



The St Francis Messenger

Edition 1 – Spring 2007

The Quarterly Newsletter for Compass Education Ltd

Welcome to this, the first edition of the St Francis Messenger. As you will probably know St Francis is the Patron Saint of animals and as Compass is primarily involved in teaching subjects related to animals and their welfare it seemed an appropriate name for this newsletter. Compass has been teaching people about animals since 1999 and in those eight years it has grown from two people with one course to a market leader with over 30 courses and 16 people involved in delivering them. Plans are in place to continue this growth with more and more courses in development that are simply not available elsewhere.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Compass as without you we would not be able to promote education in the animal industry and support animal welfare charities in the way we do.

The format we are following is to have the first half of the letter covering news items and the second half devoted to educational issues. We hope you like it.

If any readers have articles that they feel others would be interested in please submit them for consideration to Compass, either in manuscript or as a word document by email.

Pet Blood Bank Launched

Compass is supporting and promoting a new venture set up by 'Vets Now' called Pet Blood Bank UK. This is a registered charity based in Loughborough that collects blood from generous volunteers (just dogs at present) and supply it to vets across the country to ensure there is blood available for vets to use if our pets need a transfusion. For more information call them on 0844 8009925 or visit their website www.petbloodbankuk.org.

Partnership with Blue Cross

In April Compass was proud to announce that it is working closely together with the Blue Cross. This arrangement means that the Blue Cross has officially licensed the use of their logo on our publicity material. Any body wishing to raise funds for the Blue Cross with Compass support and advertising should email the office in the first instance.



Tiger Appeal by Shelly Lozano

Shelly joined Compass in 2006 to study a subject close to her heart - Big Cats and Feline Behaviour. About the same time she was motivated to go to Tiger Temple in Thailand after seeing a documentary on Animal Planet. Tiger Temple is a Buddhist monastery on the Thai-Burmese border where local villagers have brought in injured and orphaned tiger cubs since 1999 and the monks have nursed them back to health.



The abbot's dream is to establish a 12 acre enclosure to re-home their tigers and to start to reintroduce tigers into a protected area of jungle. The hope is to have this project completed by 2010 and work is already under way.

If you would like to help raise funds or contribute in any other way email shelly@lozano.freeserve.co.uk or phone 02380 442783.

Cercopan

Founded in 1994 by Zena Tooze, CERCOPAN is a non-profit, non-government organization based in Cross River State, Nigeria. CERCOPAN has established an international research and education centre for the study of non-human primates, biodiversity research, forest management and conservation in Cross River State's tropical rainforest north of Calabar. CERCOPAN operates with the sanction and cooperation of the Cross River State Forestry Commission.

Over 120 primates have been rescued, primarily through donations, and are in varying stages of rehabilitation at CERCOPAN's education centres in Calabar, and at Rhoko research and education centre.



Compass' contribution has been to write a primate conservation programme which many of the staff in Nigeria are studying.

CERCOPAN accepts both long term supported volunteers, and short term volunteers who are self supporting (3 months or less). Volunteers are vital to CERCOPAN's growth and development, providing a variety of skills and expertise for minimal cost, thus conserving scarce resources for project development. CERCOPAN believes all volunteers should bring a skill to the project which will help staff learn and the project expand and grow in new ways.

If you would like to know more, make a donation or even volunteer visit www.cercopan.org for more information or email info@cercopan.org.

Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

The ZSL has recently agreed that anybody studying with Compass will be accepted for Student fellowship of this prestigious organisation.

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is a charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats.

Their scientists in the laboratory and the field, animal management teams at both zoos and their veterinarians contribute wide-ranging skills and experience to both practical conservation and to the scientific research that underpins this work.

Anybody wishing to take up student fellowship and take advantage of the considerable benefits attached to it should phone the Compass office for an application form.

Visit of Martin Ujakpa from Ghana

For those who do not know Martin is a young man from Ghana who has studied IACE approved courses for some time now to assist him in establishing a network of people in Ghana who voluntarily devote time to animal welfare issues. He has done this whilst studying for a degree in IT which is now in its last semester.



Martin receiving his ZSL Student fellowship

The Institute raised funds to bring him over to the UK for a 10 day visit to broaden his animal education and to see what is being done here in terms of conservation and animal welfare.

His stay was based in Sheffield and will have been well reported in the Institute Journal but one day was hosted by Compass with the assistance of Charlotte Walsh (Institute Secretary) and Brigitte Barton (Committee Member). During this day Martin was taken to London Zoo to collect his Student Fellowship of the Zoological Society.

Here he got an understanding of the work carried out by them around the world, including his home continent.

Martin was an astonishingly inspirational young man whose enthusiasm and drive to learn about animal welfare and pass this knowledge on to his people shows an example that many youngsters in Britain could do well to follow.

The Plight of the Bumble Bee

It is reported that there is a dire problem with bee populations in Britain mainly being attributed to habitat loss. Out of the 25 species that are native to Britain three have gone locally extinct in the last 50 years and another ten are heading in the same direction. Many would argue that this is not a huge problem when compared with endangered mammal species but the pollination work they do in terms of our national flora not to mention their contribution to agriculture bring into focus what effect their demise would have.



The Great Yellow Bumblebee (*Bombus distinguendus*) is on the verge of extinction.

There are various surveys, beewatches and trials going on this year that anyone can take part in. All our readers are urged to visit www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk to make themselves better aware of the problem and see what they can do to help or how to get involved.

...and the honey bee

Whilst we are on the subject of bees it has also been reported recently that honey bee populations are also in sharp decline but for a more technological reason. Renowned for their skills as navigators it is now suggested that mobile phone signals are interfering with their sense of direction and are unable to find their way back to the hive. Some colonies are reported to have lost up to 75% of their populations causing the industry to be in crisis. Apart from the production of honey it is estimated that their contribution to the UK economy is in the region of £1 billion a year purely because of their pollinating activities.

As if this situation was not bad enough the UK is bracing itself for the arrival of what is now called 'Colony Collapse Disorder'. This phenomenon seems to have originated in the USA and has now spread to Europe. For no apparent reason older bees are dying early leaving young workers that are not ready to start foraging for pollen and nectar in sufficient numbers to maintain the colony.

Possible causes of the problem range from the use of unauthorised treatments for varroa mites (a honey bee parasite) to a plague of Asian Hornets that is certainly evident in France. These hornets feed their young on the bee larvae and can destroy a 30,000 bee hive in a couple of hours.

Intelligence

There are several words that keep appearing in students' work that are very difficult to define, these include: 'mind' consciousness and the big offender 'intelligence'.

The problem is that although we understand what is meant in conversation, when we are writing a scientific document it is important to avoid ambiguity.

There is a tendency to assume that humans are placed at the top of a scale of 'intelligence' in the animal kingdom but most animals carry out feats of behaviour well beyond the capabilities of people. You just need to examine how birds navigate, elephants find water in the desert or a young giraffe has the coordination to walk within hours of birth to understand that each

animal has the 'intelligence' it requires to survive.

In terms of domesticated animals it is true that some learn faster than others, this does not necessarily make them more intelligent, we also have to look at what we want them to learn and what motivation they have to learn it, does it have any survival value, for instance.

Unfortunately some popular authors are guilty of using these words, perhaps to write down to the level of their perceived audience. If you were to undertake any formal, advanced studies in any of the sciences related to animals you would be expected to avoid these vague words without lengthy explanation



Canine Corner

Dog-lover's Stunt was Insulting, Hurtful
FreeP.com (November, 16 2006)

Janet Rogoff pretended to be a blind person with a broken arm and sore neck. She liked the attention and was able to take her dog to the restaurant with her friend.



Dog With College Degree Called to Court
APNews.MyWay.com (March, 1 2007)

An attorney challenging the authority of the city's police chief wants the department's police dog to appear in court as an exhibit, because he says the dog and the chief have criminal justice degrees from the same online school. The issue gives "one pause, if not paws, for concern" about what it takes to get the degrees from the school based in the Virgin Islands

Dog Store Sign Angers Local Residents
AOLNews (February, 25 2007)

A newly opened store catering to very pampered dogs, especially female dogs, is getting more than questioning looks for its name, High Maintenance Bitch

Which breed is it?



Each issue of the Messenger will have a competition for a small prize and winners will be announced in the next issue.

From the photo above use your knowledge of dog breeds to identify the 'owner' of the paw (not the hand!). In the event of more than one correct answer one winner will be drawn from the hat.

Answers by letter or email to Compass by 30th June 2007.

Coursework Howlers

Animals lose water by sweating and urinating, they take in water by reversing these processes.

In the desert animals either live or die, there is no in between.

To get a calf you either use a bull or seaman that contains sperm.

The appearance of the anus in evolution was a breakthrough.