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**VERVET MONKEY FOUNDATION**

REHABILITATION • EDUCATION • SANCTUARY



# Vervet Monkey Foundation

Annual report 2022



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Vervet Monkey Foundation 2022

# Introduction

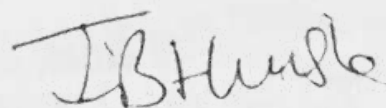
The year 2022 marked a significant turning point for our organization, reflecting a time of Rebuild and Renewal after the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges faced, we were able to make significant progress in our efforts to support and care for the monkeys in our sanctuary.

We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from our dedicated staff and volunteer team, as well as from our international community of supporters. Despite the difficulties we faced in maintaining our facilities and caring for the animals, our team never wavered in their commitment to providing the highest standard of care for each individual animal.

One of the most remarkable moments of the year was the story of Shallan, a juvenile monkey who survived a near-fatal experience from a high power line and was successfully returned to her home troop in the wild. Shallan's story was a testament to the resilience and strength of not only the animals in our care, but also a reminder of the strength and resilience of our sanctuary. Her story was a heartwarming reminder of the important work that our dedicated team is committed to every day.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to finding creative solutions and thriving, even in the face of ongoing challenges. With the continued support of our staff, volunteers, and international community, we are confident that we will be able to achieve our goals and make a meaningful difference in the lives of the monkeys but also to reach the greater vision of the Vervet Forest.

It is truly inspiring to see what can be accomplished by a small group of dedicated individuals working together for the animals.



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







## Arrivals

The VMF welcomed 47 new arrivals to the VMF (19% less than the year before, but 56% more than the annual average over the past 5 years), many of whom required specialised care:

- 37 vervet orphans (8% less than the year before)
- 1 orphaned baby samango monkey (Lili)
- 1 juvenile samango monkey (Zayda)
- 8 wild rescues (Jackson George, Beezer, Hugo, Simian, Shallan, Hope, a wild juvenile with tetanus, Marsian)

We are still seeing an increase in the orphan baby arrivals compared to previous years, especially pre-lockdown. Potentially this increase is due to closed rescue centres in our areas being unable to home any baby monkeys. During late Baby Season 2021/22, multiple orphans with severe head trauma were handed in and were in need of very specialised critical care.

The Baby Season 2022/23 started similarly early in October as the previous year. Luckily, most of the babies have been in good condition upon arrival.

This year we continued our cooperation with Johannesburg Wildlife Vets who handed 9 monkeys over in 2022. This year all these monkeys were under the age of one year and either integrated through the foster mum programme in a troop or in the process of integration.



Helen



Marsian



Luigi



## 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.

Zayda the Samango juvenile is sadly unreleasable as she was found as an orphan and then kept in human and veterinary care for over a year. Thus, she does not have a wild troop to be released to, instead she was integrated to the JALamango troop.

To our delight, we were able to release 5 monkeys back to their home troops.

- Beezer is a subadult male who was hit by a car.
- Jackson George was handed over by the rescue centre Moholoholo. He had a severely broken leg.
- Simian was found on the property with a shattered leg bone and a severe wound to the other leg.
- Hope suffered from a concussion (cause unknown) and was rescued in the Tzaneen area.
- Shallan touched a high-power line and suffered from severe electrocution. Learn more about her miracle recovery in the chapter dedicated to her. Shallan was released back to her troop halfway between Tzaneen and the sanctuary at a nearby lodge.

All monkeys have been healthy and fully recovered at the point of their release. Their troops accepted them back into their ranks with hugs and grooms. What a success!





Hope



Beezer



Beezer Release



## Foster Mums

The VMF foster mum programme was first established in 2011. Since then we enabled 255 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 2022, 38 orphans were integrated through the foster mum programme to live a more natural life in 11 troops (Gismo, Goliath, D&D, Koko, Engeltije, SAAV, Skunkey, Skrow, James, Global, JALamango). It was Skunkey troop's third year as a fostermum troop and they accepted another three babies in their ranks. All adult females and previous orphans in Skunkey troop showed exceptional interest in the babies. So far, Skunkey has now 9 orphaned babies (Rene, Button, Rox, Bru, Kinney, Punim, Roddy, Kappi and Daisy Mae) with another 5 waiting for their release in early January 2023.

With high expectations, we introduced orphaned babies to females at Holt & Barrington in November 2022. We are delighted and proud to say, that H&B has been even better than we could have imagined. Percy adopted Fudge in an instant, hugging and carrying him without hesitation. Baby Mara joined later and was adopted by Millie who adores her little girl. The troop has shown amazing response to the integration. Adult male Count comes over to check on them on a regular basis and to tell any human off who looks at his babies. Alpha female Hocus is excited to meet her new 'grandchildren' and even Mofassa in the neighboring introcage is very protective of his new family members. We couldn't be more pleased.





Percy with her  
adopted first baby Fudge



Mrs Gold with  
Grover and Sophie



Mara with Millie



# 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 2022, 43 monkeys were successfully integrated into social groups. That is an increase of 26% compared to previous year, due to the many arrivals in 2021.

38 vervet orphans were successfully integrated in troops through the fostermum programme and another 10 babies were paired up with their new adoptive mums.

Furthermore, 5 juveniles and adults were integrated into troops, while Jamba, Nita and Rocio formed a new family in the HOPE Enclosure fundraised by Jason Van Den Bosch the previous year.

Samango juvenile Zayda arrived when she was about 2 years old. Her ordeal started when she was still a small baby. After losing her mum she was found and taken in by a vet who raised her. Sadly, Zayda was sickly and suffered from chronic digestive issues. Initially, she stayed in sickbay for assessment and then due to baby Lili's integration, but finally in June Zayda moved to the introduction cage at JALamango. In August her integration started and since September, she is a fully accepted member of the Samango troop.

Floki's saga continues. He is a three-year old male with mobility difficulties. After being introduced to Leila and Leelo, he had to be taken out again to undergo further surgery and recovery time. After his recovery, he was reunited with Cuddy and both moved to their new special needs enclosure Groomingdale's. More about their fantastic journey in 'Groomingdale's'.





Keenan



Victoria, new  
integration staff



Zayda



## Veterinarians

Local vet Dr. Larissa Odendaal at the Serala Animal Clinic gave us once again a reduced fee to perform vasectomies. In total, 14 vasectomies were carried out. This procedure allows males the full range of natural behaviour while it prevents any reproduction.

In late September, a wild baby was seen with severe wounds. Her health deteriorated rapidly, therefore we trapped her and cared for her. The little girl was nicknamed 'Little Pudding' and placed into critical care. Sadly, she had contracted tetanus, the first case seen at the VMF in over 15 years. Despite our best work and the passionate dedication by Dr. Larissa to assist us around the clock, Little Pudding stood little chance to the brutal disease. We are grateful for the wonderful advice and support we received by Serala Animal Clinic and particularly Dr. Larissa.

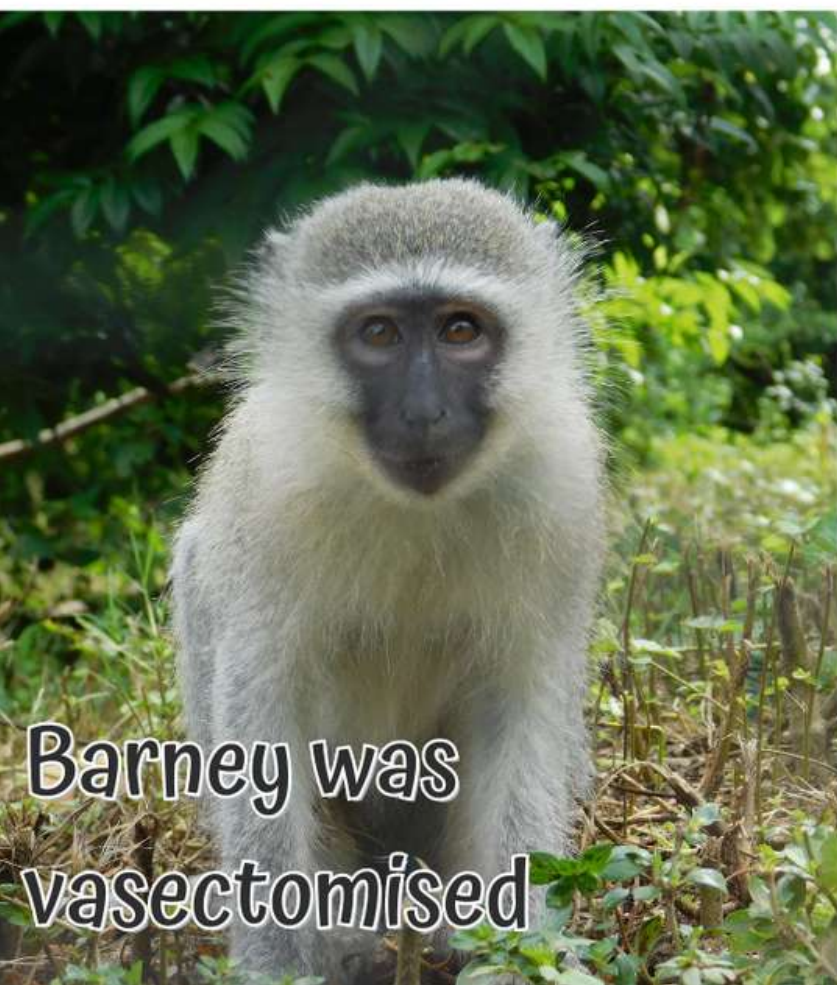
Luckily, we were able to help many other monkeys, including:

- Beau (orphan baby) was brought in extremely dehydrated, malnourished, with an open and infected head wound. It looked very grim, and he was given very little survival chance. Beau proved all predictions wrong and recovered in attentive care over the next weeks. He is now happily integrated to James troop.
- Jackson George (Rescue Juvenile) arrived on Easter Sunday with a severely broken leg. Luckily, he healed amazingly well and with physiotherapy regained full control over his leg. He was released back to his family troop in the wild.
- Thomas William (Skrow troop) was seen lethargic and not quite being himself. Therefore, he was trapped and thoroughly inspected. The subadult male struggled with chronic digestive issues, and dehydration. In Sickbay, he was cared for and received a mix between natural, herbal and veterinarian medicine. Slowly but steadily, he put on more weight and finally was brought back to his troop at Skrow enclosure. He is still checked daily and shows amazing improvements.





Beau



Barney was  
vasectomised



Jackson  
George

## Shallan

Shallan is a 1 year old female vervet girl whose story is a real miracle. We had to share her incredible story in a dedicated chapter just for her.

Shallan was found on the 8th August. Her troop lives around the Country Lodge close by and one day they noticed one of the monkeys struggling. They called us immediately. It turned out, that Shallan had touched a high power line and got badly electrocuted. Her life was hanging on a thin thread and needed instant critical care.

She suffered from severe wounds and burns, especially on her arms and her tail. The electricity also affected her internal organs and she developed peritonitis. Shallan was in serious pain and critical state, for long, her survival was on a knife's edge. Most electrocutions leave severe damage to the entire body often invisible from the outside. Sadly, the survival rate of electrocution victims is marginal low. However, Shallan was a true fighter. So, the vet and her carers chose to give her the chance she deserved.

Josie and Becky dedicated intensive care for her and slowly, she recovered. As Shallan always loved to roam around and to climb as high as possible, we were still hopeful even when she lost her right arm and her tail to the horrible injuries. Early October she moved to a larger cage in sickbay where she tested her climbing and moving abilities. To our surprise, they even exceeded all our expectations. Shallan stayed with us a bit longer to ensure she was in top condition and that the peritonitis was subdued to give her the best chances in the wild.

She was released to her home troop on the 28th October and has since been seen on numerous occasions to jump, play and forage with her family.

Thank you to everyone who cared for her, and a big thank everyone who donated towards her medical expenses. We are grateful for her fantastic recovery. Such a miracle!





In September before  
release





## Maintenance

In 2022, 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. Delightfully, we started working on the new Main Feed Area and have accomplished significant progress. The structural building is completed and only the interior furniture is required.

The big project was the building of the new enclosure for Floki and Cuddy. Groomingdale's is specifically designed to accommodate the mobility restrictions needed for Floki's recovery and long-term health. Also Cuddy is limited in her climbing abilities, thus particular attention has been focused on easy accessibility and safety.

As the sanctuary is very large, we installed a new internal telephone system. Now, it is very easy to reach sickbay, the office, the cottage, Dave or Josie - you only need to pick up the phone.

Further projects were able to be completed:

- New Tool Shed for better storage and security
- Introduction cages were equipped with fresh branches
- Sports Area behind the cottage for volunteers to enjoy ball games
- Improved private cabin showers with sinks and flower beds

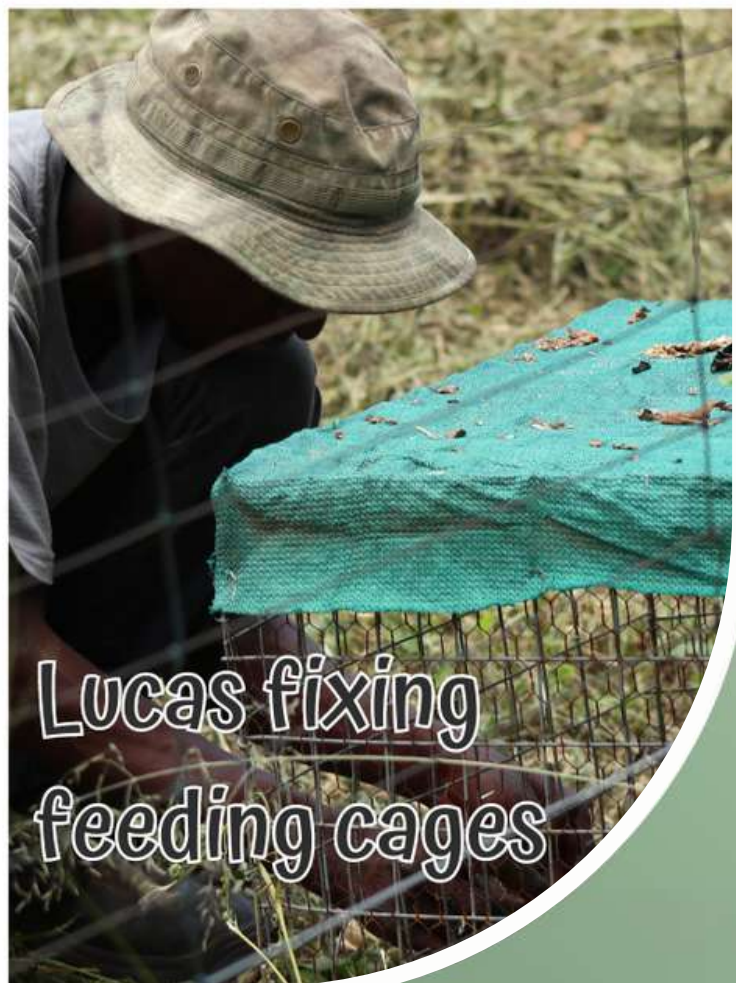




SD painting the  
new toolshed



New Telephones



Lucas fixing  
feeding cages



## Staff and Interns

In 2022, the VMF was able to recruit more 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, there have been significant delays with some of the visas. Sadly, because of that, we lost a hired long-term voluntary staff member and two are only able to come for short-term.

We were delighted to welcome 6 new voluntary staff members and 9 interns for six months. Baby Care Leader Sophie is a returning volunteer, sadly only on a short-term visa. We work hard to have her back in Baby Season 2023/24 on a long-term visa. Fellow South African Skye helped out for a year, organising the kitchen and bottom section animal care. Jess was originally hired as meds and critical care staff. She was promoted to the newly created Human Resources & Marketing position in October. She will start her new job in January 2023. Sickbay Staff Becky was promoted to Animal Manager and covered Mark's well deserved holidays in July to October. She will take on the full position in January 2023.

We thrive to continuously improve the quality of our work and the care for the monkeys through training for the team. This year the topics ranged from Health & Safety, Dale Carnegie inspired leadership, introduction to parasites, baby care to integration through the foster mum programme. Former volunteer Lana Bru conducted further training on LEAN method to standardise and improve efficiency and workflow with the voluntary team, as well as the local team.

Our Local Staff team continued to be led by the ever-smiling Local Staff Manager Innocent Mahuwa. This year, the local staff team welcomed Nhla Nhla to the team. Big thank you to Sammy, Innocent, Solly, Godfrey, Kletter, Mossassa, John, Lucas, Phanuel, Thabo, Grandwell, Gloria and Susan. They are the backbone of the sanctuary and keep the place running from behind the scenes.





Local team



Sickbay intern and  
return volunteer Sarah



Jess



# 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 still in place at several locations, several volunteers had to postpone or cancel their trip to the VMF. We are excited, that the number of volunteers has increased compared to the last year. The VMF welcomed 72 volunteers this year (28% more than in 2021). Six volunteers were returning volunteers and 2 were South African volunteers. They volunteered for free board and accommodation as we needed the extra hands while also creating opportunities locally. Michaela, local volunteer from the neighboring Letsitele, comes for 2 days a week, sometimes also bringing her family with her.

It is still not at the same level as pre-Covid (on average 150 volunteers per year). Having limited people helping out, has increased the work pressure on the remaining team. Thus, we are now focusing on recruiting new volunteers on different platforms. For that, we have created a new position called 'Human Resources and Marketing'.

We continue to improve the volunteer experience at the VMF. The volunteer village has now access to wifi around the clock. Furthermore, we have created a play court behind the cottage for ball games such as volleyball, badminton, boules, football or similar. The Games Room saw a major upgrade in a large TV screen. Now, movie nights are held with the opportunity to cuddle up comfortable in the sofas.

Great news for our US American volunteers. 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 through the US based charity **Friends of the Vervet Monkey Foundation**. Please email [info@vervet.za.org](mailto:info@vervet.za.org) for more information.





Michaela



Alex



Hester



## Weekend trip to the Debengeni Waterfalls



## Visitors

Slowly, as the travel restrictions are lifted, more visitors are interested in seeing the VMF. 72 mostly local and some international visitors arrived for guided tours to learn about the monkeys (this is 4.8 times more than in 2021, but still a 67% decrease in numbers from pre-pandemic times).

## Security

Fires – in 2022 we back burned the perimeter in order to prevent bush fires reaching the foundation. The early and continuous rains also lowered the risk of fires drastically. Gladly, no wildfires occurred on the VMF premises, and we were blessed with green vegetation throughout most of the year.

Security – there was no instance of theft in 2022. It seems like the sanctuary wide alarm system is working well. Besides the panic buttons all staff members carry at nighttime, light beam detectors are installed that send alarms to Dave and security staff SD Victor.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to guard dog and beloved friend Timmy. He has stood loyal beside Dave's side for over 12 years and was part of the family. His loss is deeply felt and he is missed dearly.

George (Dave's dog) and Rocky (Josie's dog) continue their watch now as a duo.





Timmy



## Media

The VMF emphasis the importance of public awareness of the monkeys' situation and threads. We continue to do so through social media, YouTube, interviews and articles.

VMF Founder Dave spoke on Barbados radio, explaining vervet behaviour and debunking common myths around them.

A big success with the Youtube series. It is now in its 6th season, raising awareness with an ever-growing audience. Since the beginning of the year, the subscriber numbers have risen from 45.5 thousand to 57.4K subscribers!

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 the monkeys, and we see an increase in the youtube memberships.

A new feature VMF fans around the world can enjoy are the weekly livestreams on Youtube. Every weekend (Saturdays), we stream live from Disneyland nursery school and several different introduction cages and enclosures. This has become a weekly ritual with many regulars enjoying a relaxed, monkey-filled start to their day.







## Social Media

We are continuously very active on our social media platforms to further increase the engagement and outreach. Our aim is to educate people around the world and spread awareness for the monkeys' situation in South Africa and our work as a rehabilitation sanctuary.

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.

We are delighted with the enormous Instagram engagement on our page. The number of followers has now increased to 93K! Thank you, Josie and Becky, for the fantastic cute, yet educational and always interesting posts.

The Instagram audience enjoyed a total of 7 instagram lives and fundraiser. The most popular livestream was of orphans meeting Gismo foster mums Eva and Uh-Oh. Another Instagram live was Skye's introduction to Samango Monkeys.

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





vervet\_forest

Follow

Message

3,198 posts

92.8K followers

267 following

The Vervet Forest - Monkey's  
Charity organisation

Monkey Rescue, Rehabilitation & Release

South Africa Volunteer

Vegan and sustainable

[www.vervetza.org](http://www.vervetza.org)

[fundraising.vervetforest.org/revamp](http://fundraising.vervetforest.org/revamp)

# The VMF Instagram page



Join us!



Adoptions



Monkey News



55 Orphans



Foster mums

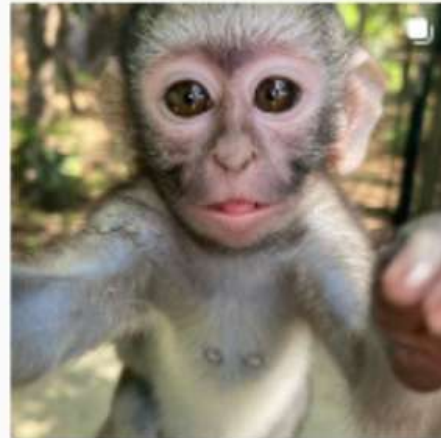


54 Orphans

POSTS

REELS

TAGGED





## Education

In June sickbay staff Becky Easter and sickbay intern Julie Christ visited Arborpark Pre-School to teach about the monkeys and their natural habitat. They 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 donating blankets and teddies for the orphaned babies.

## Outreach

We hoped to reinstall our outreach programme in 2022 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 2023 will give us the chance.





## Arbor Park Pre-School





## European Events

Hilde Olbrechts (VMF Europe Events Co-ordinator) is managing all the events on the European continent. In 2022, many of the events were cancelled due to low number of participants and other reasons. We hope, that next year, we will be able to represent the VMF in Europe once again.

Big thank you to Hilde for continuously seeking new avenues to make the VMF more widely known in continental Europe.

## UK Events

In the UK, also many events were cancelled for various reasons. Thus, UK events coordinator Shellie Robinson was able to organise three representations at vegan festivals. The visitors number are still lower than pre-pandemic, but we enjoy being back in discussions with the public and informing people about the VMF, our work and the difficulties the monkeys in South Africa is facing.

In November, Shellie informed visitors of the VMF at her beautiful stall at the London VegFest. The Vervet Monkey Foundation was awarded 3rd place for the Best Vegan Sanctuary and Rescue Centre.

Just before Christmas, she represented us at the Liverpool Live a Better Life Christmas vegan fair on the 3rd of December and at the Brighton vegan festival on the 11th of December.

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





UK Event Coordinator Shellie  
with her beautiful stall



## Fundraiser

We always like to encourage staff members and volunteers to fundraise for the monkeys. In the past, fundraiser have made enclosures, equipment and much more possible. This year has been fantastic and support by the community was truly inspiring.

Facebook Birthday Fundraiser have risen in popularity over the last years. This year, we had an amazing 24 birthday fundraisers on facebook which raised together a total of \$5,103. What an amazing team effort!

Hope (Rescue Juvenile) suffered from a concussion. She also recovered magnificently. Her name was fundraised by the volunteering agency Rainbow Garden Village located in Germany. Hope was released back to the wild and she now is reunited with her family.

Very successful were the fundraiser promoted on Instagram. Both, Beth's Easter Feast Fundraiser and Becky's Shallan emergency vet fundraiser, raised more than \$1,400 each. The Winter Warm Campaign to buy blankets for the elderly and sick monkeys raised \$965 - nearly three times as much as we had aimed for. This allowed us to use the additional funds to invest in new heat lamps that are more resistant and durable. Thank you to Becky and Beth for these amazing fundraiser!

Return Volunteer Josh Blannin fundraised once again. This time, he shaved his head for the good cause. With that, he has raised \$430. Thank you very much, Josh!

The biggest fundraiser event was the new enclosure for Floki and Cuddy. Learn more about it on the next page.





Josh before  
the head shave



Josh after  
the head shave



Zayda enjoying her  
Easter Basket



## Groomingdale's

Floki arrived in October 2020 at the VMF when he was about a year old after being sold at the side of the road. We took him to the vet, who found he had healed skull fractures, a dislocated right leg and a partially dislocated left leg after he had his legs tied together to stop him from escaping. This required a femoral head removal surgery to avoid life-long pain.

As we were very short staffed during the pandemic, Floki often stayed with the babies in Disneyland and was commonly known as 'Uncle Floki'. Uncle Floki loved to cuddle and play with the babies. Now, Floki is over three years old and growing up fast. Thus, being only surrounded by babies wasn't appropriate for his developmental and social stage. Unfortunately, earlier this year he fell and damaged his right leg, which resulted in him needing another surgery. He has been receiving daily physiotherapy and healing in Disneyland area, which has been adapted to discourage him from climbing. Friend Cuddy has now moved in with him, who is also mobility impaired due to a road accident.

Volunteer Manager and former Baby Mum Ellie Pandolfi made it her goal to give Floki a home tailed to him and his needs. For that, she shaved her 24 inch long hair which she had been growing for over 16 years. The long hair was donated to charity. The big day came on 11th August with live audience on instagram live.

The charity event was a massive success and raised funds close to R65,000 (\$3,800)! The building of the new enclosure started in September and was fully completed in late October. Early November Floki and Cuddy moved to their new home next to James troop. Cuddy was immediately fascinated by the new neighbours and Floki couldn't get enough of the fresh green.

The only thing missing was the name. Douglas Lancet and Adam Sikora donated additional \$1,200 and named the new home "Groomingdale's". What a lovely name! Big thank you to Ellie, Doug and Adam and everyone who donated.





Cuddy



Ellie after the  
head shave



Floki exploring  
Groomingdale's



## Grants

We are delighted, that 2022 has seen a bit more financial stability after two very difficult years.



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 this generous grant, we wouldn't be able to provide this level of excellent care for the monkeys. Thank you!





New Mainfeed Area takes on form thanks to the grant by IPPL



## PASA/GFAS

The Vervet Monkey Foundation has been an active member of Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) since February 2006. Proudly, the Vervet Monkey Foundation was yet again re-accredited in 2022 for the excellent care provided to all monkeys.

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. The VMF is accredited member since 2015 and was re-accredited in 2021.

Dave joined the PASA Veterinary Workshop held at Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya in June 2022.

VMF would like to thank PASA and GFAS for their support sanctuaries through training, and peer discussions to improve the animal's lives in Africa and worldwide.







## Vervet Forest

The Vervet Monkey Foundation dreams of creating a safe forest for the rehabilitated monkeys to be released in. We call this forest the Vervet Forest and it should encompass about 300-500ha of indigenous bush. This land will be a protected forest for rehabilitated orphaned and abused vervet monkeys who will be free from hunting, culling and human conflict. In addition to providing a sustainable home for the released monkeys, this land will also maintain a whole thriving ecosystem that benefits indigenous plant and animal life, as well as creating dozens of local jobs.

The Vervet Forest Project lay dormant during the pandemic. The financial strains on the sanctuary were so large and imminent, that any donations in the past two years were used to keep the sanctuary running and the monkeys in our care fed. Thanks to the generous support of the online community, PASA, GFAS and other grant-giving organisations, the VMF was able to pull through this difficult time without ever touching any funds collected for the Vervet Forest.

For 2023, our goal is to wake up the dream from its hibernation and get the public, donors, supporters and volunteers excited for the Vervet Forest. We are delighted, that for the first time, the Vervet Forest Documentary, directed and produced by Kyle Salazar, will premier on YouTube in January 2023.

The VMF turns 30 years old in November 2023. They say, for your birthday, you get a wish granted. Wouldn't it be amazing, if that wish could be the Vervet Forest?







## 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.

- More local media drives & education
- Strategic marketing & recruitment for interns & volunteers
- Furnish New Main Feed with tables and washing area
- Re-vamp Skunkey enclosure
- Promote and Fundraise for the 30th Anniversary of the VMF
- Improve the volunteer programme & facilities
- Acquire additional batteries for Solar power to counter loadshedding
- Install intensive training week plan for new staff
- Refine Human Resources
- Create new merchandise
- Recruit Vegan chefs to help inspire people through food to make a shift towards a more plant-based diet for the animals, wildlife, environment, planet and humanity as a whole
- Revive Vervet Forest Project

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE VMF DURING 2022, THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT HAS TRULY WARMED OUR HEARTS & HELPED KEEP THE MONKEYS SAFE





Yma and Edson

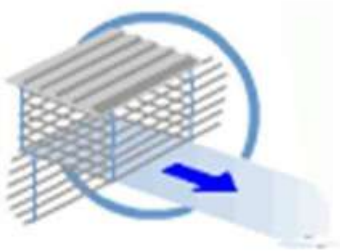




# Vervet Monkey Foundation

## Annual Report 2022

Friends  
of the  
vervets



For more information please contact:

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