

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.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1
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1. Country/location of visit
JMC, Inuyama, Japan
2. Research project
Zoo/Museum Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019. 07. 17 – 2019. 07. 19 (3 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Professor Gen'ichi Idani (Zoo Director); Dr. Yuta Shintaku (Curator), Japan Monkey Centre, Inuyama
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 17 to 19 of July I joined the course on zoo and museum education at the Japan Monkey Centre (JMC).</p> <p>On the first day Dr. Gen'ichi Idani, gave a lecture on the history of Japanese primatology and creation of the Japan Monkey Centre in 1956. He explained that the work was not reduced to primate species. Researchers were studying also rabbits, horses and deers in order to understand their behavior and society composition. Two years after the foundation of JMC, the first edition of the scientific journal Primates came out. From 2014, JMC administration passed from the Meitetsu Company to Kyoto University. During the afternoon Dr. Shintaku gave us a lecture about specimens' preparation and primate anatomy. He showed the process of collecting and preparing bones, skin and organs and stressed the importance of building and preserving an extensive database that may serve for future research. Also, we could understand better the work of a museum curator. JMC is one of the few museums in Japan that counts with four curators.</p> <p>On the second day we followed the zoo staff to designated areas to learn about their work. I visited the South American Center. We followed the routine of feeding of marmosets, spider and capuchin monkeys and also slow lorises. During the afternoon, Dr. Shintaku guided us throughout the Japan Monkey Centre introducing the different areas and species and talking also about the enclosures, how they were built and the improvements they are planning to do. We also had a lecture about the role of a zoo museum.</p> <p>On the morning of the last day we visited the veterinary hospital and Dr Okabe gave us a short lecture about anesthesia. Then he proceeded to take care of Sakura, a 24-year-old macaque that cannot move the pelvic limbs properly. It leads to decubitus sores and she needs to be cleaned and have bandage changed every day for the past three years. Although she is an elderly macaque, she has a very good appetite and strong arms that help her move.</p> <p>During the afternoon we had a lecture on Zoo Education and we discussed about our first experiences in zoos. After the lectures, we made a practical activity with the visitors in the park. Students went to different zoo areas and observed visitors, their behavior and conversation about the animals and exhibitions. Afterwards, we discussed our observations. I chose the Squirrel Monkey Island, an open enclosure. Since it was a rainy day there were not so many visitor in the area and I observed and compared the behavior of two individuals. Also, I observed one student as he was visiting the area. The feature that caught more attention in the area was the birth of a squirrel monkey baby three days before the visit. He is healthy and the mother is taking good care of him (photo).</p> <p>This course brought me new knowledge about the role of the curators in museums and centers of education like JMC. Also, it was very important to follow the keepers to understand how laborious and delicate is their work. I found the preparation of specimens, especially bones, very interesting. JMC currently exerts the function of a museum and zoo, housing one of the world's largest diversity of non-human primates, and promotes environmental education for adults and kids.</p>

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Masks belonging to the cultural collection at JMC



Female carrying a 3-day old baby at Squirrel Monkey Island

6. Others

I would like to thank PWS for the support. Also, thank you to Dr. Yuta Shintaku who led this course and to JMC staff that kindly gave lectures and walked us through the zoo. Also, thanks to my colleagues that helped to translate Japanese to English.