

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

	2014. 06. 23
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Center/ D1/L3 Student
Name	Sofi Bernstein

1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Kumamoto Sanctuary
2. Research project
Field Course at Kumamoto Sanctuary
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2014.06.17-2014.06.20 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Satoshi Hirata, Professor at Kumamoto Sanctuary, Dr. Naruki Morimura, Program Specific Associate Professor, Kumamoto Sanctuary
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 this visit I had the chance to see what life is like working at a sanctuary. Students from WRC, myself, and a visiting researcher from China, made up the group of students participating in this field course. On the first day we toured the facilities and helped set up touch panels in the bonobo enclosure. This was very exciting since these touch panels will be used for the first experiments in bonobo cognition. I felt very lucky to participate in helping set up the touch panels and getting the chance to see the bonobos interact with them for the first time.</p> <p>We also conducted observations on two separate groups. The first group was a bonobo pair, Yoshiki (male) and Yosuke (female). We had a choice in how we wanted to collect data, so I decided to do focals of three minutes. I attempted to assign locations of the individuals for each focal, and also wrote down the behaviors of the focal and what individual was proximate. It was so interesting to watch them, this was the first time I had ever seen bonobos! The second observation took place with the Black group of chimpanzees (7) living in an outdoor enclosure. Members of this group include: Black (male), Candy (female), Chiko (female), Sakura (female), Oumu (female), Haruna (female), Yoshie (female). Since I felt comfortable with identifying all of the individuals of this group, I also conducted focals of three minutes recording the same data as before (location, behavior, and proximity).</p> <p>We also had the opportunity to see how eye tracking equipment works, and all students took turns calibrating the machine as subject and experimenter. Afterwards, we observed eye tracking experiments with several chimpanzees. Other activities included assisting staff with enrichment and cleaning enclosures. We also planted banana trees on the last day as a memorial of being the first batch of students to attend a field course at Kumamoto.</p> <p>This was an invaluable experience, and I learned so much about what it is like to work at a sanctuary. The dedication of the staff is truly inspiring, and I would love the opportunity to return to Kumamoto one day and do some sort of internship.</p> <p>Through this experience, I have developed a clear vision on how to cope with the rehabilitation of primates at a sanctuary, Kumamoto is an excellent facility that gives a home full of enrichment and joy to displaced primates.</p>
6. Others

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I would like to thank PWS for this amazing opportunity. Also I would like to thank Professors Hirata and Morimura for their guidance and tours of Kumamoto sanctuary. It was an incredible experience, and I hope to return soon. Thank you to all of the students who attended and shared many smiles and interesting discussions with me. Also thank you to special appointment researcher Yusuke Mori for providing 30 fish for the BBQ Thursday night!

*Thank you to Dr. Hirata for allowing me to use the following pictures for this report.



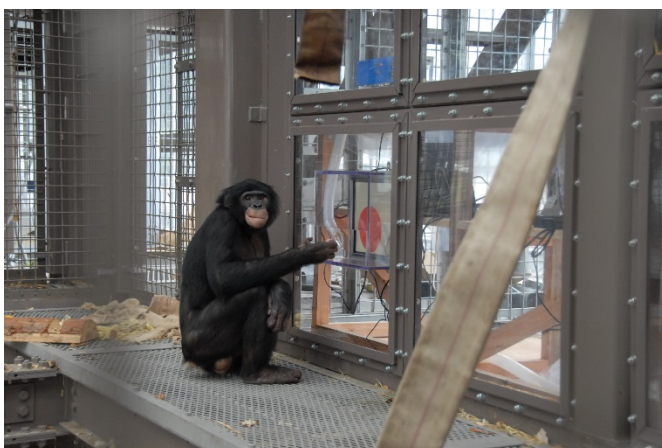
1. Students conducting a behavioral observation on a group of bonobos, Yosuke (female) and Yoshiki



2. Students conducting a behavioral observation on the Black group of chimpanzees.



3. Learning how to set up a touch panel.



4. Watching Vijay, a male bonobo, use a touch screen for the first time.

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5. Observing the eye tracking experiments with chimpanzees.

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