The Wild Capuchin Foundation: Aims and Objectives

History. The Lomas Barbudal monkey project originated with Dr. Susan E. Perry's graduate dissertation work in 1990 on the social behavior of a single group of white-faced capuchin monkeys residing in and near Lomas Barbudal Biological Reserve, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Over the past two decades, this project has expanded to the current longitudinal observation of twelve monkey groups at a field site staffed by 1-3 managers, 2-3 Costa Rican employees, 1-4 graduate students and/or post-doctoral fellows, and 3-12 volunteer research assistants. Funding for the field research has been provided by grants to Susan Perry and collaborating scientists from public and private organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. The Wild Capuchin Foundation is a California non-profit corporation formed in 2012 to ensure the continuation of this important and valuable project.

Aims. The Wild Capuchin Foundation was created to support scientific research on white-faced capuchin monkeys, to educate the scientific and lay public about research findings, to contribute to the conservation of capuchin monkey habitat, with emphasis on the tropical dry forest home of the study population, and to encourage others to embark on scientific and/or conservation careers related to primate research and/or conservation, as described below. The field work portion of the research is conducted at Lomas Barbudal Biological Reserve (a Costa Rican national government-owned and operated nature reserve with a research priority mandated by law), two private ranches (Hacienda Pelon de la Bajura and Brin d'Amor), and the forested lands contiguous with these locations in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

(1) Conduct scientific research on white-faced capuchin monkeys

a. Collection, analysis, and accumulation of a valuable behavioral, genetic and hormonal database. A critical endeavor for maintaining a long-term research program is the continuous collection and maintenance of the behavioral, genetic and hormonal data that make up the demographic database for the study population. This is because knowledge of the reproductive consequences of behavioral strategies (e.g., the number of offspring produced who survive to reproductive age themselves) is key to understanding the evolution of these strategies. Continuity of researcher presence also is vital for the protection of the monkey groups being studied, so that they do not fall prey to the pet trade and recreational hunters, and that their unique habitat be protected from harmful encroachment by forestry and extractive mining interests.

b. Maintaining the database. The database consists of the twenty-two years of behavioral, genetic and hormonal data accumulated from the efforts of over a hundred volunteers in the dry tropical forest, working from before sun up to after sun down to follow and record the wild monkeys' behavior as they go through their daily routines.

c. Focus of current research. Currently research focuses on the social behavior, life history strategies, cognition, ranging behavior, behavioral endocrinology, feeding ecology, demography, and conservation biology of white-faced capuchin monkeys, all of

which can be gleaned from the database. Research methods are non-invasive (e.g., monkeys are not captured or handled); they are observed and data are gathered on their activities entirely in their natural condition in the wild. The welfare of the monkeys is a primary consideration at all times.

e. Focus of future research. Work during the next decade will focus primarily on six areas: 1. Life history strategies and the role of demographics, early life experience and personality in shaping major decisions made by monkeys later in life. 2. The endocrinological correlates of particular life history stages and social or ecological circumstances (e.g. how cortisol levels change according to an animal's recent social interactions or demographic and health circumstances, or how social partner choice shifts according to reproductive state, as measured by reproductive steroids). 3. Social influences on the patterning of trait acquisition. 4. The ways in which monkeys communicate goals and needs without language. 5. Predictors of the patterning of coalition and alliance formation. 6. How climate change is affecting the population dynamics of the monkeys and fruiting schedules in the tropical dry forest where they live.

(2) Education of the scientific and lay public

a. Dissemination of published scientific results. Since 1990, the research at the field site has attracted numerous scholars and received international acclaim in top scientific, peer-reviewed publications such as Science News and Science. The scientific research has resulted in published contributions to the study of primate behavior in 37 published, peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, 6 chapters in edited volumes, 2 books, 2 popular articles and dozens of conference abstracts, and one text book. The book, *Manipulative Monkeys: The Capuchins of Lomas Barbudal*, is used as a primatology textbook by students from at least nine different universities and at the same time can be enjoyed by the interested layperson. Thus far, thirty-five people have published articles based on data generated by the Foundation, and many more scientists have works already in progress with the monkeys that are expected to be published in the next two or three years.

b. Topics of published findings in the past. Some of the topics on which these researchers have published their scientific findings from this database include: the dynamics of social relationships, between-group aggression, coalitionary lethal aggression, feeding behavior, demography, mate choice, the influence of kinship on the patterning of cooperative and affiliative behavior, communication (vocal, olfactory, and gestural), the role of social influence in the acquisition of foraging skills, social rituals used to test the quality of social bonds, the cognitive underpinnings of coalition formation, social transmission and cultural differences between populations of white-faced capuchins, kin recognition and inbreeding avoidance, hunting and meat-sharing, non-conceptive sex, reciprocity in grooming, migration by males, and the genetic structure of capuchin groups.

c. Lectures regarding scientific results. In the past, 5-30 lectures (primarily geared towards adults, but including some lectures for children) have been given in the US, Europe, and Costa Rica. Lectures at universities and academic conferences are given primarily by Dr. Perry and her faculty collaborators, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Lectures to the general public and to school or volunteer groups are given by a

broader range of volunteers, including permanent staff members and volunteers. These lectures (aside from lectures at scientific conferences) are typically by free admission and open to the general public.

(3) Contribution to Conservation.

a. Reports to the National Park Service. The Foundation will continue to provide regular biannual reports to the Costa Rican national park service (SINAC) and to owners of adjacent land inhabited by the studied monkey population, informing them of research results and making recommendations for policies and practices that will help ensure the continued well-being of the monkey population and their tropical dry forest inhabit.

b. Consultation with the National Park Service. Dr. Perry and collaborating scientists will continue to serve as consultants to the Costa Rican government (the national park service and the branch of the government responsible for development), as well as to nonprofit organizations in the United States and elsewhere concerned with wildlife conservation and land use, particularly when asked for data relevant to the preservation of tropical forests and monkey conservation. The Foundation also will continue to assist the national park service and other public and nonprofit organizations in efforts to reforest human-damaged portions of the monkeys' home ranges. Assistance includes scientific consultation regarding appropriate tree types, assistance in collecting seeds or caring for saplings before they are ready to be planted, planting trees, and providing logistical assistance to groups of volunteers who help with the planting. Volunteers can include members of the Foundation, visiting volunteer or environmental education groups (e.g. Putney Travel), or members of the local community.

(4) Encourage others to embark on scientific and/or conservation careers

The Foundation will provide training for individuals who need fieldwork and research experience prior to embarking on Masters and PhD programs in biological anthropology, zoology, animal behavior, psychology, or conservation biology. Funding for these training positions will take the form of room and board, reimbursement of transportation costs, and in some instances small stipends to offset their costs in volunteering to assist in data collection. In the past, Dr. Perry has provided such training to 118 individuals, 44 of whom applied and were admitted to graduate school in a closely related field.

Officers of the Foundation.

Dr. Susan E. Perry, Ph.D., is the President and Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Her work with the Foundation is related to her responsibilities as a professor in the Department of Anthropology, University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Perry is a widely published anthropologist. She was director of the Cultural Phylogeny Research Group at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology from 2001-6 and is currently a full professor at UCLA. For the past 22 years she has conducted research on the social behavior of capuchin monkeys. She has authored two books, 34 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals, 8 book chapters in scientific books, and various popular science articles and reviews. She is a reviewer for 18 scientific journals and scientific presses and 7 scientific granting agencies, and has served as an editor for the journal *Behaviour*. She has given 59 public lectures on capuchin research to scientists and researchers outside of her lecture responsibilities at UCLA, as well as many to

interested groups in Costa Rica. She provides overall direction and management of the Foundation and its work on a full time basis. Dr. Perry is physically on the site approximately 4 months per year.

Dr. Lynn A. Fairbanks, Ph.D., is the Treasurer and a Director of the Foundation. Dr. Fairbanks is a widely published primatologist and professor at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. She is the former director of the Center for Primate Neuroethology and the Vervet Research Colony, and has a thirty-five year career studying behavior, development and genetics of non-human primates. Dr. Fairbanks is a former Associate Editor of the American Journal of Primatology, and has authored over 150 scientific publications including peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters, and edited volumes. She currently serves on a scientific review group at the National Institute of Health.

Wiebke Lammers is Secretary of the Foundation and a Director. She has worked for the Lomas Barbudal Monkey Project as a field assistant, data analyst, field site manager, and environment education coordinator from 2003 to 2013.
She received an MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity from the University of Exeter where she currently works in the Technical Teaching Support team. Her research interests are human-wildlife conflict, tropical dry forest ecology and primate conservation and welfare.

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