

Surgery allows blind orangutan to see her babies

August 31 2012



In this Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011 file photo, Giber, an elderly female Sumatran orangutan who is blind in both eyes due to cataracts, lies down with her twin babies at a rehabilitation center in Sibolangit, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Formerly blind Giber can see her baby twins for the first time after undergoing cataract surgery in the first such operation in Indonesia. (AP Photo/Binsar Bakkara, File)

(AP)—A formerly blind Sumatran orangutan can see her baby twins for the first time after undergoing cataract surgery in the first such operation in Indonesia.

The orangutan, named Giber, was captured for her own safety in late 2008 in North Sumatra province after she went blind in both eyes due to cataracts. She gave birth to the twins in early 2011 as part of a breeding program.

Doctors at the Sumatran Orangutan [Conservation Program](#) in the provincial capital of Medan performed the [cataract surgery](#) on the 40-year-old animal on Monday. They announced the successful results late Thursday.

Doctors first performed cataract surgery on an [orangutan](#) in Malaysia in 2007.

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered, with only about 6,600 left in the wild.

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Citation: Surgery allows blind orangutan to see her babies (2012, August 31) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-08-surgery-orangutan-babies.html>

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