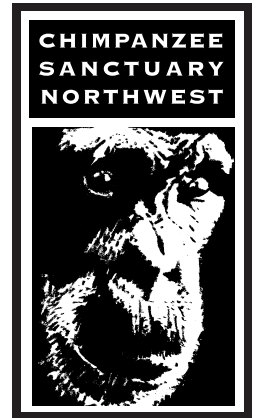


CHIMPANZEES IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH: THE FACTS



PROVIDING SANCTUARY
FOR THEIR DIGNITY
.....
BUILDING AWARENESS
FOR THEIR SURVIVAL

- Chimpanzees and humans share 98.76% of their genetic material. Because of this similarity, chimpanzees are used in biomedical research as models for human diseases. Chimpanzees have also been used for toxicity testing, head injury studies, social deprivation experiments, and numerous other purposes.
- Even though free-living chimpanzees are an endangered species, captive chimpanzees are classified only as threatened. It is, therefore, legal to use them for invasive biomedical experiments.
- Many scientists consider chimpanzees to be poor research models for humans. Chimpanzees can be infected with diseases like HIV and hepatitis but their immune systems often do not respond like those of humans. For example, chimpanzees can carry HIV but they do not exhibit symptoms of the virus and do not develop AIDS.
- Chimpanzees who were aggressively bred for AIDS research and infected with HIV now languish in cages in biomedical facilities. They are no longer considered useful since the chimpanzee AIDS studies provided little information to benefit humans.
- There are approximately 1,200 chimpanzees held in biomedical research facilities in the U.S., about half of whom are owned by the federal government.
- Housing regulations for chimpanzees in laboratories allow individuals to live in isolation in 5'x5'x7' cages.
- Although known to be highly intelligent, chimpanzees in biomedical facilities are rarely provided with ways to exercise their minds and may be given only a single object of enrichment.
- Much like institutionalized humans, chimpanzees whose social, intellectual, and physical needs are not met exhibit severe behavioral symptoms of stress. These behaviors, such as self-mutilation, continual rocking, and aggression, are exhibited at high rates by chimpanzees used in biomedical research.
- Sanctuaries are needed to provide permanent homes for former chimpanzee "research subjects." Current sanctuaries do not have the space to take in new chimpanzees.