

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.)

	2019. 05, 17
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	James Brooks

1. Country/location of visit
Koshima, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan
2. Research project
Koshima Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019.05.07-2019.05.13
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Professor Sugiura and Suzumura-san of WRC, Kyoto University
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.
<p>During the Koshima Field Science course, we were able to learn about the history of studies on Koshima Japanese Macaques, practice field observation methods, and practice collecting, analyzing, and presenting data. We started the trip at the field station on the mainland, where we were taught vital information about camping and preparation. The next day the tides were too high to safely visit the island, so instead we visited Cape Toi and observed horses. The horses were very interesting, they formed flexible, tolerant groups, with some infants who continued to suckle from their mothers, and observed a few instances of grooming and aggressive behaviour. The next day we went to Koshima, where we set up camp and observed wheat feeding of the monkeys. The dominance and tolerance relationships of the monkeys were very visible, with dominant monkeys monopolizing larger patches of food, and fights occurring with clear winners when several monkeys tried to cofeed. My study was on the responsiveness of provisioned monkeys to pointing gestures, which although did not reveal large results was a great learning opportunity and did suggest some interesting behavioural variations that might be relevant to my future studies. Back on the mainland we analyzed our data and presented to the other students. This was a good experience in preparation and presentation and I enjoyed learning about what the other students chose to study, the connections that came up between some different students study topics were interesting to discuss. Overall the course was valuable in practicing field skills and it was very interesting to see such an important site in primatology. Thank you very much to the organizers and especially Sugiura-sensei for the support.</p>


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6. Others

Thank you the PWS program and all the staff for providing this opportunity, to Sugiura-sensei, Suzumura-san, and Fukushima-san for all their help on the island, and to the other students for their help during camping and during my experiment.