A Day in the Life...
Watching
TRACY GROW

New
CHIMPANZEEES
Mean New Social Groups

“Magnificent” Group Celebrates Eight Months at Chimp Haven
SPOTLIGHT ON CHIMP HAVEN
Chimpanzee Challenge, “Chimp Haven is Home” Act and more

It is always fun to share news and accomplishments with our Chimp Haven family. We love passing on stories and photos of our chimpanzees and giving you a glimpse of what happens at the sanctuary on a daily basis.

Speaking of giving, we are happy to report that the “Chimpanzee Challenge” was a big success thanks to your generous support. At the beginning of August, Endangered Species Chocolate awarded Chimp Haven $25,000 along with a challenge to raise the same by September 30th. Your response was amazing! We are proud and grateful to report our goal was met and exceeded! Thanks to your dedication and support the Chimpanzee Challenge raised more than $25,000!!!

Another big news item came out of Washington, D.C., at the beginning of August. Senator Richard Burr (R-North Carolina) introduced the “Chimp Haven is Home” Act to ensure chimpanzees retired are never returned to research. Co-sponsored by Senators David Vitter (R-Louisiana) and Mary Landrieu (D-Louisiana) the legislation was read in the Senate and The House of Representatives before they adjourned for their August break. Now is the time to contact your U.S. Senator and Congressman and urge their support on S.1916. Hopefully passage of this very important legislation will be the good news we report in the Winter Chimpanzee Chronicle.

The sanctuary became a center of learning over the summer months. Three interns, Maya Gonzalez, Elissa Rosenberg, and Denise Zeiger, worked closely with the husbandry and behavior staff and learned what a daunting task it is to take care of 116 chimpanzees.

Returning to the sanctuary for a second time was a group of 15 students from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. The students, enrolled in anthropology courses taught by assistant professor of anthropology Dr. Karol Chandler Ezell, had the opportunity to put their academic training to practical use here. During their visit to the sanctuary, they conducted observational behavioral studies with Chimp Haven behaviorist Amy Fultz and helped make food puzzles for the chimpanzees with Enrichment Tech Mike Christie.

Two research students from Japan traveled across the globe to visit Chimp Haven. Tadatoshi Ogura and Yoshiaki...
New chimpanzees mean new groups

By Amy Fultz, Behaviorist

Sato from the Primate Research Institute of Kyoto University, Section of Language and Intelligence will use what they learned about Chimp Haven as a model for a future sanctuary in their native country.

STAFF UPDATE

Chimp Haven would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff members who have joined our team in the past few months. They are:

Education Coordinator Heidi Clift; Care Givers Katharine Kern, Mark Lewis, Austin McCallum, Theresa Somerville, and Aaron Weil; and Maintenance Specialist David Harris.

This spring we welcomed 29 more chimpanzees home to Chimp Haven. We now have 116 chimpanzees retired to the sanctuary! During the months following their arrival we successfully integrated them into larger social groups. Some of the chimpanzees already knew each other, but many arrived in small groups of 2-3 individuals so they would have friends on their trip to the sanctuary. Within the span of six short weeks, four new groups were formed and have anywhere from 4 to 15 members! Here are just some of their many stories...

Ronald is a people-oriented male chimpanzee who likes to play. He has made many new friends and is now in a group of 12. Members of his group include Trixie, who loves to make a sound that sounds suspiciously like an elephant; and Jane, a young troublemaker. Paul is the other male in this group with Lisa, Bambi, Winnie, Porsche, Yolfe, Crystal, Norma, and Linda.

Lero is a disabled male chimpanzee with little use of one leg. He is in a smaller group due to his special needs and lives with Joe, Spider, Denise, Farra and Edna. Farra likes to lounge in her new play yard, living the retired life while Denise is very vocal, often making noise to get attention.

Elke, with her receding hairline and loving ways, and Elsie, with her graying sideburns, traveled to Chimp Haven together. Elsie and Elke were introduced in the weeks after their arrival to Kidd and Johnnie, who happens to be another one of Teresa’s daughters. Kidd is the only male in the group and it will remain one of our smaller groups for the time being, but as new chimpanzees arrive, the group may grow as well. This was a quiet introduction with lots of grooming, touching, and embracing.

Mikey and Violet met at their previous facility, but were introduced to Joice, a tough wild-born female, Aixa, Ilona, and Queenie, who has light eyes and the longest arms and legs! At first Mikey was a little intimidated by all those girls! After being introduced to one another and having some time to get to know each other, this group was then introduced to Ed’s group of nine. Mikey now has a lot more boys to interact with including Ed, Floyd, Crenshaw, Hamlet, Vincent, Keith, and Jacob. Suzie and Heidi are the other girls in this group. The boys in the group (particularly Floyd, Crenshaw and Jacob) were also happy to interact with more girls. This group of 15 is now being rotated into our second habitat so they can enjoy some time in the forest.

Part of what makes Chimp Haven unique is allowing the chimpanzees to be in larger social groups as they would be in the wild. Observing the groups during and after the introductions, I can truly say that we are making a difference...one chimpanzee at a time!
Magnificent 7 celebrate eight months at home!

It has been nearly nine months since seven chimpanzees made the journey of a lifetime to the sanctuary they now call home. Known as the “Magnificent 7,” Emma, Harper, Darrell, Keeli, Sheba, Sarah and Ivy continue to grow and flourish in their new environment, while living together in a tight-knit family group.

The “Magnificent 7’s” journey to Chimp Haven started when they first covered more than 1,400 miles to Primarily Primates in San Antonio, Texas, after the Chimpzee Center at Ohio State University was closed in February 2006.

In November, 2006, Chimp Haven answered the urgent appeal for help from Primarily Primates while in receivership under the State of Texas Attorney General. Plans were quickly drawn to provide urgent medical care and transfer of the “Magnificent 7” to the Chimp Haven sanctuary where they could be provided with the intensive care they needed. Chimp Haven offered expert veterinary and behavioral staffs, medical facilities, experienced care-staff and spacious enclosures. Our veterinary team coordinated the transfer and all of the chimpanzees arrived safely. Within days all seven members of the group were finally reunited!

They have since enjoyed the freedom of large outdoor play yards filled with climbing structures, indoor bedrooms, nesting materials such as blankets and straw, and daily enrichment that keeps them both mentally and physically stimulated. The “Magnificent 7” live in a quiet area of the sanctuary, surrounded by tall forests and meadows, yet they enjoy the attention of the wonderful care-staff and visits from many former caregivers from the Ohio State University - who marvel at how well they are now doing!

The Chimp Haven staff has also seen changes in the each one of the seven chimpanzees since they have been at the northwest Louisiana sanctuary. Growing as a group and as individuals, they have become healthy and happy again under the care of the expert staff.

Prior to arriving at Chimp Haven, 28-year-old Darrell spent more than eight months alone in a small, hot concrete building. Darrell has blossomed at Chimp Haven, becoming a wonderful alpha male who sets an example so that both Keeli and Harper may learn from him. Darrell loves the attention of the care staff here, blowing bubbles, grooming with a stick and playing games of chase with his caregivers. Darrell’s resilience and happy nature are a daily inspiration to everyone he meets!

Sheba was especially happy to be reunited with Darrell, asking us to open the door between them by pointing at the lock! She met him with hugs and grooming, and rejoiced with the youngsters to see him again. Her health is greatly improved, although she still requires specialized individual feeding. Sheba’s depressed attitude has lifted and she has a lovely grin. She loves to lie in her hammock and watch the antics of the youngsters.

Keeli, at only 11-years old, is still growing and is a very large, athletic male. Keeli is showing others how tough he is, but is also learning from Darrell, watching him and looking up to him as the elder leader in the group. If you look closely, though, you can still see Keeli’s gentle, sweet little boy side! Keeli’s buddy is 7-year old Harper and together they can run, wrestle, tickle and play. Harper in turn follows Keeli and Darrell, admiring them as a young boy would look up to a teenage boy. Harper also enjoys spending time with Ivy, whether grooming or playing with her. When Ivy isn’t fending off Harper’s attentions, she can often be found with her buddy Keeli. Ivy is mischievous and likes to tease, but also loves to play games of tickle and chase with the care-staff.

Sarah is the oldest of the group at 45-years old and is definitely enjoying her retirement! Having recovered from losing 40 pounds, Sarah is now a healthy weight, her hair is shiny and her muscles have returned. Sarah loves to take mounds of hay to the cow’s nest in the top of the playground and nest there while watching her family as they play below. If the weather is cool, she puts a blanket around her shoulders as a shawl. Being the matriarch of the family, Sarah is adored by little Emma and keeps her eyes on the rest of her family.

Emma and Harper are still the youngsters of the group and are full of energy, playfulness and a zest for life. They both love to climb, swing and jump, making the most use of structures in their large play yard. Emma greets anyone that approaches and will often show you her pretty teeth, eyes and nose and expect you to do the same.

The Magnificent 7 have adjusted well to their new home at Chimp Haven. They have put behind them the stress of being separated and moved from place to place and are learning to be chimpanzees once again.

We truly are making a difference one chimpanzee at a time at Chimp Haven. All one has to do is look into the eyes of these seven “Magnificent” animals and see how happy and content they are now that they are home.
A DAY IN THE LIFE...
WATCHING TRACY GROW

From deep in the forest of the habitat, a lone figure can be seen slowly walking along the well-worn paths. Upon further observation, she is not alone; there is an infant clutching ever so tightly to her stomach, watching the trees and vegetation pass by while hanging almost upside down. The infant’s world looks much different from this position but soon she will be riding on her mom’s back and exploring her “Louisiana jungle.”

Mom finally comes to one of her favorite resting places. A place with green leaves still on the trees despite the lack of rain and left over oranges peels from this morning’s breakfast. Mom sits down and watches as the now 7-month old infant eagerly climbs down and explores her surroundings while still within the reach of her mom. The infant, known to the other members of her group as Tracy, is growing up quickly and likes the feel of her independence, knowing that her mom, Teresa, is keeping a watchful eye on her.

Tracy observes her mom with close scrutiny as she casually munches on the orange peels and the leaves she’s carefully stripped off the tree branches. Even though she is still nursing, this infant has been eating solid food for some time now, and decides she too will try a leaf. She makes soft food “grunts” as she takes the leaf, half playing with it and half eating it. Mimicking her mom, she tries other vegetation around her and likes what she can find. This is much better to her than the “chimp biscuits” she has been taking out of the feeders. And now that she has most of her teeth, she is even trying other fruits and vegetables such as papaya, bananas, celery, lettuce and carrots. She has also learned the fine art of food begging from her mom... but as cute as she is, only some of the other members will give up any of their food to her... after all... it is a “jungle” out there.

After a quick snack, the infant is whisked away by her mom further into the forest for some hands-on instruction. Today, tree climbing is on the schedule. With some of her “aunties” around, including Rita and Sara, the infant gets a reassuring hug from her mom, then looks up at a small sapling and ever-so-slowly begins to climb up. The young tree begins to sway from the weight of the infant and after a few cautious moments of climbing, Tracy loses her grip and falls inches to the ground. But mom is right there and after another hug, gently moves the infant toward the tree for another go at it. As the infant starts her ascent again, mom is sitting right beside her and gives her a gentle nudge and supports her weight with a strong, but tender hand. This time she makes it to the top of the 3-foot tree and looks around, while “auntie” Rita nods in approval.

After an exhausting 10 minutes of tree climbing, the infant and her mom make their way back to join the rest of the group. This time, however, the infant is really feeling her independence and walks behind her mom, making her way through the tall grass. She tires after a few minutes and Teresa allows her to grab on to her stomach again, and together they follow the dirt path worn by other members of the group.

Mom and daughter walk the final steps to their indoor bedrooms and rest for awhile in the hay. Out of the corner of her eye, the infant spies two of the other chimpanzees making their way into the bedroom. She recognizes them as Mason and Lolita... two of her favorite playmates! She looks over at mom, who gives an approving nod, and begins to play in the straw and hay. Could life for a young chimpanzee be any better?
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