

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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1. Country/location of visit
Japan/ Aichi
2. Research project
PWS Zoo / Museum Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
02 February 2019 – 04 February 2019
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Professor Gen’ichi Idani (Zoo Director), Dr. Yuta Shintaku (Curator), Japan Monkey Centre
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
<p>The goal of this course is to get practical experience in environmental education in the field of primatology/wildlife science as well as to learn to work as a curator, one of the three exit points of the PWS program. This course provides lectures by zoo technicians and practical training as zookeepers.</p> <p>Schedule</p> <p>Feb 2nd Received introduction lectures, observed a dissection of a long-tailed macaque and organized specimens</p> <p>Feb 3rd Experienced zoo keeping works, conducted a survey of visitors, received a lecture about a role of zoo</p> <p>Feb 4th Observed veterinary care, received lectures about research activities in JMC and exhibition technics</p> <p>On the morning of our first day, we received a lecture about the history of Japanese primatology and JMC from Dr. Idani. In the afternoon, we visited the storage area of morphological specimens. There were a wide variety of specimens stored in that area. I learned that those specimens are important to know not only the appearance of animals by seeing but also the texture of their hair by touching. Organizing skeletal specimens which we experienced required extreme care not to lose any small pieces. I learned how delicate work is that by overlooking several pieces of bone. We also observed a dissection of a long-tailed macaque by Dr. Shintaku as a part of the process for specimen making.</p> <p>On the morning of February 3rd, we separated into two teams. I cleaned a cage of mandrills and made a feeder for chimpanzees to learn about animal keeping and environmental enrichment. I learned that zoo staffs have many kinds of work which require both a lot of physical strength and creativity for making animals life better. We also had an opportunity to think about visitors by conducting survey in the afternoon. The visitors who I observed spent less than two minutes to see chimpanzees and it was much less than I had expected.</p> <p>On our last day, we learned about veterinary works and research activities in JMC. Although I had visited JMC several times, I did not know many activities including research ones which are conducted by JMC and collaborators from various universities.</p>

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Through this course, I learned that there are many kinds of specialist concerning with management of zoo such as curators, researchers, veterinarians and animal keepers. I strongly felt that it is really important that those people actively cooperate each other to tackle with all kinds of issue which all the zoos in Japan are facing. I would like to keep searching for a way to enrich the captive environment of chimpanzees and bonobos as a researcher while studying about them in the wild.



Fig. 1 Chimpanzees looking at same direction



Fig. 2 a Gorilla “Taro-san”

6. Others

I would like to thank the PWS program for supporting this course.

I also would like to express my appreciation to the lecturers and participants of this course.