

Felicitas Woll

Dear Mr Sermsirimongkol:

I recently saw videos of the animals at Pata Zoo, and I was compelled to reach out to you. I struggled not to hit “stop” as I watched animals with sad expressions lying on the concrete floors of their barren cages, staring at blank walls, or desperately holding onto and playing with pieces of trash they’d found – the only “enrichment” they had. Some of them rocked, swayed, or paced – signs of extreme psychological distress. Many, including gorilla Bua Noi and orangutan Kat, spend their lives in isolation, deprived of the companionship of members of their own species. I’m aware that my friends at PETA have offered to place all the animals at reputable, accredited sanctuaries, and I urge you to accept their offer.

I know that many people in Thailand and elsewhere have a particular interest in Bua Noi and follow her story, and they are becoming increasingly concerned about her suffering. During the more than 30 years of her captivity at Pata Zoo, humans’ understanding of other animals’ intelligence, emotional complexity, and unique physical and mental needs has greatly improved. Most people now believe that animals deserve to live as nature intended. Imagine how much joy it would bring to Bua Noi’s fans in Bangkok and around the world to see her rolling in grass, climbing trees, and forming relationships with other gorillas. We could watch her experience warm sunshine, a cool breeze, and fresh rain. Perhaps, for the first time, we could even see her “play face” – the gorilla equivalent of laughter. And being in a lush sanctuary home with grounds to explore and friends to do so with would certainly bring Bua Noi much more joy than concrete walls, metal bars, and the occasional piece of trash to play with ever could.

The animals at Pata Zoo look up to you as their caretaker, so please do the right thing for them. I’ll be awaiting your decision and hoping for wonderful news.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Felicitas Woll', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Felicitas Woll
Actress