1 Welfare Impacts of the Illegal Wildlife Trade in a Cohort of Confiscated Greater

- 2 Slow Lorises, Nycticebus coucang
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- 4 **Abstract**:
- 5 Illegal harvesting and trade is a major force behind population declines of wild slow
- 6 lorises (genus *Nycticebus*). Less well-described are the impacts of the wildlife trade
- 7 on individual slow lorises. In this paper we describe quantitatively the
- 8 consequences of the wildlife trade for 77 greater slow lorises, *N. coucang*,
- 9 confiscated *en masse* and brought to Cikananga Wildlife Center in Indonesia. Medical
- 10 records indicate that in total 28.6% of the slow lorises died within the first six
- 11 months, mostly due to traumatic injury, and all the infants died. The greatest
- 12 sources of morbidity were external wounds (33.1% of 166 total medical events) and
- 13 dental problems (19.3%). Of the surviving individuals, 25.4% displayed abnormal
- 14 behavior. Behavioral observations indicate that healthy adults (n=3) spent 48.2% of
- 15 their active period performing stereotypies. These data illustrate the physical and
- 16 behavioral impacts of the illegal wildlife trade on the welfare of slow lorises. We
- 17 suggest that sharing these individual stories may help generate empathy and
- 18 educate the public about the impacts of the exotic pet trade on animal welfare.
- 19
- *Keywords*: exotic pets; venomous primate; rescue center; sanctuary; conservation
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- 23 Introduction

24	The illegal wildlife trade is an industry worth an estimated 7-23 billon
25	dollars annually that is firmly ensconced in a global system of organized crime
26	based upon the exploitation of the environment and human rights (Nellemann et al.,
27	2016). A review of reports describing drivers for the wildlife trade estimates that
28	22% of non-human animals are traded for use as pets or entertainment (Baker et al.,
29	2013). Human exploitation for use in traditional Asian medicine, the tourist photo
30	prop trade, and the illegal pet trade are the greatest threats to Asiatic lorisines, in
31	addition to deforestation for palm oil and other cash crops (Nekaris, Shepherd,
32	Starr, & Nijman, 2010; Nekaris & Starr, 2015). Because slow lorises (<i>Nycticebus</i> spp.)
33	adapt fairly well to habitats altered by humans, the wildlife trade is thought to be
34	the most critical factor in their decline (Nekaris & Streicher, 2008).
35	In 2008, the IUCN (2016) recognized five species in the genus <i>Nycticebus</i> , all
36	with decreasing population trends, and as of 2017 will recognize nine species at
37	even greater threat levels (Nekaris, unpub. data). In particular, two species of
38	Sumatran slow lorises, the greater slow loris (<i>N. coucang</i>) from the South and the
39	Sumatran slow loris (<i>N. hilleri</i>) from the North, will both be listed as Endangered
40	(IUCN, 2016; Nekaris, unpub. data). Greater slow lorises are legally protected in
41	their range countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand (Nekaris & Streicher,
42	2008). Greater slow lorises from southern Sumatra are disproportionately targeted
43	for trade due to ease of capture in disturbed habitats and close proximity to
44	Jakarta's trading hub (Nekaris & Streicher, 2008). Indeed, high levels of trade in
45	slow lorises precipitated the recent transfer of the genus Nycticebus from Appendix
46	II to Appendix I of CITES (Nekaris & Nijman, 2007).

47	In Asia, the main source country for animals in the wildlife trade is Indonesia
48	(Baker et al., 2013). A survey of markets in Sumatra indicated that the most
49	commonly traded primates are long-tailed macaques (Macaca fascicularis) and
50	greater slow lorises (<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>), despite the protected status of the latter
51	(Shepherd, 2010). The routine and open presence of slow lorises in Indonesian
52	markets reflects a lack of effort to enforce laws protecting them (Nekaris, Shepherd,
53	Starr, & Nijman, 2010). Numbers of slow lorises for sale in Javan markets have
54	increased over the past 25 years (Nijman, Spaan, Rode-Margono, Wirdateti, &
55	Nekaris, 2015). One likely reason for this trend is the nouveau celebrity of slow
56	lorises in "cute" Internet videos that have engendered a growing demand for slow
57	lorises as pets (Nekaris, Campbell, Coggins, Rode, & Nijman, 2013). Slow lorises in
58	markets are often found in hot, crowded conditions without access to water or
59	appropriate food sources; additionally, many slow lorises have their teeth removed
60	as a precaution against their toxic bite to both humans and other slow lorises
61	(Nijman et al., 2015; Nekaris et al., 2016). Such physical injuries can make their
62	reintroduction to the wild impossible, and the need for sanctuary housing grows
63	along with the popularity of slow lorises as pets (Nekaris & Jaffe, 2007).
64	Discussions of animal welfare are often framed in terms of the five freedoms,
65	a set of proscriptions for promoting animal welfare first codified by the British Farm
66	Animal Welfare Council in 1979. The five freedoms include the following: "(1)
67	freedom from thirst, hunger or malnutrition; (2) appropriate comfort and shelter;
68	(3) prevention, or rapid diagnosis and treatment, of injury and disease; (4) freedom
69	to display most normal patterns of behavior; (5) freedom from fear." Recently this

70 framework has been synthesized into a more holistic model of animal welfare known as the "five domains," which includes four physical domains—nutrition, 71 72 environment, health, and behavior—and a fifth mental domain that encompasses 73 affective and cognitive states (Mellor, Patterson-Kane, & Stafford, 2009). 74 Baker et al. (2013) reviewed reports on global wildlife trade for reference to 75 the five freedoms: 25% of articles referred to animals as impacted by disease, injury, 76 or functional impairment; behavioral restriction was cited in 20% of reports; 18% 77 referenced anxiety, fear, pain, or distress; and 13% referenced deprivation of food 78 or water. The authors suggest that the fairly low frequency of reports concerning 79 animal welfare indicate the extent to which welfare concerns are under-reported in 80 the literature on wildlife trade, which is dominated by conservationist approaches 81 (Baker et al., 2013). Although the urgent need to protect species likely underlies this 82 focus, it is the authors' opinion that more explicit, empirical knowledge regarding 83 the welfare impacts of the wildlife trade is also needed to inform the cultural, legal, 84 and political discourse addressing the global trade in animals, and to reduce 85 consumer demand by generating public empathy for the individual animals 86 involved.

Here we add to this body of evidence by describing the welfare impacts of the
illegal wildlife trade on a large cohort of greater slow lorises confiscated from a
wildlife trader. The Indonesian Nature Conservation Agency (BKSDA: Balai
Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam) notified Cikananga Wildlife Center (PPSC: Pusat
Penyelmatan Satwa Cikananga) on October 5, 2013 that they had confiscated a large
number of animals from a wildlife trader in Serang, Banten Province, Java,

Indonesia. The confiscation included 77 living greater slow lorises (*N. coucang*),
which were most likely of Sumatran origin, two black-shouldered kites (*Elanus axillaris*), one kingfisher (Family Alcedinidae), 44 owls, 120 squirrels, 330 kacamata
(white-eyed) birds (*Zosterops* spp.), and 20 bulbul birds (Family Pycnonotidae).
BKSDA released the non-protected species that evening and transferred the slow
lorises and kites to PPSC on October 6, 2013.

99 The illicit nature of the trade in slow lorises makes it difficult to establish 100 causal links between injuries or other welfare challenges and clandestine treatment 101 by wildlife traders. Information about how the slow lorises were captured, their 102 origin and destination, and transport conditions prior to those at the time of 103 confiscation is simply not known, although such trade routes in slow lorises 104 typically follow a consistent pattern (Nekaris & Starr, 2015). Trade of other primate 105 species in Indonesia has been better documented. For gibbons and orangutans, 106 animals harvested in Sumatra generally are transported on cargo ships across the 107 Sunda Strait to markets in Java (Nijman, 2005). Transport by air along this route is 108 uncommon, suggesting the slow lorises in this confiscation traveled for many hours 109 or more likely, multiple days (Nijman, 2005).

The large influx of animals at one time to PPSC also meant that not all
individuals were treated immediately, and in some instances, injuries occurred
before social housing conditions were adjusted due to group incompatibility.
Therefore, it is not always clear from medical records whether injuries occurred
prior to or during capture, during transport or in markets, or while housed at PPSC.
With these limitations in mind, we interpret our findings using the assumption that

116	problems reported closer in time to the confiscation likely reflect the conditions of				
117	capture or transport, while subsequent issues more likely reflect the impacts of life				
118	in the rescue center. Acknowledging these limitations, our aims in this report are to				
119	describe the following.				
120	1. The impact of transport conditions in the illegal trade on slow lorises				
121	as suggested by their physical condition following confiscation				
122	2. Sex- and age-specific, temporal patterns of morbidity and mortality in				
123	rescued slow lorises living in a sanctuary setting				
124	3. Behavioral stereotypies performed by rescued slow lorises				
125					
126	Methods				
127	Medical Data Analysis				
128	We reviewed medical data for 77 greater slow lorises (<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>)				
129	transferred to and treated at PPSC in West Java, Indonesia. Wilhelmina Eggen				
130	maintained all medical records and was also the primary provider of medical care.				
131	Our analysis includes medical data for the individuals from the time of their arrival				
132	and the subsequent six months at PPSC, so as to include information both on				
133	immediate sources of morbidity and mortality as well as longer-term impacts. We				
134	coded each medical event in the record (illness, wound, or medical observation) by				
135	the primary organ system affected following Fuller, Lukas, Kuhar, and Dennis				
136	(2014). Anorexia, weight gain, and weight loss were coded as "Body Condition."				
137	Abscesses were coded as "Integument." Finally, although several individuals gave				

birth during this time period, pregnancies and births are not included in morbiditytotals.

Caretakers were unable to perform necropsies on deceased animals, which
were considered evidence against the wildlife trader and were thus required to be
maintained intact. Because cause of death could not be definitively determined, we
present descriptions of circumstances leading up to deaths rather than causes of
mortality.

145

146 Observational Data on Live Animals

147 The slow lorises were housed indoors as solitary individuals, mother-infant 148 pairs, or same-sex adult pairs or trios. Each group was housed in a wire-mesh cage 149 measuring between 0.68 and 2.81 m³. All cages were similarly furnished with 150 wooden perching and densely packed fresh leaves. They were maintained on a 151 natural light regimen, although supplemental red lights were used for cage 152 maintenance and observation. Each slow loris was fed 60-150 g fruit/vegetable mix 153 and five to six crickets or mealworms once a day, and had access *ad libitum* to water. 154 The slow lorises were fed the insects in an enrichment device consisting of a garden 155 pot full of leaf litter.

We assessed the prevalence of stereotypic behavior in the population by
compiling reports in medical records and by behaviorally assessing the population
at six months. Assessments were completed by repeatedly scanning the entire
population (N = 14 scans) and noting the presence/absence of and type of
stereotypic behaviors being performed. All surveys were conducted in April, 2014

161	between 2100 and 0600 h, during the slow lorises' active period. Stereotypic
162	behavior was defined as "repetitive, invariant behavior patterns with no obvious
163	goal or function" (Mason, 1991 p. 1015). Many of the stereotypies observed, such as
164	body flipping, have not yet been described in slow lorises. Observations of this
165	behavior, as well as pacing and head swaying (or tossing) are consistent with
166	operational definitions of stereotypic behaviors in rhesus macaques described by
167	Lutz, Well, and Novak (2003), as well as those reported by Tarou et al. (2005) for
168	prosimian primates.
169	Detailed observations were conducted on a subset of individuals $(N = 7)$ that
170	displayed stereotypies using scan sampling of behavior (Altmann, 1974) at one-
171	minute intervals. Of these, 2 of 15 (13%) infants (all of which were born at PPSC
172	following the confiscation); 1 of 3 (33%) confiscated juveniles; and 4 of 12 (33%)
173	adult females performed stereotypic behavior. These individuals were each
174	observed for n = 60 focal observations (10 minutes each, for a total of 10 hours of
175	observation), except for #181, who died during the study period and was observed
176	23 times. Observations were balanced across 2000 to 0600 h and were completed
177	from January to June 2014.
178	

179 **Results**

180 Details of the Confiscation

181 Images taken at the BKDSA office show that the animals, which had been
182 recovered from the back of an SUV, were being transported inside plastic fruit crates
183 and cardboard boxes (Figure 1). All were tightly packed into boxes that included

184	some individuals that had died of apparent asphyxiation. Transport cages were
185	filled with excrement and other debris. Almost every slow loris recovered was in
186	poor body condition, with distressed pelage and multiple wounds (Figure 1). The
187	number of dead slow lorises included in the confiscation is not known.
188	Insert Figure 1
189	The cohort of slow lorises received by PPSC included 32 males, 41 females,
190	and four animals of undetermined sex. The majority of individuals were adults (29
191	males and 35 females): two males and three females were identified as immature
192	(juveniles), one male and three females were considered infants; and of the four
193	individuals of undetermined sex, three were considered infants and one a neonate.
194	Upon arrival at PPSC, individuals with dire illnesses or wounds were housed
195	in the Center's medical clinic, and the remaining individuals were brought to an
196	indoor quarantine space inside a warehouse. Staff and volunteers had prepared as
197	many enclosures as possible, but they had only 19 available. The slow lorises were
198	placed in same-sex groups in an effort to avoid breeding, and as many mother-infant
199	pairs were housed separately as possible. Several infants had been separated from
200	their mothers during transport, and staff did their best to match pairs as well as
201	they could. Additionally, several individuals were mis-sexed upon arrival and had to
202	be removed from their original groups at a later time.
203	Insert Table One
204	Patterns and Sources of Mortality in Confiscated Slow Lorises
205	During the first four weeks after their arrival at PPSC, 18 of the 77 slow

lorises (23.4%) died due to the severity of their wounds (Table 1). This group

207	included 5 of 29 adult males (17.2%), 8 of 35 adult females (22.9%), 1 of 5 juveniles
208	(20%), 4 of 7 infants (57.1%), and the only neonate. The majority of deaths occurred
209	in the first week (Figure 2) of the first month. After the first month, one additional
210	adult female died of an infected wound (Loris 163, Table 1) and the three remaining
211	infants died. In total, 22 of the 77 confiscated slow lorises (28.6%) died within six
212	months: five adult males (17.2%), nine adult females (25.7%), one juvenile (20%),
213	all seven of the confiscated infants (100%), and the only neonate.
214	Insert Figure 2
215	Additionally, 16 infants were born during the first six months at PPSC. Two of
216	these births occurred during the first week post-confiscation and appeared to be
217	spontaneously aborted fetuses rather than full-term neonates. Of the 14 live births,
218	3 (21.4%) did not survive.
219	For all adults, the most prevalent cause of death appeared to be trauma-
220	related. All the adult males that died had external wounds (Table 1). One male's
221	wound showed evidence of infection, and two males clearly had bite wounds. The
222	other two males that died had only small wounds and appeared healthy, but they
223	died spontaneously with no other obvious external cause. Six of the confiscated
224	adult females that died also had wounds. In three cases, these wounds were small
225	and did not appear life threatening, but the individuals spontaneously died. In one of
226	these cases, the slow loris suddenly fell to the bottom of the cage and was unable to
227	move her hind limbs prior to death. Two adult females died during respiratory
228	distress, one of which had no apparent external wounds. Two other females' deaths
229	were associated with reproductive trauma; one female that spontaneously aborted a

230	fetus and then died also had an infected leg wound (Figure 3; Table 1). Finally, one
231	adult female without obvious external wounds had an apparent seizure and died.
232	Insert Figure 3
233	Deaths of immature individuals from the confiscation were generally
234	associated with maternal rejection or neglect. Four infants were rejected by their
235	mothers during the first month after confiscation and subsequently died, and two
236	died of apparent starvation. Another infant experienced major trauma to the face
237	(Figure 3, Table 1) and was also rejected by her mother prior to her death.
238	
239	Sources of Morbidity Post-Confiscation
240	We recorded a total of 166 medical problems (hereafter called 'events') in
241	the medical records for the slow lorises over a six-month period following
242	confiscation (Table 2). Medical events were recorded for 24 adult males (82.8% of
243	the 29 confiscated), 34 of 35 (97.1%) adult females, all 5 juveniles, all 7 infants, and
244	the only neonate. The average number of events reported for adult males was 2.5
245	(range 1-6), 2.5 (1-10) for adult females, and 1.8 (1-5) for immature individuals.
246	Adult females contributed the largest number of events (50.6%) to the total,
247	followed by adult males (35.5%), and immature slow lorises (13.9%).
248	Insert Table Two
249	The majority of events (46.3%) occurred in the first month following
250	confiscation. In general, the number of events decreased over time, except for a
251	spike in month four associated with a large number of dental observations (Table
252	2). During the first month (Figure 4), there were a total of 41 events reported in 39

253 animals that involved wounds, amputation, or other severe trauma (N.B. this total 254 includes all the Wounds listed in Table 2 as well as one each of the Respiratory, 255 Reproductive, and Amputation categories). The number of traumas was highest 256 during the second week after arrival for adults of both sexes and declined 257 precipitously afterwards. 258 Insert Figure 4 259 Overall the greatest numbers of events were reports of external wounds 260 (33.1% of events), followed by dental events (19.3% of events), and changes in body 261 condition (13.9% of events). Ocular (9.6% of events) and integument problems 262 (9.6% of events) were also fairly common overall. Wounds and ocular issues were 263 most common during the first month, while dental events and problems with body 264 condition were more common in subsequent months. Issues with body condition 265 were more prevalent in females (14 of 23 events, 60.9%) than males or immatures 266 (infants and juveniles), as were reports of wounds (32 of 55 wounding events, 267 58.2%). 268 Major problems within each organ system category were also summarized. 269 The most common event for the category Body Condition was anorexia (8 events), 270 followed by weight loss (5 events) and weight gain (3 events). The most common 271 dental problems reported were tooth wear (17 events) and tooth decay (7 events). 272 The most common integument problem reported was hair loss (8 events), but 273 individuals also suffered from abscesses (2 events), dry skin, and necrotic skin. 274 Musculoskeletal events reported included paralysis, loss of mobility, a possible 275 intramuscular mass, and muscle spasms. Ocular problems reported included

infection (4 events), glaucoma, cataracts, and swelling. Whole body events included
reports of fever, low body temperature, dehydration, and swelling. In most cases,
the causes of wounds were not known, although one female (Loris 169) got her leg
caught in a cage, resulting in an amputation. Of the 55 wounds reported, 15 (27.3%)
were described as purulent, necrotic, or infected.

281

282 Behavioral Stereotypies in Surviving Individuals

283 At the time stereotypies were surveyed, 61 slow lorises lived in the 284 quarantine facility at PPSC: 25 males, 26 females, and 10 infants. In total, 13 of the 285 51 adults (25.4%: 6 males and 7 females) displayed repetitive, motion-based 286 stereotypic behavior. Stereotypies observed included pacing, head swaying and 287 weaving, and repeatedly somersaulting. An additional adult female living at the 288 Center's clinic performed extreme self-biting (Figure 3), to the extent that almost 289 her entire tail was lost. She eventually died as a result of her self-inflicted wounds. 290 The stereotypic behavior of seven individuals was studied in detail. The 291 juvenile and adults all regularly performed stereotypies when data collection first 292 began in January. The amount of time spent performing stereotypic behavior was 293 highest in the healthy adults. These three individuals spent on average 48.2 + 0.3%294 (SE) of their time exhibiting stereotypies. The ill female (ID number 181) spent 13.5 295 + 2.8% of time performing stereotypies and the juvenile (191) 18.5 + 2.4%. Two of 296 these individuals head swayed only, while the other three head-swayed but spent 297 most of their time pacing (Figure 5). Stereotypies were also observed in two infants 298 of unknown sex, both of which belonged to mothers who performed stereotypic

299	behavior.	The infant	of mother 16	7 (Figure 5) was observe	d head sv	vaving twice at
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

300 88 days old. The infant of 210 (Figure 5) performed on average 0.5 ± 0.3 pacing

301 bouts per hour, a behavior that appeared first at 78 days of age.

302

Insert Figure 5

303 Discussion

304 The 77 greater slow lorises received en masse by Cikananga Wildlife Center 305 after their confiscation from a wildlife trader provide an opportunity to examine the 306 welfare impacts of the illegal wildlife trade on a demographically mixed group of 307 individuals whose experience is likely typical of others caught in the live-animal 308 trade. Whereas infants are the predominant age-class sold in markets for other 309 Indonesian primates, slow lorises in markets are likely to be adults or juveniles 310 (Nijman et al., 2015). The demographics of this group are consistent with this 311 observation, as the confiscation included mostly juveniles and adults. For this group, 312 the youngest individuals were the least likely to survive; in fact, all the infants that 313 arrived with the confiscation were eventually lost. The poor survivability of 314 orphaned slow lorises is likely why infants are less commonly traded than adults. 315 In total, 23% of these individuals died within their first month after 316 confiscation, and 28% died within the first six months—and these totals only reflect 317 the individuals that survived long enough to be taken to the rescue center. Mortality 318 was higher among females than males, a trend also observed in slow lorises at 319 Ciapus Primate Center in Indonesia (Moore, Wihermanto, & Nekaris, 2014). Almost 320 every animal brought to PPSC was impacted; 92% of all individuals were observed 321 to have a medical problem at least once. Behavioral abnormalities were common as

well. One quarter of the surviving adults performed stereotypic behavior, often for
nearly half their active period. In short, a large number of the confiscated slow
lorises showed evidence of physical and psychological trauma. Although, it is not
possible to link these impacts definitively to either the conditions of their capture
and transport or their housing at the rescue center, such conditions have never been
observed in wild slow lorises nor are they typical of zoo-housed slow lorises.

328

329 Assessing the Five Freedoms in the Wildlife Trade

330 Although we do not know the means by which the slow lorises were 331 originally captured, the conditions of their transport by the wildlife trader show 332 clear violations of the five freedoms. The slow lorises were transported without 333 access to food or water, and many were dehydrated upon rescue. They were tightly 334 packed into crates in obviously uncomfortable conditions. Photos show evidence of 335 skin scalded by contact with urine, and many individuals had wounds on their hands 336 and feet that likely resulted from attempting to grab the rough plastic crates. Slow 337 lorises are quadrupedal climbers that cannot leap; therefore, they require a 338 continuous network of branches or other substrates that they can grasp to move 339 about (Fitch-Snyder, Schulze, & Streicher, 2008). The inability to grasp a substrate 340 was likely a great source of distress for the slow lorises during transport and is also 341 a source of stress for slow lorises kept as pets in unsuitable conditions (Nekaris, 342 Musing, Vazquez, & Donati, 2016). In most cases it is not possible to determine 343 whether traumatic injuries resulted from the physical or social conditions of

344 transport. Almost every individual experienced some type of medical problem,

345 suggesting that pain, injury, and disease were widespread.

346 Forced social proximity to other slow lorises was likely another major source 347 of injury and distress for the slow lorises during transport. Wild slow lorises live in 348 long-term stable pairs that may take years to form, and exhibit intense territoriality 349 towards their neighbors that sometimes results in injuries (Nekaris, 2014). As in 350 other wild greater slow lorises (Wiens & Zitzmann, 2003), traumatic injuries 351 involving bite wounds were more common for males than females in the slow 352 lorises at PPSC. It is likely that individuals forced into contact with a large number of 353 other slow lorises during transport became aggressive and afraid, inflicting 354 traumatic wounds upon one another. Indeed, during interviews with traders, one 355 reason they give for cutting the teeth of slow lorises is to reduce damage in 356 transport, as damaged slow lorises are less sellable (Nekaris, unpub. data). Other 357 traumas occurred at PPSC as a result of aggression during the process of 358 establishing compatible social groups. The spike in wounds that occurred during the 359 second week at PPCC likely reflects the process of social group formation, while 360 wounds recorded during the first week likely reflect the impact of the conditions of 361 the wildlife trade.

Slow lorises are the only venomous primates. Nekaris, Moore, Rode, and Fry
(2013) review what is known about slow loris venom. Slow lorises have a brachial
gland located above the elbow that produces an odorous exudate that is chemicallyactivated by mixture with their saliva. Bites inflicted with this chemical can cause
anaphylactic shock in humans (Madani & Nekaris, 2014) and result in festering,

367 necrotic wounds in other slow lorises (Nekaris et al., 2013). The potential role of 368 slow loris venom in competition between individuals is in fact thought to be a 369 possible explanation for its evolution (Hagey, Fry, & Fitch-Snyder, 2007; Nekaris et 370 al., 2013). In the slow lorises in this study, several individuals died after receiving 371 what appeared to be relatively small wounds. Similar reports detail deaths of 372 rescued slow lorises in Java from small puncture wounds with radiating necrosis 373 (Rode-Margono & Nekaris, 2015); Prameswari, Sanchez, and Moore (2014) report 374 four deaths from 40 venomous bites in 25 slow lorises in a two-week period. Fatal 375 effects of bite wounds that became necrotic or non-healing despite treatment have 376 also been reported in slow lorises housed in zoos (Fuller et al., 2014) and sanctuary-377 housed pygmy slow lorises (Streicher, 2004). Although we cannot causally link the 378 deaths at PPCC to the effects of venom, the impact of intraspecific aggression would 379 likely be intensified by forcing a large number of individuals from a venomous 380 species into close proximity.

381 The physical and behavioral effects of the wildlife trade on these slow lorises 382 lasted well after their immediate transport and capture. Photographic evidence 383 suggests the slow lorises did not have the physical space to perform natural 384 behaviors during transport, but additionally, many individuals exhibited behavioral 385 stereotypies after the confiscation that consumed a large portion of their activity 386 budgets. Although the causes of stereotypic behavior are complex and not entirely 387 understood, repetitive motor stereotypies are often associated with inadequate 388 environments (Mason, 1991). Moore, Cabana, and Nekaris (2015) noted levels of 389 stereotypic behavior (33% of 90 animals) similar to those reported at PPSC in three

390 species of Indonesian slow lorises housed at another rescue center in Java. Their 391 analysis of factors contributing to the occurrence of stereotypies showed that cage 392 size was not predictive of stereotypy development, but social group composition 393 was an important factor. Animals housed alone performed the most stereotypies, 394 while those housed in same-sex groups showed the lowest rates of these behaviors 395 (Moore et al., 2015). Neither time at the rescue center nor origin (market, transit, 396 pet owner, or captive born) were significant predictors in their model. However, the 397 majority of the animals in their study came from markets or pet owners, and Moore 398 et al. (2015) notes that the high prevalence of stereotypies in rescued animals— 399 compared to the near absence of stereotypies reported for zoo-housed slow lorises 400 (Tarou, Bloomsmith, & Maple, 2005)—suggests that an underlying trauma related 401 to the wildlife trade likely contributes to abnormal behavior in rescued animals. 402 However, the etiology of stereotypies is complex, and isolating the impact of capture 403 from other causes, such as conditions at PPCC or even genetic predisposition is not 404 possible in this case. Regardless of their etiology, these stereotypic behaviors are 405 likely to be persistent; for example, stereotypies first developed after orphan 406 chimpanzees were rescued from the bushmeat and live trade persisted for decades 407 (Lopresti-Goodman, Kameka, & Dube, 2013).

The impact on infants was recorded through the multiple cases of maternal rejection that occurred in this group. Failures to nurse, carry, or provide other sources of maternal care to infants in nonhuman primates may result from inadequate environments or exposure to extreme stress. For example, free-ranging rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) that score higher on an index of maternal

413 rejection also have higher cortisol levels, an indicator of stress (Maestripieri,

414 Hoffman, Anderson, Carter, & Higley, 2009). Rejection of infants could reflect

415 evolutionary parent-offspring conflict (Maestripieri, 2002) or a response to extreme

416 stress, or both operating at different levels of causality. For this slow loris group, the

417 end result was that multiple mothers rejected their infants soon after confiscation,

418 and none of the confiscated infants/neonates ultimately survived.

419 Trends in morbidity and mortality in this group of slow lorises over the 420 months following their confiscation reflect the difficulties of managing large 421 numbers of exotic species recovered from traumatic circumstances in a rescue 422 center, especially with limited resources. Slow lorises have long been erroneously 423 considered frugivores, but newer research shows that the slow loris diet consists 424 predominantly of tree gums and exudates (Das, Nekaris, & Bhattacharjee, 2014; 425 Starr & Nekaris, 2013; Swapna, Radhakrishna, Gupta, & Kumar, 2010). 426 Epidemiological research on slow lorises living in zoos has shown that diets high in 427 fruit and low in exudates are associated with dental disease (Cabana & Nekaris, 428 2015), and that dental disease and issues with body condition (especially obesity) 429 are common for slow lorises in captivity (Fuller et al., 2014). Both of these maladies 430 were major sources of morbidity for the slow lorises at PPSC as well. Slow lorises 431 will (and did) readily consume fruit, and even though gum was known to be an 432 important part of their diet, it was extremely difficult locally to source gum Arabic 433 or a similar substitute in Java. Nekaris, Musing, Vazquez, and Donati (2015) 434 evaluated the welfare of slow lorises kept as pets by using videos posted online and 435 found that videos of pet slow lorises rarely (if ever) showed an appropriate diet

offered to the animals, which often were obese. They conclude that it is unlikely that
a private owner could or would source gum as the main diet (Nekaris et al., 2015),
and they note that even accredited zoos rarely provide gum as part of the loris diet
(Fuller, Kuhar, Dennis, & Lukas, 2013). Even under the best of circumstances,
replicating the natural diet for animals can be difficult in a captive setting, and this
may lead to compromised welfare.

442

443 Informing the Public about Welfare in the Exotic Pet Trade

444 Stories of individual animals like the ones described here can play an 445 important role in educating the public about the consequences of the exotic pet 446 trade. Recent increases in the number of slow lorises traded illegally are likely due 447 in large part to the popularity of videos of pet slow lorises shared on YouTube and 448 other social media (Nekaris et al., 2013). "Cute" videos of slow lorises eating rice 449 balls or being tickled belie an ugly truth, which is that most of these animals are 450 being cared for in captive conditions that violate their five freedoms (Nekaris, 451 Musing, Vazquez, and Donati, 2015). An analysis of the welfare of primates kept as 452 pets in the United Kingdom found that generally, it is not possible for human 453 caregivers to provide the proper social and physical environment for nonhuman 454 primates, and likely all pet primates are welfare compromised to some extent 455 (Soulsbury, Iossa, Kennell, & Harris, 2009). In general, the public does not associate 456 the wildlife trade with animal welfare concerns (Dubois & Fraser, 2013). However, 457 people are becoming more aware; for example, online comments on an infamous 458 video of a pet pygmy slow loris in Russia being tickled reflected a greater concern

for conservation and less desire to own one as a pet after educational outreach
efforts (Nekaris et al., 2013). Public education can influence the desire to own exotic
pets, although some evidence suggests that issues pertaining to disease and legal
consequences may be more persuasive than welfare or conservation concerns
(Moorhouse, Balaskas, D'Cruze, & Macdonald, 2016).

464 We have provided medical and behavioral evidence showing that the illegal 465 trade in slow lorises results in violations of welfare that physically and 466 psychologically harm individuals. Although we are at times unable to differentiate 467 between causal impacts of the trade itself or of life in a rescue center, it is important 468 to remember that their captivity is a result of their illegal harvesting for the trade. 469 Welfare challenges in rescue centers will persist either until sanctuaries have the 470 funding and capacity to provide confiscated animals with conditions promoting 471 good welfare, or the influx of animals from trade is stopped. We hope that by 472 quantifying how these individuals were impacted by the wildlife trade and the 473 captive care available in a rescue center with limited resources, this report will 474 serve to educate the public and curtail the demand driving the illegal trade in slow 475 lorises.

476

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Figure 1. Transport conditions of greater slow lorises upon confiscation from a
wildlife trader. Photos show the crates the trader used to transport live animals (top
left) and the conditions of the slow lorises inside after they were recovered by the
Forestry Department in West Java, Indonesia.



620



621
622 Figure 2. Number of deaths for the first four weeks after 77 confiscated greater slow
623 lorises arrived at Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa Cikananga in West Java, Indonesia.
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625



Figure 3. Photographic examples of some of the wounds found in confiscated greater
slow lorises after their arrival at Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa Cikananga. Top Left:
Loris 156, an adult female who arrived with an infected leg wound, and

630 spontaneously aborted a fetus and died shortly after arrival; Top Right: Loris 163,

631 an adult female who arrived with a wound stretching around her entire belly, and

632 died three months post confiscation of an infected wound on her knee; Lower Left:

633 Infant 157, who became blind from necrotic wounds near her eyes and died after

being rejected by her mother; Lower Right: Loris 169, an adult female whose photo
shows a wound caused by self-mutilation.

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640

Figure 4. Number of wounds or other traumatic injuries for the first four weeks after
77 confiscated greater slow lorises arrived at Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa Cikananga

643 in West Java, Indonesia.

644

645



- 647 Figure 5. Rates of stereotypic behaviors performed by five greater slow lorises
- 648 confiscated from a wildlife trader. Each individual was observed for ten hours,
 649 except Loris 181, who died partway through the study and was observed for 3.8
- 650 hours. Loris 191 was a juvenile female, and the remaining animals were all adult
- 651 females.
- 652

Table 1. Sources of mortality for 22 greater slow lorises that died within the first six

654	months after their	confiscation	from a wildlife trader.

ID	Sex	Age	Date	Death	Notes
		Class	of	Summary	
			Death		
143	female	adult	07 Oct	respiratory	blisters in the mouth; heavy
			13	distress	respiration; died suddenly,
					bleeding from the nose
145	female	adult	08 Oct	respiratory	weak, cold, unresponsive;
			13	distress	heavy respiration
146	female	adult	10 Oct	possible	appeared healthy but
			13	seizure	underweight;
					then found at the bottom of a
					cage with shaking, muscle
					spasms, and foam coming from
					the mouth
149	female	adult	12 Oct	trauma:	appeared healthy except for
			13	cause	small wounds on tail and shin:
				unknown	suddenly died
151	female	adult	12 Oct	uterine	wounded nose: pus. blood
101	Tomaio	addit	13	infection	coming from vagina: obviously
			10	mootion	in pain, laving on back
156	female	adult	17 Oct	abortion.	gave birth to undeveloped
100	Tomaio	addit	13	anorexia	fetus: blood coming from
			10	trauma	vagina for several days:
				ci duilla	infected wound on upper leg
					anorexic despite treatment
163	female	adult	21 Ian	infection	infected wound on knee upper
105	Temate	uuure	14	trauma:	leg: stopped eating and died
				anorexia	desnite treatment
214	female	adult	19 Oct	trauma	multiple small wounds on face
217	Temate	adult	13	trauma	and buttocks: treated but found
			15		dead with foam in the mouth
216	fomalo	adult	29 Oct	trauma	rojected her infant: several old
210	Ternale	auuit	12	u aullia;	wounds: collapsed and was
			15	paratysis	would s, collapsed and was
					diad in crite of treatment
147	mala	a dult	11 Oct	auddan	and a spite of treatment
147	male	adult	11 000	sudden	appeared nearthy then found
			15	ueath, cause	to the mouth
150			12.0.1		
152	male	adult	13 Uct	trauma	cola, unresponsive, found with
			13	(wounds)	multiple fresh wounds on legs

r	1	1	1	1									
					and arms, thought to be bite								
					wounds; died soon after								
153	male	adult	14 Oct	trauma,	wounds on feet; infected								
			13	wounds	wound in mouth; found								
					unresponsive and died								
154	male	adult	14 Oct	trauma,	apparent bite wounds on legs,								
			13	wounds	body; treated and died								
155	male	adult	15 Oct	trauma,	wounds on hands and feet;								
			13	wounds	became unresponsive despite								
					treatment and died								
144	unknown	neonate	7 Oct	maternal	less than one week old;								
			13	rejection	rejected by its mother; eyes								
					cloudy; unable to get another								
					female to foster the neonate								
150	male	juvenile	12 Oct	abscess;	necrotic skin, infected abscess								
			13	anesthesia-	near right eye; anorexic;								
				related	sedated to treat wound and did								
					not recover from anesthesia								
157	female	infant	17 Oct	maternal	eye infection; hair loss and								
			13	rejection;	possible skin infection on head;								
				trauma;	attacked by mother and								
				infected	rejected; necrotic wound near								
				wound	eyes leading to blindness;								
					multiple necrotic fingers;								
					sedated to amputate three								
					fingers; became anorexic after								
					treatment								
148	unknown	infant	11 Oct	maternal	many small wounds to fingers								
			13	rejection	and toes; rejected by mother;								
					died the same day								
215	unknown	infant	20 Oct	maternal	rejected by mother; being								
			13	rejection	hand-fed; found cold and								
					unresponsive, died								
217	unknown	infant	8 Nov	unknown	found cold, unresponsive; died								
			13		shortly after								
218	male	infant	10	inanition	emaciated with small wounds								
			Nov		on leg and fingers; separated								
ļ			13		for treatment but died								
219	female	infant	19	inanition	emaciated; housed with mother								
			Nov		and twin, not receiving enough								
			13		nutrition								

Table 2. Overview of major factors contributing to morbidity in greater slow lorises in a rescue center for the first six months

- 657 following their confiscation the illegal wildlife trade. Medical problems are classified by organ system. Totals are given for
- adult males (M), adult females (F), immature animals (juveniles and infants) of either or unknown sex (I), and all animals (T).
- 659 One individual may have reports in multiple organ systems.

Month, Age & Sex	One				Two				Three				Four				Five				Six				TOTAL			
Class/	Μ	F	Ι	Т	М	F	Ι	Т	М	F	Ι	Т	М	F	Ι	Т	Μ	F	Ι	Т	Μ	F	Ι	Т	М	F	Ι	Т
Organ System																												
Amputation	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Body Condition	1	4	1	6	0	1	3	4	0	1	0	1	3	4	0	7	0	3	1	4	0	1	0	1	4	14	5	23
Dental	3	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	0	19	3	2	0	5	1	2	1	4	19	12	1	32
Integument	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	5	0	2	0	2	2	3	0	5	6	7	3	16
Maternal	-	-	4	4	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	4	4
Rejection																												
Musculoskeletal	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	1	0	5
Ocular	3	5	2	10	1	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	9	2	16
Reproductive	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Respiratory	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Whole Body	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	6
Wounds	17	19	2	38	0	8	3	11	0	3	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	32	5	55
TOTAL	27	38	13	78	1	13	7	21	0	5	0	5	22	14	1	37	5	8	1	14	4	6	1	11	59	84	23	166