

Gremlin's Biography

by Elizabeth Vinson Lonsdorf:

What strikes me about Gremlin, year

after year, is her infinite patience with her children.

Twins are a huge burden for chimpanzee mothers and rarely survive. The fact that Gremlin's twins have done so well is

a testament to her skill as a mother. I remember following

her one day when her eldest son, Galahad, was still alive.

He was at the age where he really wanted to spend more time

with the adult males. Gremlin had met up with a big group

early in the morning, but at about 10:00 a.m. she clearly

wanted to head off and travel with just her family. Galahad

did not want to leave, so he kept stealing one of the twins

and running back toward the group so that his mother would

have to go back. She kept patiently returning to gather the

twin and setting off again on her own. She did this about 10

times, never once punishing Galahad for his behavior, until

he finally gave up and followed his mother.