

BACKGROUND STORY

ISTI

Rehabilitation Centre : Samboja Lestari
Arrival Date : 4 December 2006
Age on Arrival : 7 years
Current Age : 26 years
Gender : Female
Current Position : #4 Sanctuary Island
Health Status : Healthy (BCS 3)

Isti: From Circus Performer to Island Dweller

Isti is a 26-year-old female orangutan with a remarkable life story. She was originally rescued from Gelanggang Samudera Jaya Ancol in Jakarta, where she had been used as a circus animal. On December 4, 2006, at about seven years old, Isti arrived at the Samboja Lestari Rehabilitation Centre to begin a new chapter of her life.

Upon her arrival, Isti was placed in the socialization complex, where she quickly established herself as a mid-ranking female in the group hierarchy. Despite her moderate rank, Isti was often the centre of attention among the male orangutans, who showed great affection toward her, especially when it came to mating partnerships. Known for her independence, Isti tends to ignore the presence of technicians, though she can sometimes display bursts of aggression toward them.

For a time, Isti shared Island #4 with Papa, Citra, and Vera. However, she now lives only with Jonas on the same island, as the other orangutans have since been relocated, some back to the socialization complex and others to different islands. Life on the island can occasionally be monotonous for Isti, and her curious nature sometimes leads her to explore beyond her boundaries. The animal welfare team once discovered that Isti had crossed over to Island #5 using a flexible tree branch that naturally arched between the two islands.

Despite her occasional adventures, Isti remains a solitary individual. She is typically seen joining her island companions only during feeding times, while she spends most of her days alone. She enjoys moments of rest on tree branches and can sometimes be spotted swinging playfully on the tire-rope enrichment installed on the island.

Through it all, Isti continues to embody both strength and resilience, a once captive performer now living freely among the trees, reclaiming her natural instincts one quiet day at that time.