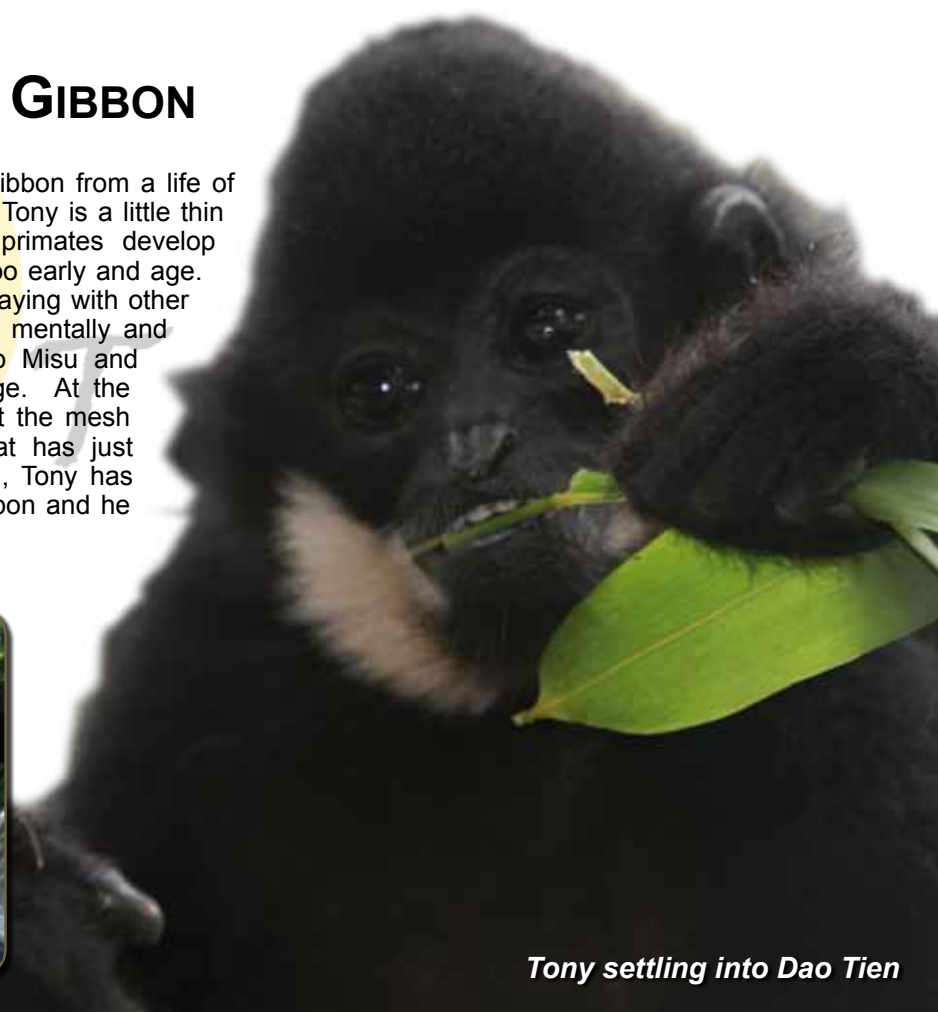


By Dr Marina Kenyon

NEW RESCUE - TONY THE GIBBON

On the 20th March we rescued a three-year-old gibbon from a life of solitary confinement as a pet in Ho Chi Minh City. Tony is a little thin and has a "self-hugging" behaviour that baby primates develop when they are taken away from their mothers at too early an age. We hope we can turn this around and have him playing with other gibbons soon so that his condition improves both mentally and physically. We are planning to introduce Tony to Misu and Trang, two young female gibbons of a similar age. At the moment Misu and Trang are squashed up against the mesh trying to get a better look at the new male that has just moved in. Within two days of being at Dao Tien, Tony has showed himself to be a confident mischievous gibbon and he appears ready to meet the girls!



Tony settling into Dao Tien



Veterinarian Uli Stretcher conducting health check on Tony



Lat is soon to be released back into the wild with his partner Da and their baby

Da & baby in the trees of the 20ha semi-free forest

Merry (pictured) and her partner Lee Lee will also be released back into the wild very soon

THE MONSOON RAINS RETURN

As the rains return every one is getting ready for our first gibbon release out into the national park. Our field team has been surveying the release area, which is about 40ha. A small release cage will be placed in the area and after a couple of days the gibbons will be released. It will be interesting to see if they stay together as a pair and if they stay in the area that we have chosen for them...only time will tell!

After several trial and error efforts with different pairs in our small semi-wild enclosure and other pairs loose on the island we have just released Da, Lat, and their infant loose on Dao Tien. They too have a release cage which they are still coming back to so we are hoping that by June they will have shown that they are capable of feeding themselves in the trees and that they are not interested in people any more. The signs are good so far. Also doing really well are Merry, LeeLee, and their newborn infant. They are in the 20ha semi-wild enclosure and have been feeding themselves and staying away from people for the past year. In June we are planning to put GPS collars on the males and release the two family group back out into Cat Tien National Park. It will be the first time rescued gibbons have been rehabilitated back into continuous natural habitat forest!

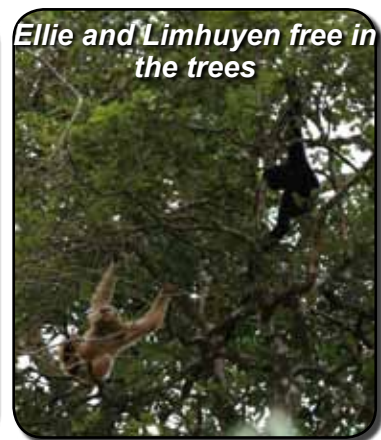
Thanks for all your support – we could not do it without you.



Dao Tien primate care staff after transferring Ellie with her radio collar into the satellite cage in the trees



Mr Thanh carrying Ellie to the release cage in the forest for final training before release.



Ellie and Limhuyen free in the trees

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