



Registered Charity  
020-694-NPO

VMF Newsletter

## BABIES, BABIES, AND MANY MORE ... BABIES!

**This year we received the highest number of orphans arriving at the sanctuary within the last 10 yrs and because of this the last few months have been really busy. Thanks to our motivated and caring volunteers, babies were given a second chance in life, were given the time to adapt to their new environment and were introduced to their new vervet monkey mums and a whole new big family with whom they will live a natural life again! In this newsletter you'll get to know most of this season's babies. Hopefully you'll enjoy reading about these little characters growing into quite amazing individuals...**

**With this newsletter we also want to take the opportunity to thank the staff at C.A.R.E. Baboon Sanctuary, Moholoholo, and Caryn Waldeck for caring and transporting several monkeys to us this season, as well as everyone else who helped the babies find their new homes at the VMF!**



Name: Groot  
Troop: Skrow  
Named by: Staff

Groot was the second baby to arrive after a farmer shot his mother; he immediately stole the hearts of the baby staff! True to his namesake, he has always been a sweet little monkey, rushing to comfort other babies when they were nervous and helping others learn how to drink from the feeding cage. He is now fully integrated into Skrow troop with his foster mum and orphans Zabana, Mahodan and Ellyn.

Name: Zabana

Troop: Skrow

Named by: Adeline Coignet

Zabana is yet another baby that we picked up from Moholoholo. Zabana was quite young when she arrived and relied on her older "brothers and sisters" to teach her the ropes for the feeding cage. She quickly mastered it and was taken to Skrow troop to be integrated with orphans Ellyn, Mahodan and Groot. Despite her small size, she was the first to be integrated into the troop and received a ton of attention from Skrow females!

Name: Ellyn

Troop: Skrow

Named by: Nathalie Galy

From the day she arrived, Ellyn has been spunky and independent, always ready to climb the highest branches in Disneyland and chase all the insects! She was paired up with Mahodan for integration into Skrow troop, where the two have finally found their new family.



Name: Mahodan

Troop: Skrow

Named by: Nathalie Galy

Mahodan (or Mo, as our staff loves to call him) was one of the first orphans of the season, brought to the foundation after a farmer shot his mother. Mahodan has always had a calming presence on the other babies and was often the first to comfort others when they were scared or upset. He is now integrated into Skrow troop with his foster mum and orphans Ellyn, Groot and Zabana!

Name: Janet

Troop: Skrow introcage

Named by: Liz Angus

Janet was one of the smallest babies, brought to us at about a week old. Tiny and scared, she grew very attached to her human caretakers while she learned the feeding cage in Disneyland and grew old enough to meet a foster mum. She was brought to Skrow for integration and immediately fell in love with the females in the troop, quickly forgetting her attachment to humans. She is currently waiting in the introcage with Lou and foster mums Polar and Hayley, the plan is to integrate them within the coming weeks! Thank you to C.A.R.E. Baboon Sanctuary for transporting her to us!

Name: Lou

Troop: Skrow introcage

Named by: Sarah and Paul Fairman

Sweet Lou has one of the saddest stories of our orphans this year, she was rescued in a garbage dump while she and her mother were being



camp while she and her mother were being stoned by humans. Lou had some minor wounds but sadly her mother did not survive. Fiercely independent and non-humanized, initially Lou had difficulty connecting with a foster mum with our programme. Despite her rocky beginnings, today, she is in Skrow introcage with fellow orphan Janet and foster mums Polar and Hayley. She will be integrated into the troop shortly, and finally find her new vervet family!



Name: Joli  
Troop: Koko  
Named by: Sean-Paul Hooten  
Joli was found by the side of the road and handed over to a vet in Polokwane who then contacted Dave. While initially nervous about her new home, these nerves quickly dissipated once she met the other babies in Disneyland, especially Groot and Peggy! She and Peggy were fast friends and, based on their boisterous personalities, were chosen to go to Koko troop to meet foster mums. These two independent little ladies were our first troop integrations of the season and did amazingly! They are both doing fantastically in the troop and are encouraging Jeffrey and Christal as this new pair goes through the integration process at Koko troop.

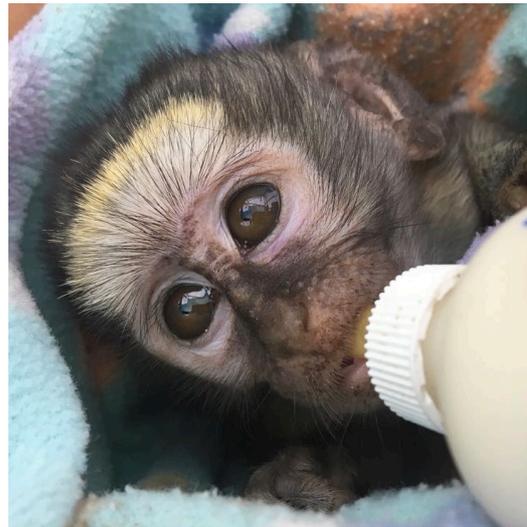
Name: Peggy  
Troop: Koko  
Named by: Bernie Price  
Peggy arrived at the end of November, her mother was said to have been strangled by a fence, leaving Peggy to fend for herself. As soon as she got here, it was clear that Peggy had a big personality and was one of our more courageous orphans of the season. She quickly paired up with Joli in Disneyland and was sent to Koko Troop to later become our first baby integration of the season! Peggy's character and personality has only gotten bigger since joining Koko troop and many of the staff and volunteers have funny stories of how boisterous she is!



Name: Christal  
Troop: Koko introcage  
Named by: former humans  
Christal was kept as a pet for some months before her journey to the VMF. She bonded closely with fellow orphan Jeffrey and is currently meeting foster mums from Koko Troop in preparation for her troop integration!



Name: Jeffrey  
Troop: Koko Introcage  
Named by: Allison Bernstein  
Jeffrey was one of our later babies in the season, found alone by a river and brought to the foundation. Upon arrival, we saw that he had a minor concussion but quickly recovered. He is now eagerly awaiting integration into Koko troop with his girlfriend Christal, ready to join fellow babies Peggy and Joli from earlier this season!



Name: Nora  
Troop: SAAV  
Named by: Louise Stewart  
Nora is one of the most stunning babies this season- inside and out! Her calm and sweet demeanour matches her dear little face. She and Shemesh are now happily integrated into SAAV troop with mums Priya and Holly.

Name: Shemesh  
Troop: SAAV  
Named by: Yuval Keshet  
Shemesh was found in the storage units in Tzaneen center, alone and afraid. He quickly adapted to life in Disneyland and was paired up with Nora to be the first ever babies integrated into SAAV enclosure! Their integration went without a hitch and both are happily at home with their new family.

Name: Kobe  
Troop: DnD  
Named by: Emily Elmer  
Kobe wins the prize for the biggest sweetheart of



the season! After losing his mother, he was taken in as a pet for some months (even though it's illegal in South Africa). He bonded quickly with our human baby care team but luckily he was taken to Dino and Daniel Troop before long to begin his bonding process with the monkey mums. He has recently been integrated into the troop with fellow friends Conjo, Timothy and Merlin.



Name: Timothy

Troop: DnD

Named by: Charlotte Wolf

Timothy was another orphan dropped off by C.A.R.E. Baboon Sanctuary after he was found alone in an empty water tank. Timothy has always been on the tiny side but makes up for it with a big personality! He and Merlin were the first boys in the Dino and Daniel introcage to meet foster mums and both of them spend their days play wrestling and getting groomed. He has recently been integrated into the troop with his three other friends Conjo, Merlin and Kobe!

Name: Merlin

Troop: DnD

Named by: Bernie Price

Merlin arrived at the Foundation via Moholoho. He was severely underweight and dehydrated, clinging to life. Through the ever-patient care of our baby and vet teams, he eventually regained his strength and energy and was taken to meet the other orphans in Disneyland. Despite his rough beginnings, when he was finally brought to Dino and Daniel Troop to meet his new foster monkey mums he was adored by all of the troop monkeys! He has recently been integrated into the troop.



Name: Conjo

Troop: DnD



Named by: Eleanor Carin

Conjo is yet another orphan that was kept as a pet for some time prior to joining the VMF. He was very humanized when he arrived and had some difficulty getting used to being around other vervets. With time and patience, he was taken to the Dino and Daniel introcage to meet foster mums and has since become much more comfortable around the Dino and Daniel females and his fellow friends. The 4 boys have recently been integrated into the troop!

Name: Dottie

Troop: Gismo Introcage

Named by: Gail Crowley

Dottie was also kept illegally as a pet and sadly was fed a poor diet consisting mainly of processed foods and meat. Due to the poor nutrition as a baby, she is quite small for her age. Dottie is loveable and adventurous and has adapted to life without a hitch. She is currently paired up with Alvin, in an introduction cage at Gismo Troop and will be integrated into the troop shortly.



Name: Alvin

Troop: Gismo Introcage

Named by: Tanisha Davis

Alvin is one of our oldest and largest arrivals of the season, having been kept as a pet prior to the VMF. He has a rough time forming bonds with other monkeys and relinquishing his attachment to humans. He is currently with Dottie in Gismo Troop Introcage and is slowly following her lead as she bonds with foster mums from Gismo troop.





Name: Joby

Troop: Goliath

Named by: Sarah and Paul Fairman

Joby was initially found by the Tzaneen Dam, with little indication as to what happened to him previously. He is a boisterous little man who can eat his weight in mango! He was paired up with DD and Jerry in Goliath introcage and has since been successfully released into the troop! While he hasn't bonded with any one mum in particular, he and DD can often be found with the high ranking females and juveniles in Goliath troop. We are all excited to see how he thrives in the troop, maybe one day he'll even be an alpha!



Name: Jerusalem (Jerry)

Troop: Goliath

Named by:

Jerusalem (aka Jerry) was brought to us in mid December of last year, found in her mother's arms after they were both hit by a car. While her mother didn't survive, Jerusalem (lovingly referred to as Jerry by staff) had some damage to her tail and a broken foot. With lots of TLC from our vet staff, she healed wonderfully and was taken to Goliath Troop to be integrated. Mrs. Gold (her monkey foster mum) took a shine to her immediately and is always close by her side. Now in Goliath Troop, Jerry can be found near Mrs. Gold and last year's orphan Dana, munching on seeds and expertly climbing trees. Jerry is now famous thanks to the episode of the Dodo's Comeback Kids Animal Edition.



Name: Stick

Troop: Engeltjie

Named by: Charlotte Hourston

On Christmas Eve, Santa came early and brought us Stick, a male of about 2 months that had been attacked by a dog, leaving him with a broken tail and a shattered femur. As soon as the vets were open, we took him in to have a pin placed in his leg. While we sadly were not able to save his tail, his leg healed wonderfully and we were able to integrate him into Engeltjie troop. Despite his short tail and skinny leg, he loves his new family and spends his days play wrestling with the other babies and drinking lots of milk!

Name: Elliot

Troop: Engeltjie

Named by: Abigail Barton

Elliot's mother was allegedly killed by martial eagles and he was very distressed when he arrived, crying for days for his lost mother. However his luck changed when he met the loving mums of Engeltjie! He was

for days for his lost mother. However his luck changed when he met the loving mums of Engeltjie! He was accepted instantly by them and soon forgot the pain of his past and has grown in to a confident little man who is loved by all.

Name: Maggie

Troop: Engeltjie

Named by: Allison Bernstein

Maggie was found alone after her troop was suspected to have been poisoned. She was very much a wild monkey from the moment she arrived and wanted very little to do with us humans. Once she finished her quarantine period she moved to Engeltjie troop where she met mum Jessie and her previous foster baby Theo. The threesome hit it off from the start and can be seen playing and hanging out in the troop as a wonderful family of three.



Name: Benjamin

Troop: Gismo

Named by: Trisha Fravel

Benjamin traveled quite a distance to be with us, his mother was shot in the town of Musina on the border of South Africa and Zimbabwe. He was rescued from the farm and kept as a pet for a short time before finding his way to us. Benjamin wins the award for the biggest ears on any baby this season! He was a charm to look after and integrated into Gismo troop smoothly.

Name: Trisha

Troop: Gismo

Named by: Trisha Fravel

Trisha was all sass from the moment she arrived! She was placed in quarantine with another of our orphans, Jeffery, and the moment we opened her crate she marched right up to him and stole the mango right out of his mouth! She kept this confidence all the way through her time in Disneyland and her integration into Gismo and is now paired with some of the more high-ranking mums in the troop. She is one to watch in the next few years as she struts around!



Name: Dylan

Troop: Gismo

Named by: Lynda Stanecki

Poor Dylan was found alone in a cattle krall in phalaborwa. He was very clingy to his human fosters and we were a little worried about how he would get on with other monkeys, but he surprised us



would go with other monkeys but he surprised us all and bonded with foster mum Uh-oh almost immediately. He is now bright and happy and living out with the troop.  
(Dylan is the boy on the left)

Name: Pye-wa-ket

Troop: Gismo

Named by: Korne Duran

Pye-wa-ket (or Pye as he is lovingly known as) arrived with us after being kept as a pet by a family. Unfortunately on arrival it became clear he was suffering from oral herpes. This meant he needed a longer quarantine period than most of the other babies and it was about two weeks till he was able to meet the other monkeys. He didn't let this hold him back though and once he was healthy he joined Gismo troop where he bonded instantly with the other baby boys and has grown in to a very handsome monkey.



Name: Hannah

Troop: Engeltjie

Named by: Alicia Ruppert

Poor Hannah was rescued from a life of solitude in a dark room of someones house. She was quite distressed when she arrived and took a few days to settle down. Once we were able to get her out and amongst other monkeys she really perked up and now thrives in Engeltjie troop.

Name: DD

Troop: Goliath

Named by: Tamara Rush

DD has one of the stranger arrival stories of any of this seasons orphans as she was found alone in a bathroom stall of a restaurant with no clear reason as to how she got there! She is a very smart little lady

who was initially paired with a lovely mum Mrs Gold but decided upon joining the troop that she would rather hang with the alphas! She can be seen strutting her stuff with the high ranked monkeys and is sure to do well for herself in the coming years.

### ***Foster one of our troops!***

*Would you like to get regular updates on the troop where the orphans you named are living now? Why not adopt a troop? For only 85\$/70€/60£ you can become a foster mother/father... Are you interested and want to get more info? Please contact [info@vervet.za.org](mailto:info@vervet.za.org).*

### ***Remember our auction?***

*A few weeks ago we organised a fundraiser where we auctioned 'Fiona', a lovely artwork made by the Dutch vegan Artist Joeke Van Der Meer. It was Trisha Dalgard Fravel who won the auction and is now the proud owner of this beautiful artwork.*

*Thank you Marc Merckx and Medicor International NV/SA for sponsoring the transport of the artwork to the United States.*



### ***Would you like to return to South Africa and join us as one of our voluntary staff members?***

*Are you interested in returning to the VMF to lead our Baby Care Team for next baby season? The VMF is looking for responsible and caring individuals (preferably with baby care experience or former volunteers) to lead a team of interns to provide the best possible, individualized care for our incoming orphans, many of whom have undergone physical and mental trauma. This position will have you supervising interns and volunteers, liaising with our management and meds teams and generally ensuring that each baby is thriving in their new environment. This role requires a minimum 1 year commitment and we are ideally looking for someone to begin no later than August. In return we will provide vegan meals and accommodation and train you on everything you need to know.*

*For more information, please contact [info@vervet.za.org](mailto:info@vervet.za.org)*



*For below upcoming events we are still looking for volunteers to help! Interested? Please contact [hilde@vervet.za.org](mailto:hilde@vervet.za.org)*



## Upcoming events

### Belgium:

- May 26th, [Vegan Street festival, Brussels](#)
- August 10th-12th, [Ieper Hardcore Fest, Ieper](#)
- August 19th, [Vegan Summer Festival, Ghent](#)
- November 17th-18th, [VeggieWorld, Brussels](#)

### Luxemburg:

- September 6th-9th, [International Animal Rights Conference 2018 \(IARC\)](#)

### Austria/Italy

- May 11th-13th, [Veggie Planet, Rome, Italy](#)
- June 8th-10th, [Veganmania, Vienna, Austria](#)
- November 23rd-25th, [Vegan Planet, Vienna, Austria](#)