

An Exclusive Publication Produced By Chimp Haven, Inc.

CHIMPANZEE CHRONICLE

VOLUME X
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2010
www.chimphaven.org



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ever wonder what it would be like to work at Chimp Haven? Go behind the scenes and discover the challenges and joys that come with caring for retired chimpanzees.



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CHIMPANZEE Discovery Days

2010 SCHEDULE

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

September 18

October 16

November 20

CDD Hours: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

The Work Week Begins -

Monday morning. 9:30 A.M. Anyone at Chimp Haven who takes care of the chimpanzees - care givers, behaviorists, veterinary technicians, animal care management - congregates in the break room. Many have just spent two and a half hours helping the chimpanzees start their day, and they are anxious to return to them. But this meeting is a necessary part of the work week. It is an "information download" about the more than 100 chimpanzees at Chimp Haven. It is where concerns and challenges find solutions.

Care givers are worried that a male chimpanzee is over-grooming another chimpanzee in his group, causing the unfortunate recipient to lose the hair on his arms. Behaviorist Amy Fultz offers to spread peanut butter over a plush toy for the over-zealous groomer so he can devote his attention to that instead of his companion.

Someone expresses concern about a chimpanzee who is dragging his leg. "Uh-huh," laughs enrichment technician Erin Loeser. "He drags his leg to get my sympathy when he sees me handing out treats. The moment I hold out a treat for him, he sprints as fast as he can to get it." The group laughs at Ben's resourcefulness.

The conversation shifts from behavioral to health issues: Jonah's broken tooth, Leroy's cough, and Kasey's sore heel. Physicals are scheduled for the upcoming week, which means plans need to be made to sedate certain chimpanzees so that the veterinarian can examine them directly.

Since many of the chimpanzees have chronic illnesses that require the daily administration of drugs, there is concern about who did not take their medicine. Enticement for the less-cooperative chimpanzees is discussed. Some prefer medicine in apple sauce or a peanut butter sandwich. Others take theirs with juice, but insist on strong grape rather than apple juice.

The meeting winds down with talk of dripping faucets, new batteries for the chimpanzee ambulance, and a reminder that everyone needs to report to the second floor to get their semi-annual TB test. The screams and hoots of impatient chimpanzees beckon the staff to get back to work.



Beverly Stevenson & Kathleen Taylor

The Fun Never Ends!

FOR THE MAINTENANCE STAFF

When Chimp Haven's Maintenance Manager, Darren Frazier, tells you that he and his three-man team take care of the "daily wear and tear" of the sanctuary, he is grossly understating the situation. "The chimpanzees think their job is to find any weak spot in a structure and break it," he explains, "and ours is to fix it."

Sometimes the "fix" is simply replacing a bolt or repairing a weld. Other times, it is completely modifying or re-fabricating a structure. "If you have ever seen a chimpanzee stand with his back to the wall and kick the surface like a mule, you would be amazed at his power and the damage he can do," Darren marvels.

Inspecting the physical plant goes beyond construction. Trees in the habitat are routinely inspected to make sure they have not grown too close to a wall to allow an escape. Fallen trees are removed or cut into pieces so that they cannot be used as chimpanzee catapults. On the rare occasion when it is extremely cold, the maintenance staff makes sure the water moats that serve as barriers in the chimpanzee habitats do not freeze over. Otherwise, the ice creates the perfect escape route.

While the chimpanzees create an endless punch list for the maintenance staff, they also do one very helpful thing. "We compost their waste into excellent soil," says Darren. "When it comes to gardening and landscaping, the maintenance staff gets unbelievable support from the chimpanzees!"



Cliff Spicer, Paul Hearn
& Darren Frazier

Saying Goodbye

Ask anyone who works with the chimpanzees at Chimp Haven about the hardest part of their job. They will not talk about the strenuous physical labor in the searing heat of summer or the need for constant vigilance to assure safety and security. They will tell you it is saying good-bye to the chimpanzees.

"The chimpanzees become very close friends to us," says caregiver Julianne Parish. "We know they are older and have chronic illnesses, but it is still devastating when they die. We take comfort in knowing that they were able to enjoy a few years of the good life at Chimp Haven before they passed on."

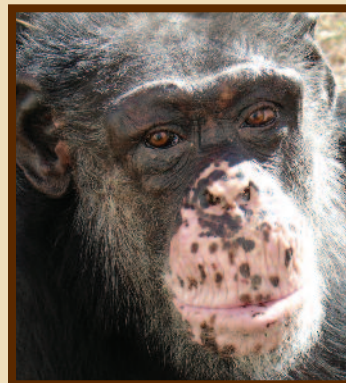
Since December, the staff has mourned the deaths of Puddin', Derma, Kevin, and Lolita. "It is an honor to have cared for these amazing individuals," says Mark Lewis, another care giver. "Each one was so special."



PUDDIN'



DERMA



KEVIN



LOLITA

Lights Out!

By 5:00 PM, the chimpanzees are staking out their sleeping spots. Some lay down by themselves; others snuggle up together. Lindsey Peters, one of Chimp Haven's evening care givers, says the chimpanzees' sleeping partners are the same every night. "It is quite a sight when everyone is sleeping," she laughs. "Ross and Les suck their thumbs. Grandma hugs a plush animal. Sara and Jacob sack out in enormous nests of hay. Gay sleeps in a nest she's made by weaving blankets through a wire mesh wall. Leroy, Hamlet, and Thundarr sometimes sleep sitting up." With the older chimpanzees, she says there is lots of loud snoring and passing gas, punctuated by an occasional startling sneeze.

And then there are the raucous "teenagers" known as Keeli's group. "They make a racket every night," says Lindsey. "The moment I turn on the light, they stop and act as if they have no idea why I'm there. They all have that 'it wasn't me' look on their faces."

Lindsey monitors all of the chimpanzees every four to six hours to make sure everyone is accounted for and not having any physical distress. She also administers medicine to chimpanzees who require night-time doses. And how do you wake a sleeping chimpanzee? "It's not necessary," she replies.. "The chimpanzees come to know the routine. When I turn on the light, they are already awake and waiting for me. Even Nicky, our diabetic chimpanzee, is waiting for his nightly injection."

Asked how the night shift differs from day time work, Lindsey says, "It's so quiet at night. All the chimpanzees look so cute and innocent when they are sleeping."



Ivy

Everyone Is Important

Merv, who looks like a Teddy bear, wants you to play with his toes; Ester, a plus-size beauty with a freckled face, begs to be tickled with a spoon; Tarzan, compactly built and sporting a white patch on his upper lip, likes to be groomed; and Spider, recognizable by her freckled face, gets upset if she is not the center of attention. Every chimpanzee at Chimp Haven has a distinct personality and unique appearance.

New care givers are expected to recognize all of the chimpanzees, preferably within three months of being hired. "It is not enough to study their facial features," explains Chimp Haven President Linda Brent. "You need to study other unique physical features, along with the way they move. And sometimes you simply recognize them by their personality. For instance, Midget is always the one who hoots when a care giver arrives, and Betsy makes a growling vocalization to greet you. You need to see the entire individual."

When care givers recognize the chimpanzees, it enriches the social interaction between the two. But, most importantly, it assures that each chimpanzee gets his or her own medicine, diet, and other specifically prescribed treatments.



Libby, Connie & Paul

AN UNUSUAL, BUT VERY NECESSARY DONATION

Thanks to the generosity of the Little Fork Fire & Rescue Company in Rixeyville, Virginia, Chimp Haven has a chimpanzee ambulance. It operates as a mobile clinic and transport unit. "When we learned about sacrifices the chimpanzees made, especially the ones used in research, it seemed like donating the ambulance was the right thing to do," says Doug Monaco, Assistant Fire Chief.

Chimp Haven relies on donations of all kinds. Among the behavioral enrichment items currently needed are:

- Pretzels**
- Graham crackers**
- Children's board books**
- Sugar-free cereal**
- Sugar-free drink mixes, cereal, and Jell-O**
- Popcorn**
- Trail mix in sealed bags**
- Dog toys (Kongs, Nylabones, TireBiter's)**
- New tube socks**



Become a monthly contributor to Chimp Haven.

SPRINGN10

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I authorize my bank to pay Chimp Haven in the amount of

\$ _____ / month with the terms and conditions below.*

*My authorization to charge my account at my bank will be the same as if I personally signed a check to Chimp Haven. This authorization shall remain in effect until I notify my bank or Chimp Haven in writing that I wish to end this agreement and my bank or Chimp Haven has had a reasonable amount of time to act on it, or until my bank or Chimp Haven has sent me 10 days written notice that they will end this agreement. A record of each change will be included in my regular bank statement and will serve as my receipt. In addition, Chimp Haven will provide a year-end statement. In the event of an error, I have the right to instruct my bank to reverse any charge. I understand that this must be done by written notice within 15 days of the date of the bank statement or within 45 days after the charge was made.

I wish to pay by check each month. My first check is enclosed.

Contributions to Chimp Haven are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Tax ID 74-2766663.

You can discontinue payments at any time, simply by calling our pledge office at 318.925.9575, e-mailing us at information@chimphaven.org, or writing to: Chimp Haven • 13600 Chimpanzee Place • Keithville, LA 71047



13600 Chimpanzee Place
Keithville, LA 71047
p: 888.98chimp (24467)
p: 318.925.9575
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THOMAS HILKER MEMORIAL VETERINARY CLINIC

With the advanced age and chronic health issues of the chimpanzees at Chimp Haven, we have had to invest a great deal in our veterinary facilities. Thanks to a generous donation from the Sansom Foundation, we have started construction on a much-needed, expanded veterinary facility named in honor of Thomas Hilker, a great friend to Chimp Haven. While the cost of the main structure is funded, we are seeking donations to help finish and furnish the building. Funding opportunities include:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Veterinarian office | \$11,000 |
| Veterinary technician's office | \$11,000 |
| Veterinary clinic | \$18,000 |
| Locker room | \$6,000 |
| Records room | \$4,000 |
| Office furniture | \$2,000 |
| Clinic cabinets | \$1,200 |
| Special clinic sink | \$500 |
| Veterinary instruments | \$500 |

Please contact Karen Allen at (318) 925-5784 for more information on naming opportunities and how you can help complete the new veterinary clinic.



Barbara Boniol
& Jennifer Best