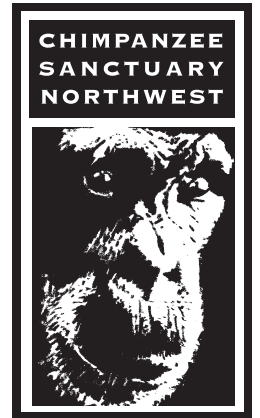


# CHIMPANZEES AS PETS: THE FACTS



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

- As infants, chimpanzees are affectionate, playful, and irresistibly cute. For this reason, people often buy them from breeders to keep as pets. But chimpanzees do not make good pets!
- Chimpanzees are extremely intelligent, making it difficult to keep them stimulated and satisfied in a human environment.
- Chimpanzees grow up fast, and by the age of five they are stronger than most adult humans. They become destructive and dangerous, and can no longer live in a human household.
- Chimpanzees can and will bite. Many chimpanzee owners have lost fingers and suffered severe facial damage.
- To alleviate this danger, many owners will remove the chimpanzee's teeth, make them wear shock collars, and even remove their thumbs.
- Chimpanzee infants belong with their mothers. Free-living chimpanzees nurse for five years and don't typically reach sexual maturity until around age 13. Chimpanzee mothers typically share life-long bonds with their offspring.
- When chimpanzees become too large and dangerous to be kept in human homes, they are locked up in small cages or given up. Most zoos will not accept chimpanzees who have been raised in human homes, so former pets are sold to road-side zoos or trainers to be used in entertainment.
- State laws regulate whether it is legal to keep chimpanzees as pets or to breed and sell them for this purpose. Most states do not have legal restrictions against buying or owning chimpanzees.
- Chimpanzees can live longer than 60 years in captivity. Those who are raised as pets are often cycled through a variety of miserable situations.
- Sanctuaries are needed to provide permanent homes for former chimpanzee "pets." Current sanctuaries do not have the space to take in new chimpanzees.