

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

2025-06-23	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center/M1
<b>Name</b>	Xorlali Azimey

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Japan Monkey Centre (JMC)—Inuyama, Aichi Prefecture, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
Zoo Science course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2025.06.20 - 2025.06.23 (3 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Dr. Yuta Shintaku, Curator at Japan Monkey Centre; Prof. Ikki Matsuda, WRC, Kyoto University; and Prof. Shinya Yamamoto, WRC, Kyoto University
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b>
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p><b>Field Trip Report: Zoo Science course at Japan Monkey Centre, Inuyama</b></p> <p>The primary aim of this course was to acquaint participants with the operations of a zoo establishment while also exposing them to the inner workings of wildlife museums and their diverse contributions to science and society in general.</p> <p>Dr. Shintaku, the curator of JMC, gave an overview of the history of JMC’s establishment and its present activities, especially pertaining to primatology research in Japan. He emphasized the significance of the center in enhancing public understanding of great apes, other wildlife species, and their interactions with the human environment. In his presentation, he cited a number of accomplishments and specific dates, including December 3rd, which is designated as World Japanese Macaques Day, as well as notable publications, such as "モンキー," which JMC has contributed to their success.</p> <p>Dr. Shintaku indicated that the center's functions include not only the operation of the zoo but also the conducting of scientific research in morphology, cognitive science, and behavior, among other fields. He discussed the cooperative relationships that existed between JMC and other institutions. A significant aspect was their collaboration with a major railway firm in Japan, which has facilitated cultural and educational advancement both at the center and in the surrounding region.</p> <p>A separate session by Dr. Watanuki covered the museology aspect of JMC, highlighting the collection and preservation of both living and non-living specimens for research, exhibition, and educational purposes. The collections comprised bone specimens, hides and skins, partial or whole-bodied samples, journals, books, and photographs that tell stories from the past. He emphasized that the collections were intentionally preserved to enhance the experience of nature for both present and future generations.</p> <p>After the lecture session, we were taken on a general tour of JMC to observe the various enclosures and sites where the different primate species were kept. We observed chimpanzees, baboons, mandrills,</p>

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

marmosets, ring-tailed lemurs, squirrel monkeys, and other primates. A notable observation for me was the slow loris (nocturnal—they were kept in a dark space during the day) and the marmoset, whose enclosure was quite detailed to mimic their wild environment.

### **Visit to the Veterinary Unit**

We had exclusive access to the veterinary unit of the JMC, where animals that needed medical care were treated. A baboon with a broken forelimb was receiving medical attention on the day of our visit. We had the opportunity to observe the treatment process. We also learned about the process of sedating an animal (Fig. 3 & Fig. 4) to administer medication. We learned that the application methods varied, particularly depending on the size of the primate involved.



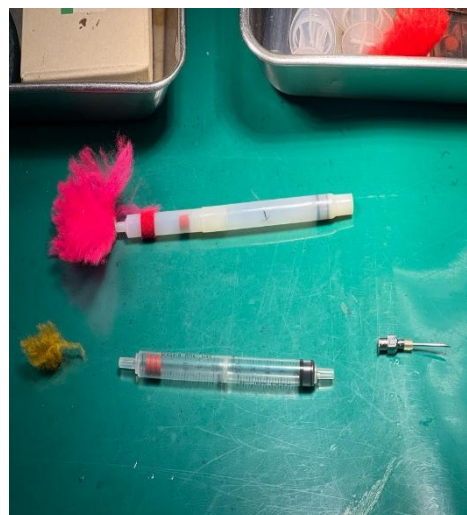
**Fig.1. Baboon under anesthesia**



**Fig.2. Scan results of injured area.**



**Fig.3. Demonstration of anesthesia application  
on large primates**



**Fig.4. Anesthesia instruments**

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

**Zoo and Museum Curation**

The next activity was a session with Dr. Shintaku, an expert in morphology, during which he demonstrated the preparation of specimens and exhibitions, specifically focusing on deceased primates. During the session, we were invited to his laboratory, where he surgically removed the skin and muscles from a deceased macaque to be used as a research collection. The method was intriguing, requiring much accuracy to avoid damaging the specimen. Following the dissection, he preserved the specimen appropriately according to the objective of the procedure. He emphasized the significance of maintaining accurate data records on the samples, as they are essential for the specimen's future use. Next, we visited the collection storage unit, which housed finished collections and specimens, and explored the storage categories.



**Fig.5. Bone specimen for storage**



**Fig.6. Brain specimen in a storage container**

Later, we had the opportunity to practice organizing a primate's skeleton specimen. I was given a long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) specimen (Fig. 7) to work with. It was really an exciting experience.

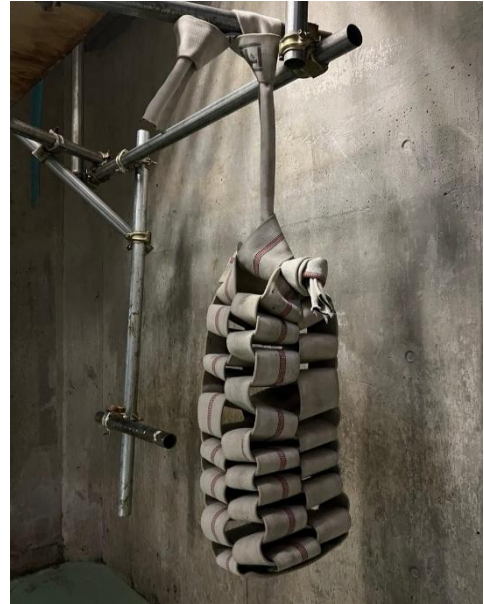


**Fig.7. Skeleton specimen organization and storage**



**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

For the final day, we worked alongside the zookeepers to experience the management practices they carry out daily. We removed feed and fecal waste from the silverback gorilla and macaque cages, followed by an extensive scrubbing and feed placement. We learned how to prepare some hanging feeders (Fig. 8), which serve as enrichment tools for the gorillas to grab onto and play with. It was a fulfilling experience knowing I was contributing to their welfare.



**Fig.8. Zoo management session**

In the last session, we participated in a zoo education program attended by a group of elementary school students visiting the JMC facility. We assisted them in the preparation of treats (apples) for the Japanese macaques, which was also a fun and insightful experience.

Finally, we discussed in detail how zoos serve as a platform to educate, conduct research, and the preservation of data and specimen collections for both the present and future generations.

### **Conclusion**

The trip was impactful as I learned about zoo and museum management and got to see the JMC’s wide variety of primates up close. And learned a lot about their history, morphological differences, and the establishment of the Japan Monkey Centre (JMC).

### **6. Acknowledgement**

- I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Matsuda-sensei and all the staff of the Japan Monkey Centre (JMC) for sharing their invaluable knowledge throughout the training.
- I would also like to thank the PWS and WRC members for this amazing experience.
- Finally, I am grateful to my colleague Casey, the interns, and other station researchers for making the trip unforgettable.