

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. 07, 05	
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1
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1. Country/location of visit
Rakuno Gakuen University, Hokkaido University, Noboribetsu Bear Park, Maruyama Zoo; Hokkaido; Japan
2. Research project
Stress and Behavior in Captive Animals
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019. 06. 29 – 2019. 07. 05
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Professor Kazuto Yamashita (Rakuno Gakuen 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>From June 29 to July 05 I accompanied Professor Takako Miyabe-Nishiwaki (Kyoto University) and Professor Daniel Mills (Lincoln University, UK) to Hokkaido. We visited some facilities to discuss the condition of captive animals and attend special lectures at Rakuno Gakuen University.</p> <p>On the first day we met the researcher Mie Kikuhi, who currently lives in Sapporo, and is finishing to write her PhD thesis on animal behavior under the guidance of Professor Daniel Mills. In the afternoon she took us to the Museum of Hokkaido University. On the next day, we made a short trip Shikotsu-Toya National Park, located in the Noribetsu area, south of Sapporo, where we could see free ranging deers. In the afternoon we proceeded to Noribetsu Bear Park where about 90 Hokkaido brown bears are housed. It is an observation park where people can watch the animals from a platform or through the protection glasses. Dr Naoya Matsumoto, the veterinarian of the park, guided us through the enclosures and medical treatment area. Some bears showed repetitive behavior such as pacing and walking in circles. Dr Mills gave his opinion on some specific cases presented by Dr Matsumoto and we proceeded to visit the Brown Bear Museum. This museum displayed information about the characteristics and distribution of the species and also about anatomy and biology.</p> <p>We also visited Rakuno Gakuen University in two occasions to have lectures on Stress and Animal Behavior in Horses and Cats with professor Daniel Mills. The veterinarians and students of the University attended and Miyabe-sensei assisted with the translation to Japanese. Professors Kazuto Yamashita and Tadashi Sano were our hosts in the institution.</p> <p>One of the cultural aspects of the trip was to get in touch with the Ainu culture. I had the opportunity to visit a museum dedicated to the Ainu at the Botanical Garden of Hokkaido University. Ainu people had a close relationship with nature and bears were considered gods.</p> <p>We also made a one-day visit Maruyama Zoo. Dr. Natsuo Ohsawa, the zoo’s veterinarian, took us to the veterinary hospital, showed us videos of training of the animals and discussed some behavioral problems too. I think the Maruyama zoo was what impressed me the most during this trip. We basically spent the whole day at the zoo, visiting the animals and observing the enclosures and the environment they build for the animals. The elephant enclosure was very diverse with enrichment tools for feeding and interaction with the keepers in a protected area where visitors could watch.</p> <p>One of the most visited animals in the zoo was the polar bear. The enclosure was very interesting because there is a tunnel underwater that allows people to see the polar bear diving and catching fish. One of the most rich and green zoos I have seen so far.</p>

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Bear at Noribetsu Bear Park, Hokkaido



Elephant enclosure at Maruyama Park, Hokkaido



Lecture on Animal Behavior at Rakuno Gakuen University



Lecture on Animal Behavior at Rakuno Gakuen University

6. Others

I would like to thank PWS for the support. Also, thank you to my supervisor Dr Miyabe-Nishiwaki for organizing the program.