The Face of Change

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The Chimpanzee Collaboratory

Photograph by Carole Noon.

Introduction

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Chimpanzees: Our Closest Relatives

Humans and chimpanzees share more than 98 percent of DNA, causing one scientist to observe that humans and chimpanzees are as similar as "two subspecies of gophers living on opposite sides of the Colorado River." In fact, chimpanzees are closer genetically to humans than they are to gorillas or orangutans.

Chimpanzees are highly intelligent, social animals. In the wild, they live in communities of 15 to more than 100 individuals and communicate through intricate vocalizations, facial expressions, body postures and gestures. They express emotions of joy, grief, anger and jealousy. They can be playful and intentionally deceptive. They imitate, point and teach. They kiss and embrace to comfort one another. They threaten, reconcile and forgive.

For over forty years Jane Goodall has respectfully studied the chimpanzees at Gombe, Tanzania. Her work has revolutionized wildlife research, transformed our understanding of chimpanzees, and blurred the line between human and chimpanzee. "Each of these relatives of ours has his or her own unique personality. They form close affectionate bonds with each other that may persist through a life of sixty or more years; they look into mirrors and see themselves as individuals—they have consciousness of 'self,'" she says.

Konrad Wothe / Minden Pictures

Meet the Inlaws

Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) dwell in lush tropical forests across equatorial Africa. Climbing up to 80 feet high, they build arboreal nests and travel through the leafy canopy. Theirs is a complex society dominated by adult males. While chimpanzees are primarily vegetarian, males sometimes join to hunt antelopes, pigs, baboons or other monkeys. This species is capable of great compassion, yet also engages in acts of great violence.

A closely related species is the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), sometimes called "pygmy chimpanzee." Bonobo society is matriarchal, with reduced male aggression and strong bonds between females. These peaceful and amorous apes make love, not war. Their distribution is limited to war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo, where perhaps only 10,000 survive.

Up Close: Bonobos and Chimpanzees

	Bonobo (*Pan paniscus*)	Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
Name		
Status	Endangered	Endangered
Lifespan	over 40 years	over 60 years
Physical	70-130 lbs.	70-150 lbs.
Dominant sex	female	male
Community size	up to 120	up to 106
Birth interval	3-8 years	3-8 years
Temperament	peaceful	competitive
Habitat	Lowland rainforest south of the Congo River, Africa	Forests and drier fruit-producing habitats in equatorial Africa
Diet	Mostly fruit and foliage. Does not aggressively hunt mammals.	Mostly fruit, some foliage. Will hunt and capture small mammals.
Unique characteristic	Frequent sex outside of that for reproduction.	Uses and modifies tools for specific tasks.

Photograph by Carole Noon.

Signs of Intelligent Life

Eighty percent of the human brain and 75 percent of the chimpanzee brain is cerebral cortex, associated with the most complex mental activities including language, creative thinking, planning, decision-making and artistic expression. Chimpanzees in captivity have learned to communicate using symbols; to sort and classify objects by shape, size and color; to count, add and compare fractions.

Primatologists Roger and Deborah Fouts began teaching American Sign Language to a female chimpanzee named Washoe 35 years ago. At the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute at Central Washington University, they care for a family of five chimpanzees who use American Sign Language to communicate with each other and their human companions. Washoe uses 250 signs and has taught her adopted son to sign. Showing mental dexterity, upon first seeing a swan Washoe signed “water bird.” Another chimp, Moja, described Alka Seltzer as a “listen drink.”

Mother Love

Newborn chimps are entirely dependent on their mothers for warmth, protection, transportation and nourishment. In the wild, young chimpanzees nurse for up to five years and continue life-long bonds with their mothers.

Young chimpanzees learn survival skills from their mothers including how to use forest plants as a medicine cabinet and how to make and use tools. They maneuver stones like hammers and anvils to crack nuts, twigs to probe for honey, wads of crumbled leaves to sponge drinking water from inaccessible places, and "stepping sticks" to protect their feet from thorns.

Significant differences have been found between chimpanzee populations in tool use, food preferences and social behaviors including grooming postures, courtship gestures and intimidation displays. These behaviors are learned, or cultural, much like our own cultural differences.

Empathetic Apes

Chimpanzees are afraid of water. They can neither float nor swim. Yet a captive chimpanzee named Penny put aside her fear to rescue a drowning companion. When a young male chimpanzee accidentally strangled to death at the Los Angeles Zoo, a band of female chimpanzees rushed to his aid, bit at the rope twisted around his neck, tugged at his body and cried in distress. They grieved quietly for several days.

Roger Fouts describes Washoe's great interest in the swelling abdomen of a pregnant caretaker named Kat. Using sign language, Washoe would ask Kat about "baby." After being absent from work for several days because she had miscarried, Kat returned and signed to Washoe that she had lost her baby. Washoe looked down at the ground, then into Kat's eyes and, touching her cheek just below her eye, signed "cry."

Threats to Survival

With an historic range across 25 countries in Africa, chimpanzees are now extinct in four of these countries and nearly extinct in five others. Chimpanzees reproduce slowly, live at extremely low population densities, and require large areas of protected land to survive, making them particularly vulnerable to habitat loss and human predation.

Africa's human population doubles every 24 years. By the year 2025, 1.6 billion people may be competing with African wildlife for living space and resources. Forests are being destroyed at alarming rates for agriculture, wood products and mining, fragmenting chimpanzee populations into groups too small to survive.

Up Close: Current Ranges

Chimpanzees reside in 21 countries in equatorial Africa

Bonobos reside in Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire)

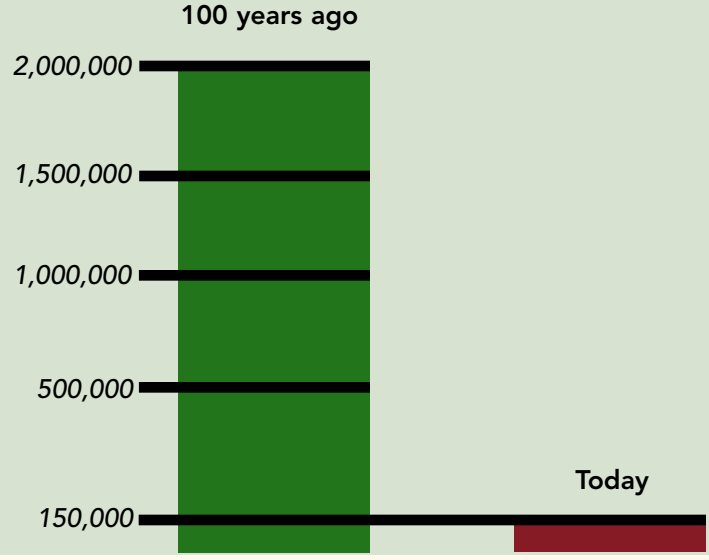
Photograph by Carole Noon.

Hunting is the major and escalating threat to the survival of chimpanzees, both as individuals and as a species. Logging roads have eased poachers' access to chimpanzees, whose meat is a valuable commodity for urban residents seeking an exotic meal. Hunting for bushmeat, long a practice supporting indigenous peoples, is now driven by a lucrative market. Says Jane Goodall, "Chimpanzee meat now appears in restaurants in cities of Africa and Europe. People in the Congo basin eat as much meat as Americans and 80% of that is derived from wildlife. The bushmeat crisis is the most significant conservation challenge of the dawn of the 21st century."

Additional pressure on chimpanzee populations is caused by traders and roving military bands who kill the animals for meat or trophies and capture infants for sale as pets.

Up Close: Population in Decline

Chimpanzee populations have declined alarmingly in the past 100 years.



Photograph courtesy of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Here at Home

Of the estimated 2,600 captive chimpanzees in the United States, roughly 1,500 live in laboratories, 500 in zoos and roadside attractions and 200 in sanctuaries. Two hundred are used in the entertainment industry, and another 200 are owned by breeders or dealers or kept as pets.

In Laboratories

Intentionally infected with deadly diseases, subjected to psychological torment and physical maiming, laboratory chimpanzees bear the cruel burden of being our closest relatives: attractive experimental subjects because of their similarity to humans, they also experience pain, terror and loneliness as we do, and cry out in agony.

Up Close: What a Life – 40 Years in a Cage

Chimpanzees in laboratories rarely get more than the minimum cage size required: 5′ x 5′ x 7′.

For the average male, it would be like living in a 7′ x 7′ x 11′ cage.

The National Institutes of Health initiated a breeding program in l986 to supply chimpanzees for AIDS research. Chimpanzees proved to be a poor model for human AIDS research, yet many of the animals now warehoused in U.S. laboratories result from this program. A bare, windowless concrete cell just five by five by seven feet is a legally acceptable home.

Many research chimpanzees die without ever having seen the sky, touched another chimpanzee or breathed fresh air.

Chimpanzees in Zoos

Approximately 250 chimpanzees are registered with American Zoo and Aquarium Association-accredited zoos. An equal number are owned by unaccredited zoos and roadside facilities notorious for poor care, tiny cages with concrete floors and iron bars.

"Zoos can be lifeboats for exotic animals—or just showboats," says Ron Kagan, director of the Detroit Zoo, which features a model habitat for zoo chimpanzees. "We know chimpanzees need complex physical and social environments in order to survive, yet few zoos currently provide quality of life for captive chimpanzees. A 'show' is absolutely not an acceptable mission for the 21st century zoo."

Chimpanzees in Entertainment

Like many child actors, chimpanzees are in demand as entertainers for only a brief portion of their youth. Taken from their mothers as infants, they endure rigorous and sometimes abusive training for use in circuses, movies, television or advertisements. Their on-air actions are at odds with a chimpanzee's normal life and come at the cost of each animal's very essence. The smiling chimpanzee who strums a guitar in a television ad appears happy, but that grimace is a chimpanzee's way of showing fear.

Photograph courtesy of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Doris Day Animal League, which lobbies Congress on animal protection issues, is hampered on Capitol Hill by the public's misperceptions of chimpanzees, particularly those used in entertainment. Says DDAL Director Holly Hazard, "The entertainment industry's portrayal of chimpanzees as comic goofballs has convinced the public that these animals are having fun. This depiction is both grossly misleading and demeaning to these animals, who suffer greatly for our amusement."

Chimpanzees quickly become too big and too strong to manage, and are sold to roadside attractions, breeders or laboratories, where they live out their lives in sad, isolated conditions while a new batch of young performers repeat the cycle.

Chimpanzees as Pets

Pet chimpanzees suffer the same fate. Adorable as babies, they quickly outgrow their appeal. By age three, they are as strong as an adult human and difficult to control. By age eight, well on their way to an adult weight of l00 to 140 pounds and much stronger than humans, they are no longer safe to handle and must be securely confined. Many pet chimpanzees endure decades of solitary confinement.

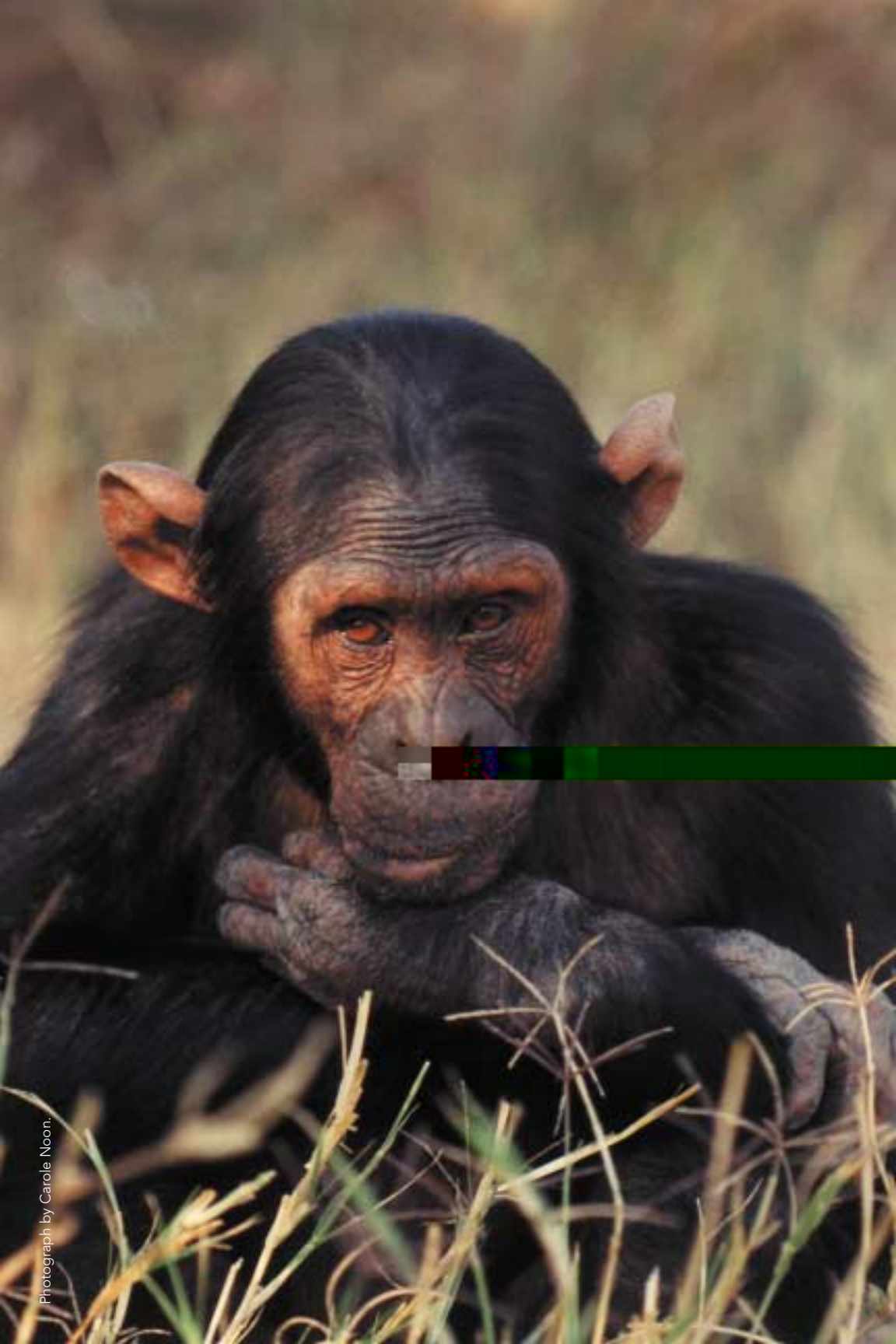
Photograph by Carole Noon.

The Legal View

Chimpanzees' intelligence, the urgent threats they face, and their remarkable similarity to humans make them natural candidates for an outpouring of compassion and protection. Yet the moral imperative to protect chimpanzees has no corresponding legal imperative.

Says attorney Steve Ann Chambers of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, which fights in the courts for chimpanzees, "Animals have never been made a part of our legal system. As a result, there is little legal recourse when they're exploited and abused."

Legally, chimpanzees are property, not persons. In his book, *Rattling the Cage: Toward Legal Rights for Animals*, law professor Steve Wise challenges the bases for such a distinction, and argues that western justice demands the extension of "personhood" to chimpanzees and other great apes. "Even a human lost in a permanent vegetative state enjoys a large set of legal rights. But a chimpanzee who can communicate with language, count, understand the minds of others, feel emotions, live in a complex society, and make and use tools has no rights at all," comments Wise.



Photograph by Carole Noon.

Split-Listing

Though chimpanzees were determined in 1988 to merit endangered status and increased protection under the Endangered Species Act, an endangered listing would have effectively ended the use of chimpanzees in laboratory experimentation. The U.S. government chose to place protection of the research industry's ability to use chimpanzees above protection of the chimpanzees: it listed only wild chimpanzees as endangered. Captive chimpanzees were listed as threatened and a special exemption was granted—for all chimps already in the U.S. and all of their progeny—from restrictions that would otherwise protect the animals from harm.

Never before have different individuals of a single species been assigned different levels of protection under the Endangered Species Act. Katherine Meyer of Wildlife Advocacy Project, an attorney who is preparing a legal challenge to this listing, says, "This 'split-listing' designation permits the research and entertainment industries to breed and commercially exploit these majestic animals and subject them to painful and other harmful conditions."

Photograph by Carole Noon.

Signs of Progress

"The most amazing thing about chimps," notes Carole Noon, who cares for 21 former Air Force chimpanzees at her Florida sanctuary, the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care, "is they can have the most horrible, awful lives, yet once you give them a chance, they recover." Once squeezed into compression chambers, whirled in centrifuges, or strapped onto sleds and hurtled down tracks as crash-test dummies, the chimps in Noon's care were born in captivity and never before learned how to play, groom, make jokes, or live and love with others of their species. Their new home features a moat-rimmed island where the chimps will eventually roam free. Other sanctuaries resocializing former research, entertainment and pet chimpanzees are located in California, Texas, Florida, Kentucky and Canada.

Decisive bans on the use of great apes in invasive biomedical research have been enacted in Britain and New Zealand. Acknowledging a glut of surplus laboratory chimpanzees in the U.S., the United States National Research Council has recommended a moratorium on captive chimpanzee breeding.

Photograph by Carole Noon.

Last year, the U.S. Congress created the Great Ape Conservation Act, an annual fund of up to $5 million for conservation research for great apes. It also passed the CHIMP Act which establishes a national facility for the long-term care of chimpanzees no longer used in research.

The International Primatological Society is calling upon the United Nations to designate the great apes as a World Heritage Species and formulate a global strategy to "save all great apes in their natural habitats." Argues Harvard professor Richard Wrangham, an author of the U.N. petition, "As we understand ever more deeply the connection between ourselves and our biology, the possibility of losing our closest relatives forever becomes even more clearly tragic. A chimpanzee led humans into space. It is time for humans to lead chimpanzees and the other apes towards a safer future."

Two years ago Washington Supreme Court Justice Faith Ireland heard Roger and Deborah Fouts describe their work with chimpanzees. Ireland later wrote that the Fouts' talk "was a paradigm-shifting experience for me and challenged some of my basic assumptions and presumptions on the subject.…The ethical challenges...have many parallels in our historic experience of judging, such as slavery, women's rights, and desegregation. What opened my mind was to see the dramatic portrayal in so many ways of how fine the line is between man and chimpanzee."

Photograph by Carole Noon.

The Chimpanzee Collaboratory

The Chimpanzee Collaboratory is an alliance of attorneys, scientists and public policy experts who are responsible for some of today's most significant work on behalf of chimpanzees. Founded and initially funded by The Glaser Foundation, the Collaboratory supports individual projects of member organizations while fostering joint endeavors to more rapidly achieve the goals of protecting the lives and establishing the legal rights of chimpanzees.

Collaboratory members have identified three current joint projects:

- Ending the killing of wild chimpanzees for bushmeat, which threatens the very survival of the species.
- Mobilizing the American public to understand, respect and appreciate chimpanzees, primarily through efforts to end the use of chimpanzees in entertainment.
- Securing direct legal consideration of the interests of chimpanzees.

Says The Glaser Foundation Director Martin Collier, "The chimpanzee is an especially compelling yet imperiled species. Because of our genetic similarity and unique relationship to chimpanzees, they can lead the way in breaking down barriers that separate us from them, human from non-human animals. We hope that other species will follow, leading to greater appreciation and respect for all life on earth."

Ten Ways to Help Chimpanzees and Other Great Apes

Cast your dollar vote

1 Don't support movies, circuses, roadside zoos or live shows that use chimpanzees or other great apes to entertain. Writing a letter to the editor is a great way of letting others know it's not entertaining to watch performing primates, knowing the conditions they endure for our amusement.

2 Boycott products that use chimpanzees in their advertising campaigns. Contact the companies and explain why you won't support the exploitation of great apes to sell products. Most companies have toll-free numbers, or a brief letter can make your point.

Make your voice heard

3 Share this copy of *The Face of Change* with a friend, co-worker or family member. Many people simply don't know what chimpanzees face today.

4 Contact your local animal advocacy groups to find out how to get involved with demonstrations and campaigns to help great apes.

Report abuse when you see it

5 Join our "Primate Patrol." Register as a Chimpanzee Collaboratory activist to receive periodic updates and alerts via email. Write cc@ddal.org to get on the list.

6 Be a resource to the Chimpanzee Collaboratory. If you see a chimpanzee or other great ape on TV, in an ad, or kept in poor living conditions at a private facility or roadside zoo, let us know right away.

Write your legislators

7 Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative and ask them to speed up implementation of the CHIMP Act, which was passed into law in 2000. The Act establishes a national facility for the long-term care of chimpanzees no longer used in research. To easily find out your elected officials and other current legislation visit www.ddal.org.

Learn more

8 Learn more about this compelling and imperiled species. View the "Reading List" at www.savethechimps.org for a list of books.

9 Spend an hour or a week learning more about chimpanzees up close and personal at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute in Ellensburg, WA. Information on hour-long chimposiums at www.cwu.edu/~cwuchci. Week long internships available at www.earthwatch.org.

Support organizations that help great apes

10 Members of the Chimpanzee Collaboratory and many other organizations helping great apes need your support. Whatever your particular interest—sanctuaries, legal rights, habitat preservation, bushmeat, vivisection—there is an organization with expertise in that area. Get involved and give generously.

Donations may be made to the Chimpanzee Collaboratory, c/o Doris Day Animal League, 227 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 546-1761, ext. 23 or cc@ddal.org.

Chimpanzee Collaboratory Members

Steve Ann Chambers ▪ Animal Legal Defense Fund ▪ 127 Fourth St.
Petaluma, CA 94952 ▪ (712) 323-1911 ▪ www.aldf.org ▪ sachambers@aldf.org

The Animal Legal Defense Fund, founded in 1979, is dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals—in research labs, on farms, in the wild and in our own communities—through the legal system. ALDF works to expand the protections afforded to chimpanzees and other animals under U.S. law, and is moving courts closer to direct recognition of animals' interests.

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Carole Noon ▪ The Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care ▪ P.O. Box 12220
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The Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care received its first charges, 21 chimpanzees previously owned by the U.S. Air Force, in mid-2001. By providing a safe haven to these chimpanzees, The Center is gaining valuable insight into how best to resocialize and rehabilitate chimpanzees. This information holds promise for the hundreds of other chimpanzees currently languishing in laboratory cages that may one day be retired.

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Steve Wise ▪ Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights ▪ 1245 South Street
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The Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights is in its seventh year of working to obtain basic legal rights for great apes. It educates lawyers, judges, law professors and the public about the necessity and justice of granting such rights, produces necessary scholarship to support these new and evolving legal arguments, and makes long-term plans to establish these rights through a precedent-setting series of lawsuits.

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Protection, education and humane research are part of the mission of Friends of Washoe. Its foremost concern is the care and well-being of the five chimpanzees for whom it is responsible: Washoe, Moja, Tatu, Dar and Loulis. The educational mission of Friends of Washoe is to enhance the respect for chimpanzees with the goal of building respect for all our fellow animals.

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Richard Wrangham ▪ Harvard University ▪ Peabody Museum ▪ 11 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138 ▪ (617) 495-5948 ▪ wrangham@fas.harvard.edu

Harvard Anthropology professor Richard Wrangham is director of the Kibale Chimpanzee Project in Uganda and a founding member of Ape Alliance North America, an organization created in response to the world biodiversity crisis that threatens the existence of great apes. Its goals are to ensure the survival, well-being, and legal status of apes through coordinated national and international political initiatives.

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Jane Goodall ▪ Jane Goodall Institute ▪ P.O. Box 1489 ▪ Silver Spring, MD 20911
(301) 565-0086 ▪ www.janegoodall.org ▪ cellis@janegoodall.org

Grounded in Dr. Jane Goodall's pioneering study of chimpanzee behavior, now in its 41st year, the Jane Goodall Institute makes the connection between the health of one species and the well-being of all living things. The Institute's research, conservation and education programs have created a worldwide network of individuals joined in the commitment to improving life on earth for humans, animals and the environment.

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Katherine Meyer and Eric Glitzenstein ▪ Wildlife Advocacy Project
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 700 ▪ Washington, DC 20009 ▪ (202) 518-3700
www.wildlifeadvocacy.org ▪ darcy@wildlifeadvocacy.org

The Wildlife Advocacy Project is an advocacy group founded by Katherine Meyer and Eric Glitzenstein of the public interest law firm Meyer & Glitzenstein to assist grassroots activists in achieving long-term protection of wildlife and their environment, and in stopping the abuse and exploitation of animals held in captivity. The Project advocates the recognition and respect for the innate wild nature of all animals—including those in confinement, as well as those in the wild.

Photograph by Carole Noon.

Our Mission

The Chimpanzee Collaboratory is a collaborative project of attorneys, scientists and public policy experts working to make significant and measurable progress in protecting the lives and establishing the legal rights of chimpanzees.

The Chimpanzee Collaboratory

Member Organizations

Animal Legal Defense Fund

Ape Alliance North America

Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care

Center for the Expansion of Fundamental Rights

Doris Day Animal League

Friends of Washoe

Jane Goodall Institute

Wildlife Advocacy Project

Founding Funder

The Glaser Foundation

Rob Glaser, founding chairman and CEO of Seattle-based RealNetworks, created The Glaser Foundation to pursue and support programs and organizations in three areas:

- Progress
  To revolutionize our society's understanding and measurement of human progress.
- Animal Advocacy
  To transform the way animals are treated and perceived by humans.
- Socially-Conscious Media
  To make independent voices heard and technology serve the less powerful.

Managing Board Member for Animal Advocacy: Sarah Glaser

The Face of Change published by The Chimpanzee Collaboratory, 2001.

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