

2019 was another busy year at Tacugama. For the second year in a row we have received many orphan chimpanzees who lost their mothers and families to the illegal bush meat trade.

As we enter this new year and new decade, it is important for all of us to continue to do our part and pay attention to the meats we are eating and sanctuaries or zoos we are visiting. Visiting and supporting ethical organizations is important to ensure that the worlds precious animals are not being exploited!

You can also help us by spreading this message to family and friends and by donating to Tacugama (and/or PASA) in order to help us continue to do our part through our rehabilitation, conservation, and education programs!

Thank you for your continued support. You are part of the reason why Tacugama has been able to continue our work as we enter our 25th year!

Jackson

Jackson and his best pal, Jackie have begun introductions with members from Tito's group. Jackson and Jackie will eventually be members of this group, living, eating, playing, and sleeping with them. There is a process involved when introducing new members. This has been a bit stressful for Jackson and has caused his immune system go down. Unfortunately he developed a fungal skin infection but our resident vet, Andrea, has it under control! Have a look below at the introduction process and who is one of Jackson's new pals!



Tacugama Chimpanzee Introduction Process

Over the past two years, Tacugama has received more than 16 orphan chimps. When the chimps first arrive they must go through a quarantine period where they are kept from the other chimps at the sanctuary to ensure that they are not sick and will not get other chimps sick. During this period, Mama P and Mary take care of the chimps and act as their surrogate mother. Once they pass this quarantine period, they are introduced to the other orphan chimps. In time, some of the chimps will then be introduced to the other groups that they will eventually be living with, this is the current case for Jackie and Jackson.

Jackie and Jackson are the very best friends. They arrived at Tacugama around the same time in YEAR. Since then they have been in a group with the other orphan chimps. These two will eventually be living with Tito's group which include Tito, Sonia, Joyce, Bidi, Jessica, Tombo, Young Bruno, Bainyaa, Basma, Suma, Sita, Ezme, Gabie, Suzie, and Chica. The introduction process has started!

As of mid-December Jackie and Jackson have been introduced to Suzie, Sonia, Tito, Esme, Sita, Jessica, Joyce and Bainyaa. They are first introduced through the mesh in the night enclosure. They are not in the same room but can touch each other and once they start to groom each other, the door between the rooms is opened. This allows them to play together and bond. During this process they are watched closely by care staff to ensure the safety of the chimps.

Jackson is more nervous than Jackie but he can see her confidence so, with her support, he is doing better. He has really made a connection with Sonia and they love each other. Suzie (Sonia's mom) is happy with Jackson too! Tito, the group's alpha male, loves Jackie and is very protective of her. They play and laugh together which is a good sign that the introductions have gone well so far. Jackson and Jackie have not been introduced to group's alpha female, Gabie, yet.

Gabie is very territorial and does not like new members but Morie, the group's care staff, is hopeful that she will be more accepting because the introduction to the rest of the alpha group (Tito, Suzie and Esme) went well. Stayed tuned for the next update as we hope integration can be done in February!