Research Activity Report Supported by "Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science"

(Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

	2015 06, 30
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D2
Name	Sofi Bernstein

1. Country/location of visit

Japan Monkey Center, Inuyama City, Japan

2. Research project

Zoo/Museum Course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2014. 06. 15 – 2014. 06. 17 (3 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Gen'ichi Idani (Wildlife Research Center), and Dr. Yuta Shintaku (Japan Monkey Center)

5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)

Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.

During this course I was able to get a unique behind the scenes experience at a zoo in Japan. This course not only covered the zoo aspect of JMC, but also the museum aspect. JMC The Japan Monkey Center is special in that is is a recognized zoo and museum. This course was of great interest to me as I am involved with another PWS student (Cecile Sarabian) in a project titled the Conserv'session where we show documentaries about conservation and then lead discussions with the audience afterward. Recently we decided to show a documentary entitled Zoo Revolution, a film that covers how zoos are evolving in the 21st century. We showed the film as a follow up to this course and joined with the enrichment team of JMC and PRI's biweekly meeting on June 19th. It was a great opportunity to take in everything I learned from the Zoo/Museum course and have the chance to speak with JMC keepers and PRI staff directly.

The course covered keeping and enrichment, veterinary activities at the zoo, and the work of a curator. On the first day we toured the facilities and heard lectures from Dr. Idani and Dr. Matsuzawa. We learned about the history of JMC and how their relationship with PRI had evolved over the years. On the following day, we heard a lecture on animal welfare and enrichment. It was very interesting to hear about how the idea of enrichment has changed in Japan, and it was inspiring to see the dedication the keepers at JMC have to improving their enrichment regimes for their captive animals. We were then divided into groups and I was assigned the Gibbon/Siamang/Japanese Macaque/ and Baboon enclosure. We followed the keepers daily morning routine, and were asked to think of how to improve the enrichment for our assigned enclosures. We thought of immediate and future plans and presented them the rest of the students in the course, followed by a discussion on which regimes were feasible. We suggested an immediate enrichment idea would be to add more climbing structures for the gibbons/siamangs, and food-based cognitive puzzles for the other enclosures. For the long term I thought about my present study on vocalizations, and thought it would be interesting to incorporate that into my enrichment idea. The Bornean Gibbon at JMC is singly housed, and calls every morning. In the wild they call and sometimes hear responses from neighboring groups. I thought it would be beneficial to play a Bornean gibbon call on the loudspeakers in the morning as a "response" to mimic the natural vocalization behavior in the wild. This would be done before the park opens and would not disturb guests. As to my knowledge, I do not think vocalizations have been incorporated as a form of enrichment but could potentially be a cost effective easy way to mimic wild conditions.

We also observed an autopsy on a diseased ring tailed lemur and witnessed the entire process from removing tissue/organs, to preparing specimens for the catalog. We also observed the veterinary practitioners routine procedures on stitching wounds on a Japanese macaque to administering contraceptives to a baboon. Overall the course was very informative, and I liked the pace and style. I would like to thank everyone at JMC who gave some of their time to escort us around the grounds and allow us to shadow them through their routines. I would also like to thank the professors for donating some of their time to lead the course.

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6. Others



The introductory lecture on JMC



Learning about the role of a Zoo/Museum

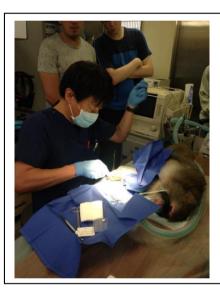
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At the kid's petting zoo, a student holds a gecko



Looking on as the vet stitches up a wound on a female Japanese macaque's hand



Looking through JMC's extensive specimen collection and artifacts

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