



Fauna

a chimpanzee sanctuary • un sanctuaire de chimpanzé

Friends of Washoe

sanctuary • research • education

The Scoop

FALL 2019



Petra

February 24, 1988 – September 7, 2019

Petra © NJ Wight

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Newton © NJ Wight



Petra © Frank Noelker

Love is stronger than death even though it can't stop death from happening, but no matter how hard death tries it can't separate people from love. It can't take away our memories either. In the end, life is stronger than death."

Dearest Friends,

We are almost through another year and if you are anything like me I just can't believe how quickly this year seems to be passing. We all love to have beautiful busy summers but then they end and we are left wondering where they went.

As we settle down for a very long winter I find myself taking a moment to think about so many things that have happened here, and before we get too far into fall and winter I just wanted to fill you in on some of the highs and lows of these past few months.

Thank You!

Let me begin by saying how thankful we are for such loyal and deeply committed friends. Our blessings continue because of you. Your giving makes a difference and matters to us in more ways than we could ever express.

From special events for the chimps, to specialized and individualized care your support makes a difference. It not only helps us provide for nutritional needs, it helps provide for emotional needs too. We need you there encouraging us along the way and helping us give the most we possibly can to our wonderful residents.

The range is wide and your help is so appreciated. These past few months we are witnessing a miracle in seeing Sue Ellen get stronger and moving around more after over a year of difficulty. The changes we make to her living space and the renovations we make to ensure her safety are foremost in ours and your minds, you are so willingly to help us care for her needs no matter what they are and that is incredible. The more we can do for Sue Ellen to make her space more user friendly, the more she can feel empowered.

Your support helped us add additional railings in Newton's areas so he can feel secure as his eyesight declines, knowing how important his well being is to us all, we knew you would be happy to know he is using his railings and doing better with them.

Our Beloved Petra

Many of you may know by now that Petra passed away in September of pulmonary hypertension with right sided heart enlargement. Losing Petra was definitely one of the most painful experiences of my life, and I know for sure it was for many other people and of course her chimpanzee family. I wonder every time we witness a loss just how we will find the strength to witness another and another. Life is about living and dying, I know that, but I also know saying goodbye will always be incredibly difficult.

Knowing and having the honor of caring for Petra for the past 22 years was a blessing and a gift and I will always be grateful for having you there with us over the years. Knowing you are there has meant the world to me. Your empathy and compassion certainly make a difference during these challenging times.

Meeting Petra

I met Petra in the laboratory just days before her 9th Birthday in February of 1997. It was the first of many visits to the lab while we prepared to build a sanctuary home for some of the most unwanted of the LEMSIP (Laboratory for Medicine and Surgery in Primates) chimpanzees.

Petra was memorable for many reasons and the images of her stay well ingrained in my mind. We were escorted from one building to the next to meet the chimpanzees who were on the list of chimpanzees who could come to Fauna if we wanted them. The buildings were unidentified and looked like regular storage containers, they were approximately 36" long x 16" wide x 16" high. There were double doors at each end but no windows on the walls, only little windows in the big double doors.

We had already been to many different buildings and met a number of chimpanzees in each building but this one was different from the others because there was just one cage with one chimpanzee in it and a large man sweeping. There in the middle of the room was a 5"x5"x7" cage suspended from the ceiling with an incredibly distraught chimpanzee circling around like a hamster on a wheel, except there was no wheel in the cage. There was a pungent smell in the room of sweat, stress and feces.

For me it was a horrific and life altering moment to see what was happening to this little chimpanzee. She was moving so quickly but I could see she looked very frail and was missing a lot of hair on her arms and chest. She held onto the bars rocking from side to side head turned not looking at us, then back to the circling from side to top to side to bottom and then around again. Her stomach pressed to the sides, ceiling and floor as she went around.

It was inhuman and beyond words to describe her condition and her situation. I could never do the actual scene justice with just words, one would need to see how sad it was. I do know for sure that the person in the room was aware of how stressed and scared she was but there was nothing he could do to console her and in an oddly sadistic way he continued to sweep.

On that first day we had to leave the unit because she seemed to be becoming unhinged and as much as I knew it was the right thing to do, everything in me wanted to go back and help make it better, but how could I ever even begin to do that.

I learned the chimpanzee in the cage with the number 560 on the cage and tattooed on her chest was Petra. She was born in the laboratory, her parents were "research chimps" and she was to be used specifically in Hepatitis research testing. She was alone in the unit because she was very aggressive and could reach her long thin arms out of the caging to grab at the technicians. She was considered very quick and dangerous so by the time she was 7 years old she was kept alone or in units where there weren't many chimpanzees for the safety of the staff.

What I later learned about Petra was that she was a sweet, gentle and beautiful little baby born to Georgiana on February 24, 1988. She was loving, intelligent and social until she reached the age of 4 ½ when things started to change and she was different.

Petra's Early Years

In her early years Petra was subjected to 185 knock downs for invasive medical procedures. In the first year alone when she weighed just 4 to 9 kg's she had 17 procedures under anesthesia including blood draws, TB tests and dental cleanings! That is at least one procedure per month.



Petra © Fauna Foundation

It continued like that for the next 5 years. Petra's first "punch liver biopsies" happened when she was just 5 years old, but by the time Petra was 6 years old the intensity of the procedures was significantly amped up. As I reread the files I could see that Petra in those first years would be anesthetized by hand injection. With time, the intensity of the procedures increased her fears and anxiety and her trust began to diminish, resulting in the dart gun being used.

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The first date on record for the use of the dart gun was July 31, 1992. She was 4 ½ years old and weighed 21 kgs! She was just a little toddler who would most definitely had been terrified seeing a gun pointed at her and then in pain from the actual dart. The fact that they needed to use a dart gun is an indication that Petra was not co-operating anymore and wasn't going to give in easily. That's when I would guess things were beginning to crumble in Petra's world and no matter how hard her caregivers tried she just wasn't the same anymore. No amount of consolation was going to bring her back to the trusting little girl she was.

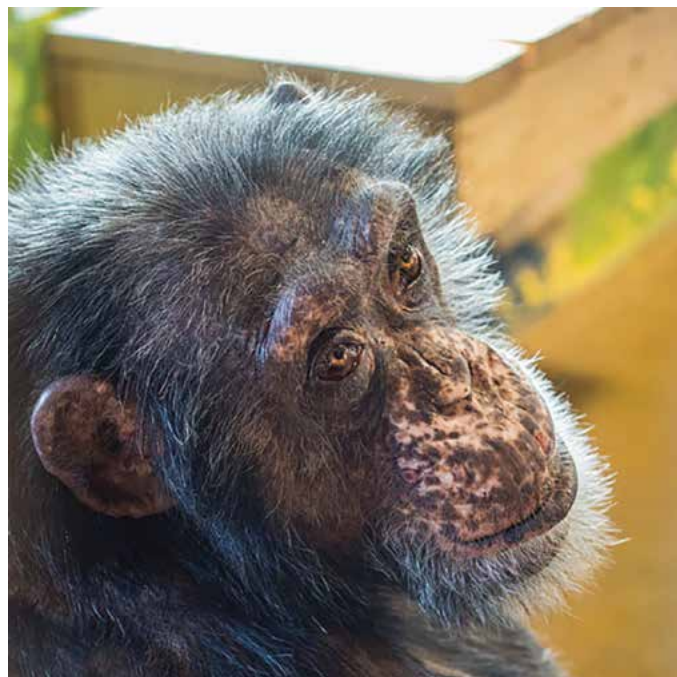
When the chimps are babies and up until they cannot be "handled" by the technicians any longer they are held by humans while the injections are given because they can still be restrained. That varies for each chimpanzee though depending on their personality, tolerance, size, and strength. Once that youngster cannot be restrained or "managed" the situation is more complicated because they must receive their injection while they are in a cage and if the person with the needle cannot reach that chimp then they will use the dart gun method.

Not only that, but by the time a chimpanzee was needed for certain studies they may need to be moved to what was called the adult units where even their familiar caregivers, some of whom actually were with the chimps from birth, might not be there any longer. Regis's experience was similar to Petra's by the time he was 4 they were darting him and his knee cap was severely damaged by a dart. Chance hardened very quickly from her years in isolation, the darting, and the inhumane number of procedures she and each chimpanzee had to endure. Any chimpanzee born in the lab was broken very early on. More than a life time of suffering packed into 5 years of a little chimpanzee's life damages them in ways we can never imagine or begin to understand.

These moves to the adult units became incredibly difficult for so many of the youngsters including Petra. I've been told that all of our residents who were raised in the same way, Regis, Jethro, Binky and Chance, all experienced the same trauma from those moves away from familiar surroundings and people, and the intensity of the research protocols. There seemed to be many rules and restrictions on the caregivers concerning the younger chimps. It was not allowed for them to visit and be there as moral support once the chimps moved into the adult units. I recall the thinking was that it must have been harder for the youngsters not to see their old friends than to see them every now and then especially when they were scared and experiencing so many new and scary things. I cannot help but think about my niece and her new baby who at just 6 months was rushed into the hospital after an allergic reaction to a food. The only person in the world that could console the baby was my niece. She held her while the doctors examined her and took her blood, she cried but she felt safe and loved. My niece would never have wanted to see her baby taken away and held perhaps by a total stranger who had no connection at all to the baby.

Bad or scary things can always be easier when someone comforts you. We see it all the time with the chimps now that they are older when they go through a bad situation they rely on our support, gentle voices and concern. They respond to that love.

I'm sure many caregivers (the women who raised the chimps in the nursery after they were taken from their mothers) went over to visit but found themselves not able to console the depths of despair and fear the youngsters were experiencing. The research



Petra © NJ Wight



Regis and Petra © NJ Wight



Petra and Regis © Fauna Foundation

protocols were intensified and the testing was far more frequent and invasive. I'm also very sure some of the caregivers could not face the reality of what they were now witnessing for these young chimpanzees and although they could not change the inevitable they certainly could have changed the outcome for the chimps by being there and supporting them through the painful and psychologically damaging experiences.

Its already difficult enough to fathom putting a little chimpanzee toddler under anesthesia once a month or more for a year, but to move to once weekly or multiple times weekly is inhumanly barbaric. That was their life in the research lab. Young lab chimpanzees are a valuable resource they were called "clean", "green" and "naïve". Once they reached a certain age and any particular pharmaceutical company wanted 12 5 year-old male chimpanzees for an 18-month study that's what they would get. If they wanted 4 6 year-old females and 4 6 year-old males who had been exposed to the Hepatitis vaccine, then they would make that happen. The chimps were moved frequently, to various invasive research studies one after the other for months and years, some never made it to the next.

Petra's Invasive Procedures Continued

In April of 1995 Petra was just 7 years old and weighed 36 kgs. Petra had been moved into the adult units and had a procedure every day for 26 days. No longer was the injection done just by syringe but rather by the dart gun followed by the syringe. Her tiny little body shot at with a dart that could penetrate a sheet of plywood from a 20" distance. Not to mention that she was a moving target and many times chimpanzees who were not

willing to sit for an injection would suffer greatly depending on where the dart might hit their body on any given day. Knee caps popped out, eye balls perforated, ear drums punctured and lifelong damage to their bodies from the entry points of the darts, causing permanent scarring and internal adhesions.

Petra had invasive procedures done from April 3rd to April 26th, during that period there were four days where she was under anesthesia continuously for a “timed bleed” study. It started on April 5 and ended on April 8. It was a 67-hour time bleed. I remember her human friend and caregiver expressing to me how horrible this was for everyone to witness.

From February to May 1996, Petra would have been subjected to 27 knockdowns by dart gun. That’s once per week and more some months. I can understand completely why she became dangerously aggressive and distrustful of humans. They were creating a being who was doing everything she could do to fight for her life. She could no longer trust anyone, she could never feel safe, she must have felt alone and terrified. The only choices she could make were to refuse a needle, stop eating, eat or throw feces, spit water, or try to grab people who came near her. Some give in and conform, some become very angry and aggressive.

Petra Arrives at Fauna

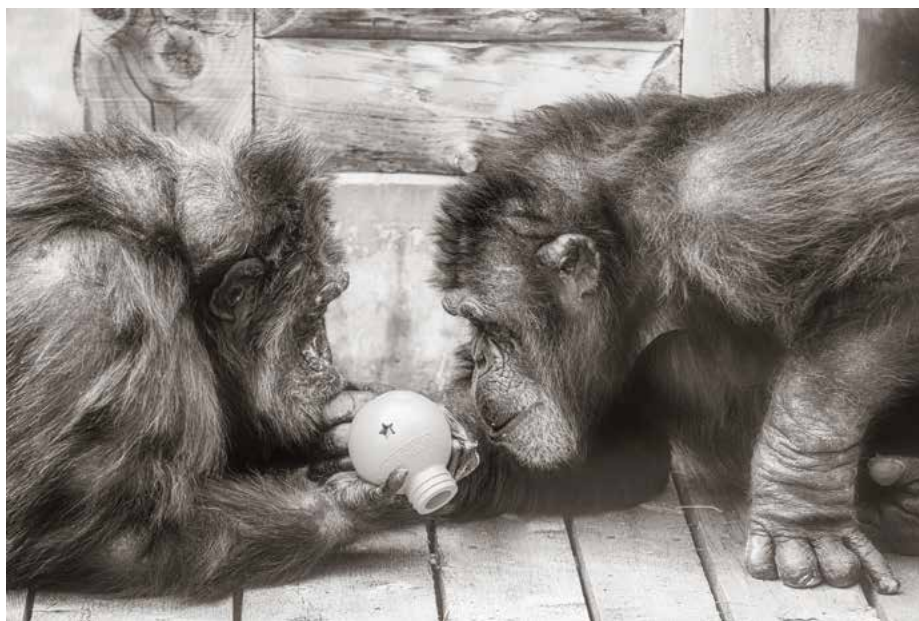
That’s the little girl that came to Fauna on September 12th 1997. Petra, the youngest of Fauna’s female chimpanzees, was the most aggressive and hardest of all to come. (As hard as I tried on my visits to the lab in the months before the move to Fauna I could not make a connection to Petra, she was just so disconnected and anxious all the time.) That bare armed, incredibly slim, angry, aggressive 9-year-old chimpanzee who needed two guys to pull her cage off the trailer, one to distract her, while the other pushed.

Her cage was wheeled into the hallway while we slowly pushed the transfer cages up to the doors of their new home, every single one of the youngsters Petra, Chance, Rachel, Jethro, Regis and Binky were terrified to come out of their cages. It was the saddest moment to realize how institutionalized they were and how scary their new home was to them and rightfully so, they had come from a life filled with unknowns and changes. They never felt secure. The only one that could not wait to get out and helped us open her door was our dear Annie who at that time was 40 years old. She could not stand that life for one more moment.



Petra and Binky © Fauna Foundation

Petra took a long time to trust again, it didn’t happen in just a few weeks, or months, it took years for her to be someone who could allow simple things, like a grooming session with a back scratcher or her arm hair to be brushed by a loving caregiver. In the early years only a few people could attempt to go near her without being in danger of her attempting to grab, scratch or pull the item you may be passing to her, and in fact it was literally what anyone who had to serve Petra had to experience. I personally have been spit blessed by Petra probably more than anyone here and I am happy to say if that’s what helped her gain some respect for me than it was all worth it.



Petra and Toby © NJ Wight

Quiet After Hours Moments

In the early years I was never away from the chimps. For the first two years I was there every single day and often into the evenings. It was in those quiet after hours moments I was able to spend some peaceful time handing out blankets for night nests, serving perhaps a piece of fruit and some nuts for a bedtime snack. It was also at that time of day I could see their innocence return, their faces and bodies relaxed, knowing the day was over and there would be no surprises. Food helped a lot with that feeling of security and the reason that was is because on the night before a medical procedure food is withdrawn and your water removed so you can fast. Having food in your night nest seemed to be such a comfort. Dear fellows like Yoko would often have two meals worth of goods hidden within his mountain of sheets and blankets.



Petra © NJ Wight

I remember those nights so well and laying on the floor beside Petra after a grooming session where I did not encounter any aggression just the sweetness that was still inside of her, perhaps that little 4 ½ year old before she had to toughen up and grow up so quickly. I began to see Petra as the little girl again and someone who desperately needed to trust again. Her aggressive actions were from fear and distrust. She needed consistency, patience and love, to feel safe, and time to try and heal.

Petra Was Deeply Loved

Petra was deeply loved by her chimpanzee family and she had a strong and solid relationship with almost everyone, but particularly with her original family group. She got to know her half-sister Chance and had an incredibly deep bond with Regis. They had spent time together in the lab nursery and then as youngsters they were either in the same buildings and eventually they were to be used in the same study for Hepatitis. They had to witness each other's suffering and not be able to help one another. They had been through so much together and were connected even in Petra's final months here at Fauna. Regis was with her most of the time until she couldn't be in the group any longer. She made new friends like Toby, Spock and Maya when they came to us from the zoos. Some beautiful friendships that gave not only the new guests a welcome to their new home but a diverse group of friends for Petra too.

Petra was one of the Fauna residents who could move from one group to another frequently, we call this fission fusion and it is so essential to the well-being of the chimpanzees. Each group welcomed her and loved to follow her lead. Petra was loyal to her family and although they had their squabbles they always resolved their issues.

Petra was one of my great captive chimpanzee behavior teachers over the years, she had things she expected and appreciated that had to be respected. She knew what she wanted and she had an incredibly strong will. She always had a way of letting me know if she was displeased and was never shy to express herself to anyone who thought they might be making headway in their relationship with her by spitting at them right between their eyes. It will always put us in our place.

Petra was in top shape in the early years. She was active and strong. She loved to play and groom with her family but she also did get into some very big fights not only with her own age group but with Annie and her elders. As a teen Petra was a force to be reckoned with she was fast and not very willing to back down or know when the situation was escalating beyond her control. She had zero social skills only what she learned when she was a tiny tot in the nursery or in the co-housing she experienced for a short time at LEMSIP. She was a tough girl with an impenetrable edge, her leadership was something you either feared or respected.

During one of these intense moments and while chasing after a group of older ladies Petra hurt herself, her knee and her hip specifically. We were told that in time she would get better and although she did get better she really never got back her full ability to run and as the years went by her hip just seemed to get more and more stiff.

This of course led to some serious weight gain and more and more self-soothing by Petra in the way of eating. No matter what was there, lettuce, celery, peppers, sunflower seeds anything, Petra would just eat. She would take a spot on a resting bench in front of a trolley and block the others from taking anything—not that any of them would attempt to take her food—(with the exception of Regis because that's just what he does). She was even seen covering chimps' eyes with her hands or tickling them to distract them while she took food. She was incredible, but as I watched her go from that aggressive and anxious little girl into the wonderful soul she became, I loved every inch of her.

Learning Curve

Not long after Petra moved into Fauna I seriously thought that I had made a terrible mistake, that I was terrified and living in fear most days because the chimps were so angry and aggressive not only with me but with everyone here. It was the early months and it was very grueling and eye opening. I imagined that once the chimps left the lab and came to a better place they would be happy. Gosh I was so naïve!

They were happy but they were also adjusting to a new life and new experiences, not all of them good. Sharing everything, fighting, strangers, unfamiliar things and so much more. It was a difficult period and it wasn't supposed to be about me, it was supposed to be about them. I had to put my ego off to the side and do something different.

At the time I had few people to go too. Mary Lee Jensvold was one, and she came to help me out when she was 7 months pregnant back in October of 1997. Mary Lee showed me how to let them be themselves, respect them on their own terms even if they are being a certain way, and remember it was not about me. They are chimps and just being chimps. Great lesson.

She was incredible, but as I watched her go from that aggressive and anxious little girl into the wonderful soul she became, I loved every inch of her.

She also taught me how to be with them, how to use chimp behaviors and speak their language rather than expecting them to be like us. It was a breakthrough with chimps like Petra, Regis, Chance, Pepper, Jeannie, Pablo, and Yoko. Those behaviors contributed greatly to my much improved and deepening relationships with individuals like Annie, Donna Rae and Jethro too. Just watching how Mary Lee interacted with the chimps on that first visit one month after the first group of 7 arrived was life changing for me and for them.

The other people who knew anything about the individual chimps were the people from the lab who knew them as they were in the lab and perhaps some insight as to some of the things that might reassure or comfort them in a time of need.

Petra's Keys

The last story I wanted to tell was of the way Petra wore the keys around her neck. The story I remembered was of Petra when she was very tiny and in the nursery.

Her caregiver had keys in her pocket and Petra loved to jiggle the keys through the fabric of her pant pocket. It was something I saw in a video of Petra as a little toddler and the caregiver went up to the cage Petra was in and Petra reached her hands out to just jiggle the keys. It was a way to connect with Petra that brought back memories of a comforting thing she liked as a child.

I used to wear my keys on a lanyard around my neck back in the day because I always wore leggings and had no pockets. Pat Ring, the man who helped me care for the chimps for the first 15 years kept his keys in his pockets. Almost every time Pat would lean over the caging to open a door Petra would stick her long fingers out and just jiggle the keys in Pat's pockets and it really seemed to make her happy.

It was certainly not possible for her to jiggle the keys around my neck.

One day I took my keys off my neck to un-lock a door over one of the night rooms, but the keys dropped out of my hands into the room below where Petra was. Petra is one of the smartest chimps I have ever met and I knew that she knew how to use the keys to open the lock as I had witnessed her many times trying to pick locks with any item that seemed she could fit into the hole. I was pretty nervous.

I waited, I offered goods in exchange, I pleaded but to no avail. She was jiggling the keys and really enjoying herself, which of course included trying to open the lock. Fortunately, the lock was hard to reach so not really a mission on that day she could accomplish. At some point Petra laid on the bed and put the keys over her head, then as she sat up and looked down very proud of herself as she gave the keys now around her neck a jiggle.

That was the beginning of the key wearing. I quickly made her a set of keys on a rope in exchange for mine which she reluctantly gave up but wore with pride. Those keys and the many sets she had after that helped Petra in many ways over the years. They were a way she could get attention if she wanted something a caregiver was offering by jiggling them, she would jiggle them when she was happy and even used them when she was stressed



Petra © NJ Wight

or scared, they were some kind of comfort for her. Some of the chimps carry stuffed toys, Petra wore her keys, they were never far from her. On occasion she would take them off and lay them down beside her or offer them to a caregiver when the lanyard was broken or worn out by the hours she used them in exchange for a new lanyard. It was an event to gain Petra's trust enough to take those keys and a privilege to be the one to give them back all repaired and ready for another year of wear.

My sister joked one day with me about Petra being just like me, I asked what she meant. She said she's the boss when you're not around, and I laughed but I realized that it was true. She was the boss, keys and all.

Petra's Messenger

Two nights before Petra passed away a messenger came to me. It was early evening, around 7:30 and I was sitting up high on a ladder close to the area where Petra had been laying for the past few days. She was sleeping and I was just sitting thinking and looking at her. It was a sad and painful time but out of the corner of my eye I could see something down below on the side of the cedar hedge just below the ladder. I eventually looked down to see what was bopping up and down so. It was a beautiful male Cardinal bird just going back and forth up and down repeatedly, I couldn't help but wonder what he wanted.



Petra © NJ Wight

I knew for sure he had my attention and in the moment I just thought of how interestingly he was behaving and what could the message be. My mind went immediately to thinking how amazing it would be for Petra to come back in the next life as such a beautiful bird. How amazing it would be for her to fly in and out of the caging as she wished. It was so interesting that it was a Cardinal since they are very loyal birds staying with their partners, never migrating, and living for life in the area they were born for life.

For a moment I was comforted thinking about the possibility of Petra having another life, and I thought how perfect for her and how beautiful that transformation could be. I could so easily imagine her and felt she deserved to fly freely and I could so envision her transforming to a strong and beautiful male Cardinal.

So here is what I read about a Cardinal sighting.

Messages from the spiritual realm have been conveyed to human beings in many forms and ways. None of these ways have been held in more high esteem than the conspicuous Red Cardinal.

The word itself has Latin origins, coming from the word "cardo" which means hinge or a door. This makes the bird a literal door between the spirit world and the earth with the responsibility to convey messages between these two worlds.

If you share the belief that Cardinals are messengers from the spiritual realm, the next time you see one trying to get your attention you should ask yourself questions.

A sighting should bring peace and hope to you since you can be assured that your message has been heard. The messenger is there to let you know that the spirits are ready and watching out for you and supporting you during a difficult time. When you see a cardinal, you should always remember that the spirits are protecting you and don't forget to thank the winged creatures.

If you see one trying to get your attention allow yourself to be immersed in the frenzy and you could decipher the message this bird could be trying to convey to you. A sighting should be enough to assure you that your ancestors are around and ready to guide you. Spotting a cardinal is a way to tell you that you have been heard and help is on the way. Cardinals are representatives of loved ones who have passed and they are there visiting you.

Not long after, our beautiful "Pettie" left us. I just wanted to share this with you and to thank you for listening and being part of this journey with us. We couldn't do it without you.

Gloria Graw
Gloria xo



Sue Ellen Update

BY MARY LEE JENSVOLD

We are happy to have some exciting good news to share with you. As you know in June 2018 Sue Ellen began to have difficulty using her legs. For a time, we were unsure if Sue Ellen would survive. Immobile and incontinent she developed a large bed sore that summer. Gloria packed the wound daily with Manuka honey of the highest quality, which has strong natural antibiotic and healing properties. Staff changed Sue Ellen's bedding two to three times per day, despite Sue's protests. This worked! Slowly the bed sore healed completely!

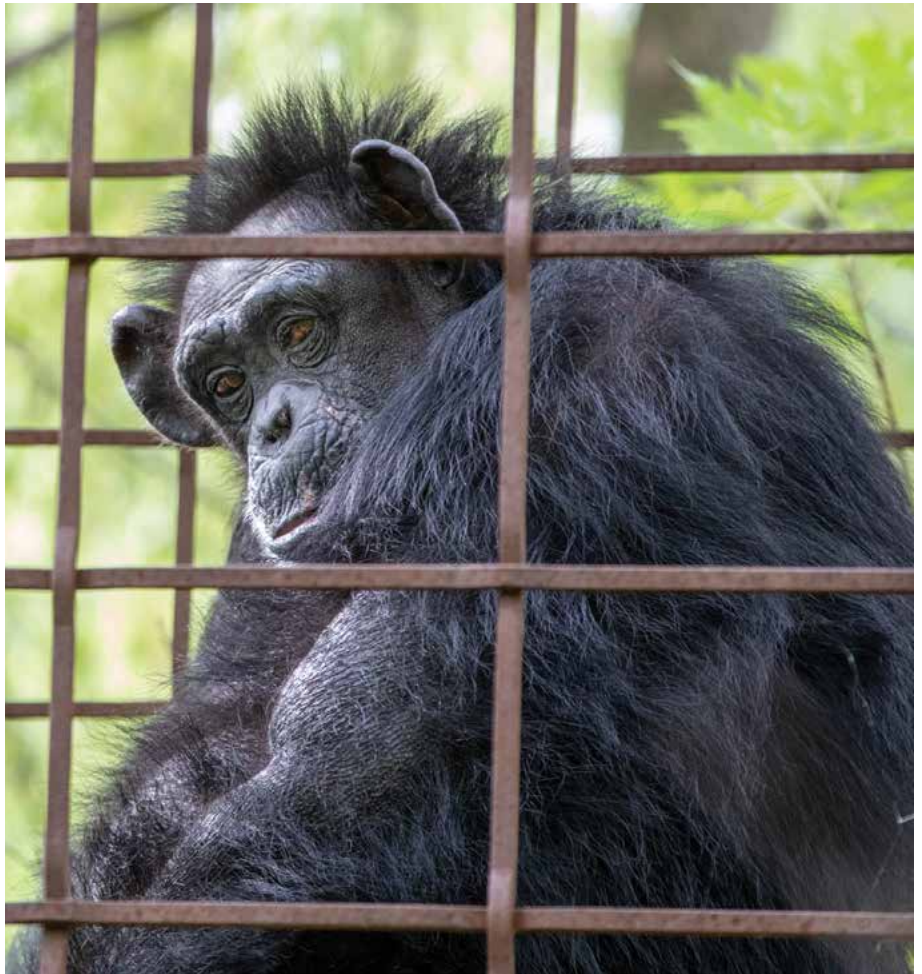
We made initial adjustments to Sue Ellen's physical world, creating a one level living space as we quickly realized she couldn't support her weight with only her arms. But what she could do was pull her weight. We installed flooring that was smooth so when she slid, she wouldn't create abrasions. We installed straps and poles that she could use as handles to have a good grip to drag herself. Sue never lost her spirit, despite many days of hiding under her blanket. Caregivers developed a routine, and Sue Ellen participated in that routine.

We developed new protocols for care. Sue had a caregiver assigned to her each day. She had a diet of her favorite things, and healthy things to insure she stayed nourished and hydrated. We developed a quality of life assessment to objectively gauge how Sue was doing. In this we monitored her awareness and alertness, posture, food intake, and activities, including attention to the other chimpanzees and caregivers. We had an intern over the winter months whose job included giving weekly questionnaires to staff to get another measure of Sue Ellen's well-being. This intern ran the reports. These reports gave us good news; Sue was holding steady. There were good days and not-so-good days, but overall she was maintaining. She was eating, drinking, moving, and interacting with her caregivers and hooting to her chimpanzee neighbors.

In March Blackie died suddenly from a massive heart attack. Dolly was immersed in grief. We needed to provide some diversion for her. Sue Ellen needed her friend and Dolly needed her as well. After many months apart Dolly and Sue Ellen were reunited. Caregivers developed new routines and Dolly and Sue Ellen spent time grooming and hanging out together. Sue Ellen's world just got that much better.

We continued to make adjustments to Sue Ellen's enclosure throughout all this time. We placed lexan (a smooth plastic) on the floor of one enclosure and linoleum the length of tunnels. These surfaces are smooth and made it easier for Sue Ellen to slide without the risk of abrasion which could lead to another bed sore. We attached firehoses the length of the tunnels which functioned like handles for Sue Ellen to grab as she moved. We watched what enrichment Sue Ellen liked the most and ensured she had those plus other object each day. Mobiles and paper were her most favored.

As spring grew warmer Sue Ellen moved further into the tunnel and we added linoleum to the length of it. She spent more time outside and increased her activity. By late summer we noticed something new. Sue Ellen was showing signs of movement in



Sue Ellen © NJ Wight

her foot. She developed tone in her core and was able to sit up unaided. Then she began to move and later lift her leg. Now Sue Ellen moves one leg and uses her hand to move the other. It is amazing to watch this recovery after so many months that she was unable to move. We expanded her space as she gains more mobility. We are adding ramps and a tunnel so as time moves into winter it is possible for her to have a routine of moving to an easily accessible adjacent enclosure to allow caregivers to clean behind her.

Her story is one of resilience, which we hope for all of our residents. It is Sue Ellen's resilience that inspires her caregivers and makes their days and the days of each of the chimpanzees shine a bit brighter. We hope you will join us in caring for our residents whose only means for a good day is through Fauna's circle of compassionate caregivers and supporters like you.

“Permanence, perseverance in spite of obstacles, and impossibilities: It is this, that is all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak.”

—Thomas Carlyle



Petra © NJ Wight

Petra Memories

BY CLAUDE DESROCHERS

Petra, who I liked to call CleoPETRA! Ohhh how I miss hearing the sound of your keys clinging at the top of the front rooms while you waited for me to bring you your little lunch bag. I'll miss seeing you brush yourself and also your long grooming sessions with Regis. Precious are the moments that I had with you. I learned so much from you! You were so resilient, patient and you always brought a nice balance to the group you were in! I'll never forget those magnetic, mysterious, deep eyes. Petty you will be forever in my heart! You have finally found the famous key that offered you freedom!

BY SHARON BAUER

I started working at Fauna in June. It is strange to have a beginning as someone else is heading toward their end. This was how I met Petra. Our paths crossed only briefly. I was always so moved by those keys around her neck—her signature identifier. The profound meaning that the keys had in her daily life touched my heart. I spent many hours by Petra's side as she started fading further and needed intensive monitoring. Although I was basically a stranger to her, I hoped she felt that I was a comforting presence. I tried to emulate the way a compassionate nurse can make you feel, because even though they are a stranger, they can make all the difference. Through this experience, I was able to be present during such beautiful interactions between Petra and her caregivers, as well as Gloria and Dawna. This affected me deeply and I am blessed and grateful to have shared these. Dear Petra, it was an honor to spend so many private moments with you. I know all of the love that surrounded you carried you gently to your rest.

BY TANYA BARR

I was often the first one in the chimphouse opening at 7am. This early in the morning the chimps were often still sleeping, or slowly getting out of bed. More often than not Petra would already be up, sitting on the bench in the front room, silently head bobbing a nice "Hi, good morning" to me. She definitely was excited for breakfast as well but she was always so polite with me in the early morning. I loved serving her breakfast and watch her slowly enjoy it before the boys came tumbling in for their breakfast. I miss being greeted by my friend in the morning.

BY TREVOR LAROCHE

Petra, You were my first love here at Fauna. You often greeted me with a generous head nod which made me feel welcome in the chimphouse. It was always a pleasure to cook for you, as we shared the same love for food. You and your beautiful eyes are deeply missed by everyone who had the opportunity to meet you.

BY LINDSAY TOWNS

Even though Petra and I only knew each other for 8 years, it felt like we had an old-time friendship. She was very intelligent, stubborn, crafty, witty, caring and sassy....oh man the sass. She was also super confident, she knew what she wanted and how to go about getting it. The most recent beautiful memory I have was long grooming session shared between myself, Regis and Pety—she was so comfortable that she ended up drifting off to sleep. Petra was a beautiful being who was the rock in her chimpanzee family. She is crazily missed by the humans and chimps.

GFAS

Fauna Foundation is a member of the Global Federation of Sanctuaries (GFAS). This accrediting organization ensures residents in member sanctuaries have high quality standards of care. It ensures sanctuaries are fiscally secure and well governed. Too often sanctuaries fail because of weaknesses in the organizational and administrative side of the sanctuary. There is much that goes into running a sanctuary from caring for our residents, raising funds, developing protocols, and finding the right staff to fit the part. Fauna Foundation has been accredited since January 28th 2012. Every three years GFAS renews accreditation of the organization. We currently just finished the re-accreditation process. We were pleased with the feedback from our visit as we continue to work towards remaining a model NAPSA sanctuary.



Global Federation of
Animal Sanctuaries



NAPSA

Fauna Foundation is a founding member of the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA). Each year the steering committee meets for a strategic planning retreat, and this year we at Fauna were the hosts. The historical barn was a wonderful place to meet with large windows overlooking the adjacent meadows and woods. Attending sanctuaries included Jungle Friends, Chimp Haven, Project Chimps, Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, and a phone in from Center for Great Apes. We discussed successes this year, including strong impact on the reduction of monkey rodeos; strategic plans; and future directions. The committee meets monthly by conference call, so the annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time together in person.

Sustainable Internships

This year we have received funding from EcoCanada and Friends of Washoe to support an intern. Miguely Belanger was a visiting intern summer 2019. EcoCanada is a program that supports recent university graduates by funding internships that support environmental activities. Miguely's position as a data analyst will include analyzing data that the interns collected this summer on the chimpanzees' activity budgets. The activity budget is a baseline of the chimpanzees' activity and informs decisions about the chimpanzees' health care. She will analyze the data we collected on the chimpanzees' use of blankets for nesting at night. The EcoCanada grant this year required a project relating to climate change. A large part of Fauna's program involve habitat restoration and conservation. Miguely will conduct a point count of birds around Fauna as compared to other adjacent areas. We have observed over 100 different bird species at Fauna! Is this more than neighboring areas that are impacted by farming and housing development? Stay tuned for these findings.

While Miguely is full time at Fauna, we also have a returning intern, Emily Collins, who is volunteering her time to both care for the chimpanzees and conduct a project on Tatu and Loulis signing.

Interns require a high level of training, which is a large investment of resources in the beginning of their tenure. They learn to clean enclosures, prepare meals and enrichment, and safely work in the chimphouse. They also learn data collection techniques. As they acquire these skills they become more independent. When interns stay for additional programs after their initial training, like Miguely and Emily, Fauna receives the largest return on our investment of time. They also bring their own skills from their university training, which synergizes the strength of the internship.



Emily and Miguely © Fauna Foundation

Operant Conditioning Update

BY SHARON BAUER

Operant conditioning, also known as positive reinforcement training, is a safe and fun way to encourage the residents of Fauna to voluntarily participate in their own care. With aging residents comes increased diligence in monitoring their health and wellbeing. It may involve using instruments like stethoscopes or blood pressure machines that might seem scary for the residents if they are not used to them. Positive reinforcement training allows the resident to choose whether or not to participate but also allows them to expect what is going to happen. For example, a chimpanzee can learn to present many different body parts to a caregiver. This gives the caregiver opportunity to closely examine every inch of the resident. In addition, the caregiver can introduce an item, such as a stethoscope, in a slow and progressive manner. After several training sessions, the resident can then be asked to present their chest and allow the stethoscope to touch their skin. It's win/win! We can monitor their health, and for them it is a lesson, a game, and a treat all rolled into one!



Laurence and Binky during an Operant Training session © NJ Wight

We are currently working with all of the residents on a variety of behaviors that will assist us in monitoring their health. One example is using an EKG device (Kardia) that can receive cardiac information from the simple act of placing fingertips on it. The challenge? Having the resident keep their fingers in place for 30 seconds.

8 Ways to Donate to Fauna...



Adopt-a-Chimp



Amazon Wish List



Corporate Sponsorship



Donate Points



Lifetime Care Fund



Sponsorship



Monthly Giving



Planned Giving

Learn more at FaunaFoundation.org

To include Fauna Foundation in your estate planning use the following language:

I give, devise and bequeath _____ (insert dollar amount or item of property to be donated, or other specifics) to the Fauna Foundation Quebec., a nonprofit charity (886077239 RR 0001) located at 3802 ch Bellerive, Carignan, QC J3L 3P9.

TVA Docu-series

This September, Quebec channel TVA, filmed a twelve-part reality/documentary called Animaux à la retraite on animal retirement, featuring our very own, Fauna Foundation. Laurence Levesque, animal caregiver, and chimp house supervisor, was interviewed over the span of two days to collect footage for this docu-series.

Laurence enjoyed her experience with the film crew who she felt were exceptionally respectful towards the residents and our property. She appreciated that TVA took the time to get to know our residents and share their stories with the rest of Quebec, giving us some well-deserved exposure. Laurence describes the first day of filming as slightly nerve wracking on her end, and that the chimps, and herself were rather shy and reserved. If Binky came out on the island for a peek, he was followed by Jethro. Then when Binky went back in the building, Jethro followed right behind.



On the second day both Laurence and the chimps got out of their comfort zones. The chimps became more social and vocal. Sue Ellen dressed up in some nice necklaces to impress the bearded men in the film crew....her favorite! The chimps definitely enjoyed the personalized, 24/7 attention from Laurence and the film crew over the two days. Overall it was quite a pleasant experience all around and we are thankful for the film crews fantastic job with the footage and way in which they captured the sanctuary and our residents. You can view this series online at TVA.ca

NEW WEBSITE COMING!

Our website is getting a makeover!

Some changes include more information on our upcoming events, more maps, information, and species lists, from our nature reserve, and new resident biographies. As well as updated remembrances, for those we have lost, but haven't forgotten. It will also include a more functional online shopping experience, and improved user ability all around.

Slowly but surely we are also having the entire website translated into French! This is quite a costly endeavor but rest assured it is of utmost priority. Fauna has been home to over 30 primates in the past 20 years and none of it would be possible without our Supporters. We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience with creating a more user friendly website.

Stay tuned for the launch before the end of this year!

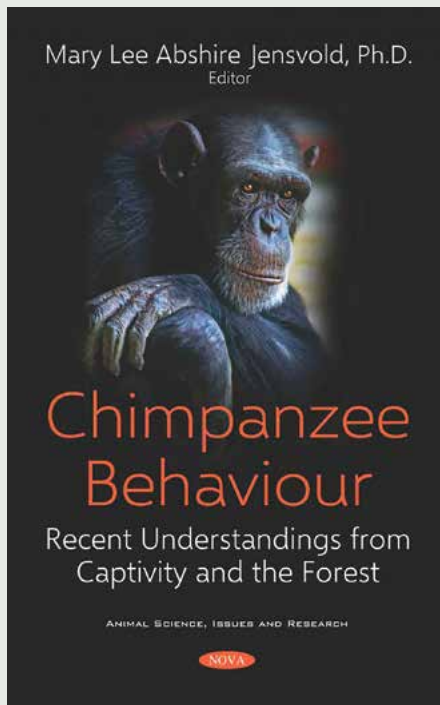


Adopt-a-Chimp Re-vamp!

Just in time for the holidays, our Adopt-a-Chimp program has gotten a face lift. With a now fully digital package for \$60 or our new Premium Package for \$150 you can adopt your favorite chimpanzee or for the first time ever.... one of our monkey's! The Premium package makes for a great gift with your choice of a plush chimpanzee or t-shirt included in your kit.

We are also now issuing tax receipts for the Adopt-a-Chimp package! Details will be up on our new website!





A New Book to Add to Your Shelves!

Chimpanzee Behaviour: Recent Understandings from Captivity and the Forest is a book edited by Mary Lee Jensvold (Nova Science Publisher). The chapters are authored largely by scientists who worked with Tatu and Loulis as graduate students at the Chimpanzee & Human Communication Institute in Ellensburg. Chapters include discoveries from field studies showing unique tools and hunting styles, further evidence that each chimpanzee community has a unique culture that we must preserve. Another chapter includes findings about chimpanzee drawings and evidence for a sense of aesthetic. In another chapter Tatu and Loulis's use of signs at Fauna Foundation are described with excerpts of their conversations with the other chimpanzees at Fauna. Finally Dr. Jensvold describes the approach to caring for chimpanzees that was an integral part of the care program for Tatu and Loulis in Ellensburg, and continues today at Fauna Foundation.

Fauna Conservation Area Update

BY JUSTIN TAUS

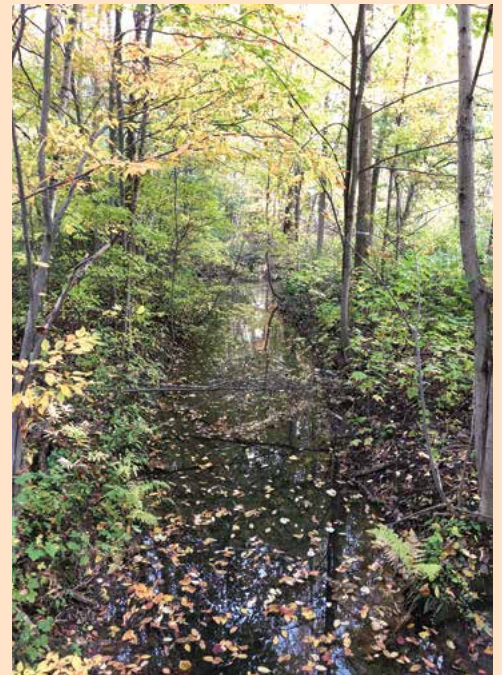
It has been a busy year for the Fauna Foundation's conservation area. Unbeknownst to some, much of the Foundation's property—which includes forests, fields, ponds, streams, a segment of river and a small lake, is recognized by the Quebec government as an official nature reserve under the name Ruisseau Robert Nature Conservancy. The reserve, which plays an important role as a migratory stop-over and nesting site for birds, namely saw its species count grow to 124 in 2019.

Guided public birdwatching walks around the reserve have become regular events at Fauna and we've been in communication with ornithologists and wildlife management specialists in order to improve the ecosystems on the reserve in hopes that it will benefit its wildlife.

As usual, the months of May and June were especially active as birds visited the reserve while on their spring migration. Over a dozen of species of warblers were seen, including the Palm warbler, Black-throated Blue warbler, Black & White Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Northern Parula, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, American Redstart, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and the Ovenbird. Other notable mentions for 2019 include the first Bald Eagle sighting as well as a few visits from playful River otters, colourful Wood ducks, and an increase in Green Heron activity around the lake.

The reserve is visited by several species that are considered to have a precarious conservation status according to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the Species at Risk Act registry (SARA). The Bobolink, who has seen its populations drop by over 88% in Canada over the past 40 years according the North American Breeding Bird Survey, continued to use our fields to nest in decent numbers in spring and summer again this year.

If you're interested in visiting the conservancy and observing its birdlife, please keep an eye out for upcoming birdwatching dates on our website and social media, or contact us by email at: aves.faunaquebec@gmail.com.



© Fauna Foundation



Black-Throated Blue Warbler



Gray Tree Frog



Common Grackle



Broad-Winged Hawk



Red Squirrel



Green Heron



Our birdwatching events have
been a big hit! Watch for our new
dates coming in Spring!

