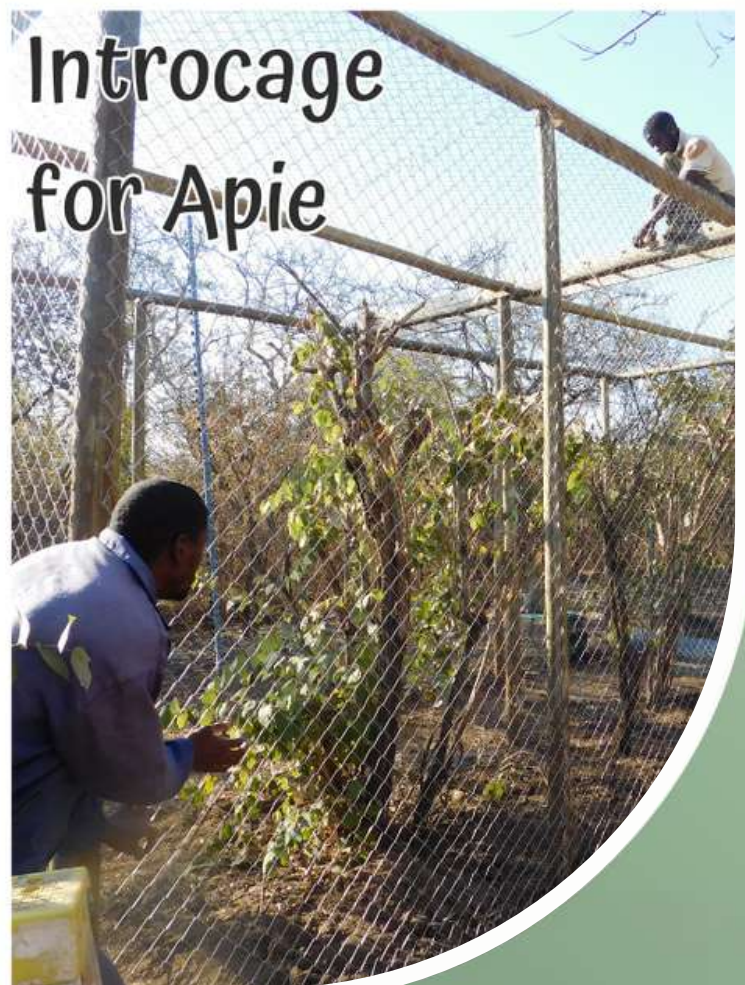




Robert A  
extension



New Surgery



Intro cage  
for Apie



## Staff and Interns

In 2021, the VMF was able to rebuild most of the voluntary staff team and we are delighted to see the sanctuary running smoothly with many helping hands. We aimed to overlap the time new staff members could spend with leaving members to ensure detailed training. Unfortunately, due to remaining uncertainties while travelling and newly imposed travel bans, this wasn't always possible.

We were delighted to welcome 5 new voluntary staff members, of whom two (Connie and Jamie) are returning interns. Currently, Dustin is our only South African voluntary staff member in addition to our South African staff team and we hope to recruit more local community members into our voluntary team. Furthermore, four interns supported the team. Ellie changed her position from baby mum to Volunteer Manager. Sadly, Ann was unable to get a long-term visa for South Africa.

We thrive to continuously improve the quality of our work and the care for the monkeys through training for the team. This year, we invited Michelle (a mental health community partner from the UK) via zoom to give tips and tricks to stay mentally strong and healthy through the uncertainty the pandemic brought with it, as well as the increased work load on the team. Former volunteer Lana Bru conducted a training on LEAN method to standardise and improve efficiency and work flow. Other training included monkey nutrition, internal parasites, leadership according to Dale Carnegie, baby care and safe methods of trapping a monkey.

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 local staff team saw some changes and welcomed new faces to the team. Big thank you to Sammy, Innocent, Solly, Godfrey, Kletter, Mossassa, John, Lucas, Phanwel, Thabo, Grandwell, Gloria and Susan. With thanks to all the support we were able to hold an extra special end of year gathering for the local team to thank them for all the additional help.





LEAN training for the team



Phanuel caring for the spinach



Ellie



# 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, remained extremely low for most of the year. Only in November and December, we fortunately saw a significant increase in volunteers to a total of 56 volunteers (compared to 133 pre-lockdown) throughout the year 2021. Six volunteers were returning volunteers and 4 were South African volunteers who volunteered for free board and accommodation as we needed the extra hands and wanted to create more opportunities locally. South Africa's economy is very poor during this period and so it worked out as a mutual benefit to all.

The volunteer village saw an upgrade in the shower complex to further increase the volunteering experience. All showers in the volunteer village and for private cabins now have large flower beds and the village showers have monkey-proof doors for increased hygiene. Further flower beds are now to be found in the village, impressing arriving volunteers with the full blossom of African beauty.

Cybelle Planete, one of our largest volunteering organisations we work with, had to reduce their team significantly. The travel restrictions has impacted the volunteering business drastically with many people postponing or cancelling their volunteering plans. Cybelle Planete can thus no longer represent the VMF and other projects in France. We are deeply saddened by the end of this long and successful cooperation. Big thank you to Cybelle Planete for the years we worked with them.





Jet feeding  
Cosimo



Lucas helping  
with maintenance

Aurelien and Loucas





## Visitors

As a result of international travel bans and the national lockdown, the numbers of visitors has dropped considerably.

15 local and international visitors arrived for guided tours to learn about the monkeys (this was a 93% decrease in numbers from pre-pandemic times).

## 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 and plenty of rain.

Security – there was one instance of theft in 2021 (same number as the previous year) in which many tools and important equipment was stolen. The losses accumulated to nearly 20,000R - a heavy toll on our finances. Thus, the VMF has further increased the sanctuary wide alarm system. Besides the panic buttons all staff members carry at night time, light beam detectors have been installed that send alarms to Dave and security staff SD Victor. SD and John continue to patrol the perimeter at night time.

Timmy and George (Dave's dogs) and Rocky (Josie's dog) keep watch at night time.





Floki



## Media

In 2020, the VMF participated in the UK TV series *Work on the Wild Side*. This led to so much attention, that we have been invited to participate in the South African TV series *Wild Orphan Rescue* which was broadcasted on South African television.

In March, Co-Director Josie was interviewed by Nancy Arenas for the *Vegan Pulse* on youtube. Nancy and Josie discussed veganism as well as the work of the VMF in South Africa. Another highlight was shed on the volunteering opportunities at the sanctuary. Thank you Nancy for spreading the word!

A big success with the Youtube series. It is now in its 5th season, raising awareness with an ever-growing audience. Since the beginning of the year, the subscriber numbers have risen from 35 thousand to 45.5 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 154 active members.

A new feature VMF fans around the world can enjoy are the weekly livestreams on Youtube. Every weekend (Saturdays and Sundays), we stream live from Disneyland and several different introduction cages and enclosures. This has become a weekly ritual with many of the around 70 viewers who engage in active communication with the sanctuary using the live chat.





Dustin filming Hoppy  
returning home



# Wild Orphan Rescue

Wild Orphan Rescue included multiple wildlife sanctuaries, rescue centres and game reserves highlighting the daily challenges, tasks and successes, one of them the VMF. After filming in 2020, Wild Orphan Rescue was aired in July 2021 in South Africa on SABC 3 during prime time. You can also gain access to the show on ShowMax. We were very excited about seeing Floki opening the series.

In a total of 4 episodes, the stories of several different monkeys were highlighted:

- Floki, the one-year old juvenile, who was sold beside the road and his legs were pulled out of the hip sockets. The film crew accompanied Animal Manager Mark taking Floki to the vets for a femoral head removal surgery. Tension is in the air, will it be successful?
- Toni arrived severely dehydrated and hypothermic in November 2019. For a two week old baby, this is a life-threatening condition. Josie works tirelessly to save this precious baby until help arrives in unexpected form - baby boy Pascall, less than a week old and highly traumatised after his mum was stoned to death and eaten in front of his eyes, will befriend Toni and give him the strength to recover.
- It is the second time in the history of Skunkey troop to adopt baby orphans. Bru, Kinney and Punim are hoping for the love of a mum and the protection of the troop when the big release day approaches. Are the Skunkey mums going to establish themselves?

The show that was broadcasted two episodes on Sundays for seven weeks made a big impact on the audience. Many viewers reached out to us and acknowledged us for our work. This outreach in South Africa is very much needed to educate about our furry friends. Big thank you to SABC and Kuhle Media for this amazing opportunity and the wonderful cooperation!



SERIES PREMIERE  
5 JULY SUNDAY 5PM



SABC 3  
OPEN UP



## WILD ORPHAN RESCUE

EVERY ORPHAN HAS A STORY

Fremantle

KUHLE

Toni and Pascall (above)





## Social Media

One of our goals for 2021 was to further 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.

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.

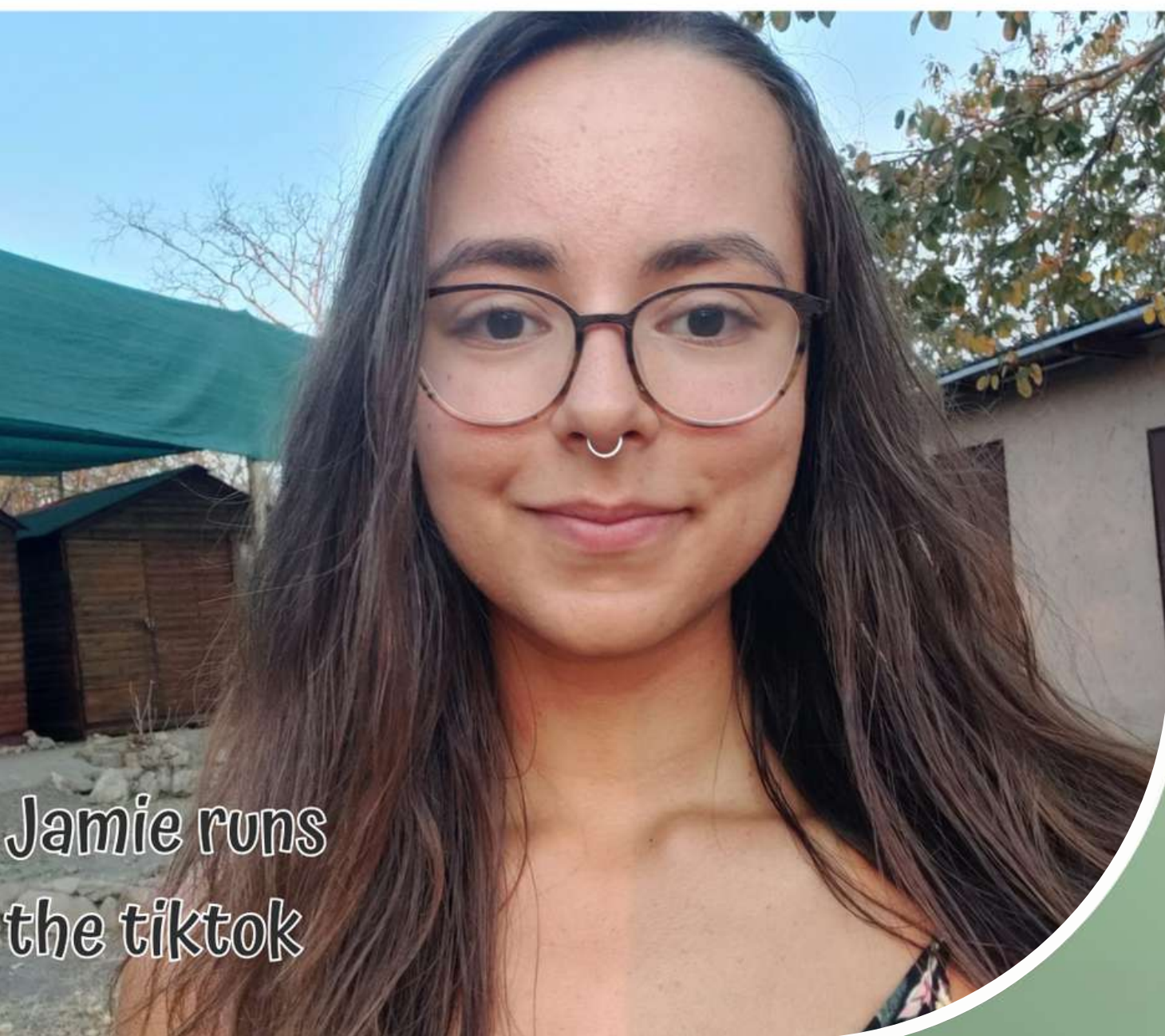
A livestream was broadcasted on Instagram to document and share Jason's crushcage challenge for Apie's new enclosure. The opening ceremony for Apie was also streamed live on Instagram, resulting in a total of an additional \$870 donations for Apie and her partner Jamba. More livestreams during baby releases followed this amazing success.

In 2021, the VMF created a tiktok account to promote our work to a new audience. Currently, 1140 followers enjoy little funny videos of monkeys and educational messages about the rehabilitation of vervets at the VMF. Thank you Jamie for running the tiktok and winning attention of the younger generations.





Social media  
star Charlotte



Jamie runs  
the tiktok



## Education

In November Orchid Primary School (formally Hillside) from Tzaneen visited with 52 students aged 7-9 years. Interested in their local wildlife, they were eager to learn more about the monkeys and their natural habitat. Sickbay staff Becky Easter and Volunteer Manager Ellie Pandolfi explained about the terrible long-term effects of having a pet monkey and ways on how to live peacefully with primate neighbours. The kids loved it and thanked by drawing the monkeys they have met.

Further scheduled events have been cancelled due to the pandemic.

## Outreach

We hoped to reinstall our outreach programme in 2021 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. We hope 2022 will give us the chance.



# Orchid Primary School





## European Events

Hilde Olbrechts (VMF Europe Events Co-ordinator) is managing all the events on the European continent. Even though most events were cancelled due to the lockdown restrictions, Hilde worked continuously to spread the word. In September, she taught the students of the school KA De Ring in Leuven, Belgium about the monkeys in 2 sessions.

Furthermore, Hilde represented the VMF at the Vegan A'fairs in Brugges, Belgium and spread awareness at the IARC in Luxemburg. These events sparked new interest in the VMF and volunteering here. Thank you, Hilde, for your endless work!

## UK Events

2021 continued to be impacted by the pandemic for the first half of the year. We were pleased to return to events in the U.K. for the last part of the year with the hope that 2022 will be back to normal for our event program!

In November, Shellie was able to represent the VMF with a stall at the Bath Vegan Festival, Great Yorkshire Vegan Christmas Market and Manchester Vegan Christmas Market.

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







## Funding

Facebook Birthday Fundraiser have risen in popularity over the last years. This year, we had an amazing 5 birthday fundraisers on facebook and one additional facebook fundraiser. One of them was Dave's birthday fundraiser on facebook and buymeacoffee. He raised a total of \$5000 for repairing and maintaining facilities.

The 2020 established virtual adoptions see a rise in popularity. Currently, 78 members have adopted one or more of the three available adoption packs, raising \$3952,00. Besides the Gimli and the Calypso's Corner adoption, we now also offer to adopt Charlotte.

The recipe book Prime-eats created by Primrose Manning in memory of Will Laurent last festive season has continued to be very successful. It is now our most sold item in the shop.

To say thank you to our local team, we created a fundraiser on justgiving to raise \$2000, which were distributed among the local staff and their families.

A big thank you to Jason Van Den Bosch, integration staff. Jason raised £1000 to build a new enclosure for former pet monkey Apie and her partner Jamba. To spice the fundraiser up, he spent 24h in a crushcage. This challenge was broadcasted on Instagram as a livestream and raised another £870 which helped replacing many of the tools which were stolen around the same time. In early August, Jason had the honour of opening the enclosure to Apie. The joy and excitement for this beautiful and much larger compartment was shared on Instagram on livestream.

We are grateful for all the fundraisers, donors and supporters. Without the help from all our supporters, the VMF would have struggled to survive this year financially. Thank you!

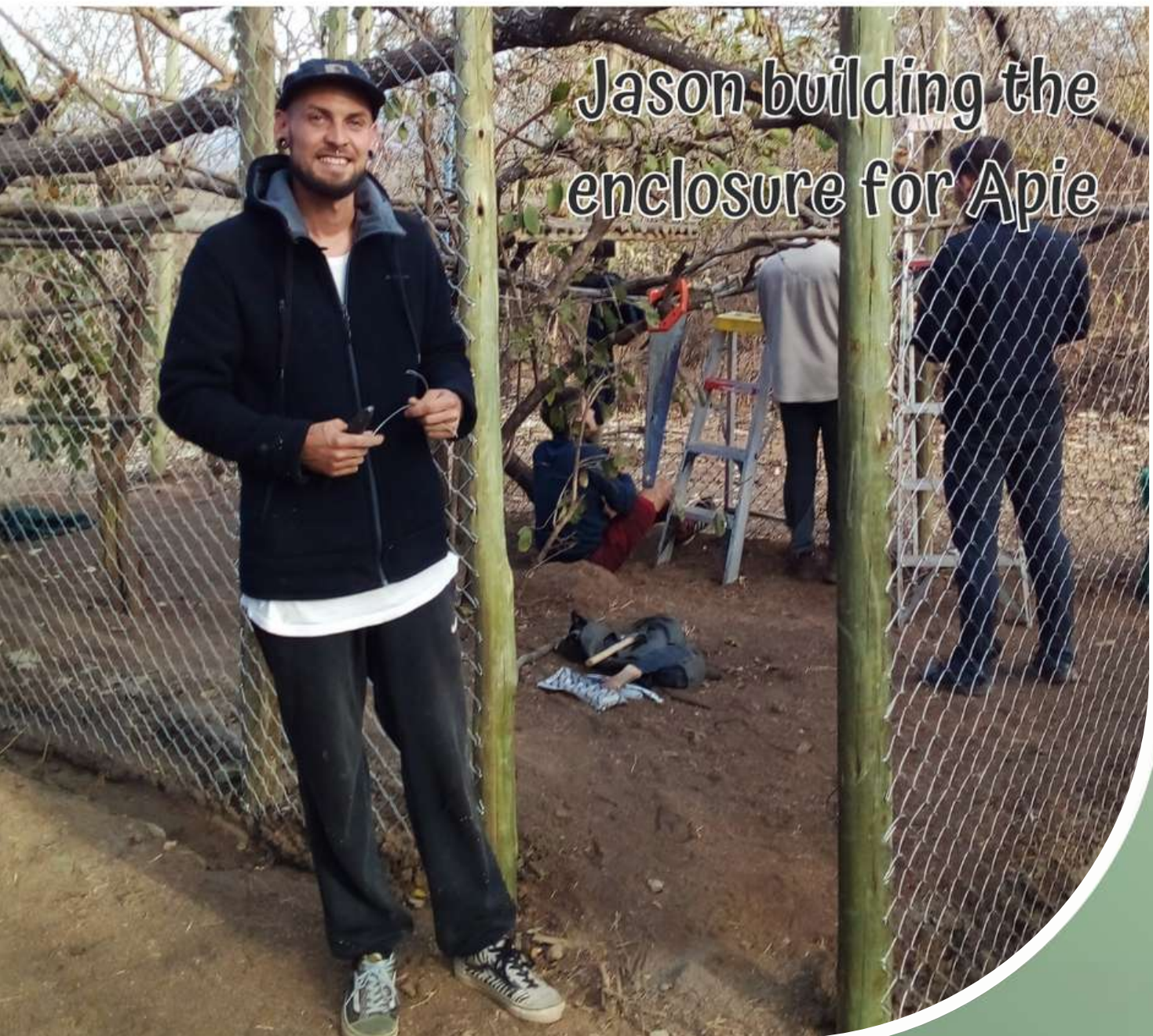




Apie



Jason in the  
crushcage



Jason building the  
enclosure for Apie



## Donations of Note

In 2021, we have been blessed with generous donors and supporters whose help has made a significant difference. A very special thanks to Linda Wylie, Robyn Hawkins, V-Bandits Restaurant in Ludwigsburg and Lisa Bavakos, Isa and Manu from A Notre Tour.

Linda Wylie donated generously towards a new surgery building. Rebuilding surgery had been a long-term project we have been planning for more than four years. Thanks to Linda, we were finally able to erect the spacious and bright building which now has enough room for emergency treatment, stocks keeping and even a bed for night time care of critical patients. Big thank you, Linda!

After new surgery, sickbay was revamped. The new sickbay kitchen was equipped with new cupboards and counters thanks to Robyn Hawkins donations. Now, all medication, supplements, remedies and equipment are neatly and clearly stored, allowing quick access to everything we need to care for our patients.

V-Bandits Restaurant in Ludwigsburg, Germany whose owner Lisa Bakavos volunteered with us in November 2019 donated towards a new sink to complete the beautiful and well-light meds kitchen. This improved the hygiene significantly and makes preparing treats for the monkeys and even doing dishes is now a delight. Thank you, V-Bandits Restaurant!

The milks cabin Mariposa has also seen an upgrade. Thanks to A Notre Tour by Isa and Manu donated large cupboards for storing bottles, milk powder, brushes and much more. Mariposa is now more organised which helps volunteers to find everything they need with no problems. Thank you, Isa and Manu!





New Surgery



New Sink  
Area



New cabinets  
in meds  
kitchen



## US Charity

Late October, we were able to reach a major milestone. The VMF has finally been accepted in the US as a charity under the name **Friends of the Vervet Monkey Foundation**.

This amazing achievement brings several positive changes for our US American volunteers and donors. Any volunteer who would like to visit us and work with us can now claim up to 40% of the volunteering fee for tax reduction. Furthermore any donations on the US based paypal account at [info@vervetforest.org](mailto:info@vervetforest.org) can now also be claimed for tax deduction. Anyone wishing to receive a receipt can contact us at [info@vervet.za.org](mailto:info@vervet.za.org).

Big thank you to Lana Bru and Trisha Fravel for their amazing help setting up the US charity. You have been an essential part of this project. The VMF and all monkeys thank you!





Thank you  
Lana!



## Grants

2021 had been continuously challenging financially. We are blessed to have received several grants which truly helped the VMF survive this year.

Through PASA, the VMF received grants from Kindness in Action and the QATO Foundation.

Former volunteer Lana Bru was successful in securing several grants. She successfully applied for the WAVES (Weyerhaeuser Active Volunteer Employees) program and the Martin Luther King Day of Service. She also won the Green Acts of Kindness Challenge with a great idea of a water-saving system for her home desert of Arizona. Big thank you to Lana for her great engagement!

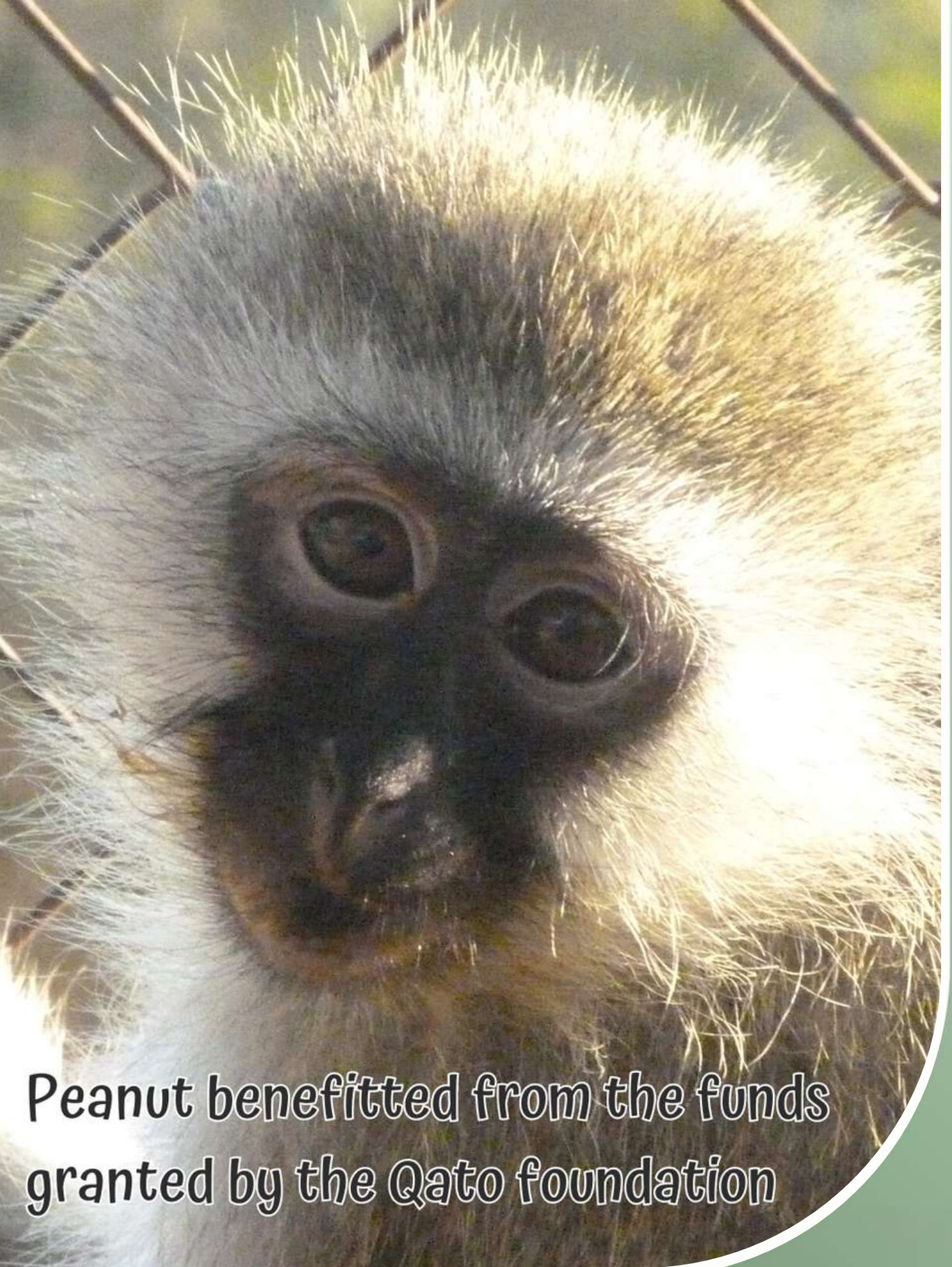
Lush SA granted funds of R15,000 to cover general running costs to ease the impact of the pandemic.



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, medical costs and to secure the basic needs of the monkeys on site. The continue lack of volunteers due to the travel restrictions keep our finances limited. Without these generous grants, we would have had great difficulty being able to sustain through these difficult times. Thank you!





Peanut benefitted from the funds  
granted by the Qato foundation



## PASA/GFAS

The Vervet Monkey Foundation 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. In 2021, the Vervet Monkey Foundation passed the re-accreditation.

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. Dave Du Toit (VMF Founder) was asked to be a speaker on the topics of peer to peer funding and responsible images of non-human primates.

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



Mark taking  
pictures for the  
reaccreditation



Dave talking  
about monkeys





## The Year Ahead

We are proud of our accomplishments despite the challenges imposed by the travel restrictions of last year. For the coming year, we have some more ambitious plans, always in mind to make the life for the monkeys the best possible. After a great start implementing LEAN strategies to the sanctuary and noticing the positives effects, the VMF is committed to further improve any procedures with LEAN methods.

- Continue Main Feed storage and prep area
- Finish new brick tool shed
- Renew all wires in sickbay and install electricity and light in surgery
- Continue integrations of monkeys into social groups with a focus on regular socialisation shifts for single housed monkeys
- Continue creating a more comprehensive operations manual
- Recruitment of more direct volunteers
- Outreach project with a local school if Covid restrictions allow

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE VMF DURING 2021, THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT HAS TRULY WARMED OUR HEARTS & HELPED KEEP THE MONKEYS SAFE





Martha and  
Daisy-Mae

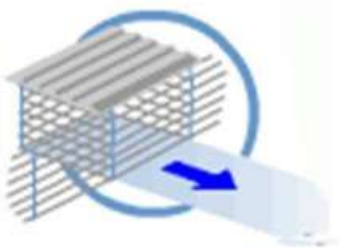




# Vervet Monkey Foundation

## Annual Report 2021

Friends  
of the  
vervets



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