

THE
CHIMP LIFE
KEITHVILLE, LOUISIANA

New Kids on the Block (Golden Edition)

They spent decades in research facilities. This year, they showed us what it means to stay young at heart.



Shogun was the most bold explorer during the group's first time in the forest, spending the afternoon gazing across the waterfront on his structure.

When the Alamogordo chimps finally got their chance to retire to sanctuary in 2025, they were already considered geriatric by chimp standards. Having spent their lives in biomedical research facilities, there were many chimp experiences they'd never had. Little did they know, their golden years were about to open up with forests, friendships, and new beginnings – and little did we know, they were about to show us what it really means to stay young at heart. Here are just a few snapshots of a year full of firsts, made possible with your generous support.



AI enjoyed a banana in his new living space before trying out the climbing assists on his new play structure – these are specially designed for geriatric chimps like AI to ensure they can enjoy their structures as their mobility needs change.



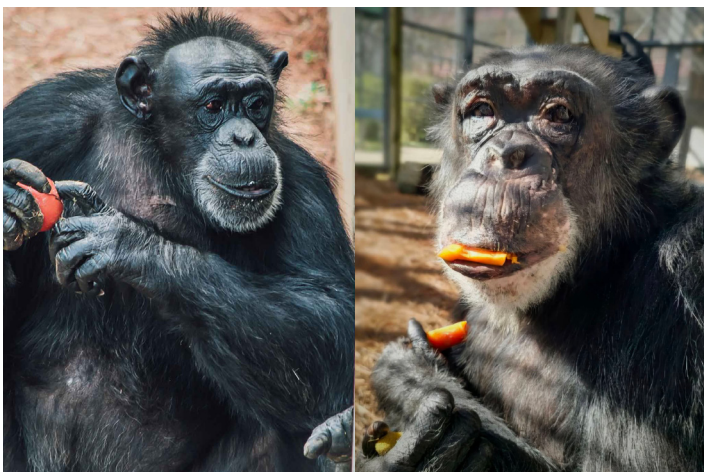
Sixty-four-year-old **Henry Danger** lived with girls for the first time, became alpha of his social group, and remembered his wildborn roots when he ventured into the forest at Chimp Haven.



We can never get anything past the chimps! **Ester's** new living space has digital cameras to help her care team monitor her group's needs, which she quickly spotted.



Like Al, **Kamaka** was born in the wild and brought to the U.S. as a baby. They've had so many new adventures since coming to Chimp Haven.



Lil Rose and Faylene are quickly becoming the sanctuary's "Golden Girls." Faylene is an Alamogordo newbie, and sanctuary veteran Lil Rose has made her feel right at home.

Humans of Chimp Haven

Meet the humans who make the chimps' world go round and what brought them to Chimp Haven.



Caregiver Kate

Degree: Zoo Science
Favorite chimp: Duke

"My interest in chimpanzees stems from their intelligence, complex social dynamics, and distinct individual personalities!"

Pierre's Second Act

Just as he'd decided to step back from leadership and lean into retirement, cataracts began clouding Pierre's world. Then came a first-of-its-kind surgery at Chimp Haven.



Mary, who's known Pierre for more than two decades, trains with him to learn how to accept eye drops.

Over the past 15 years, Chimp Haven's beloved "Big Papa" Pierre established himself as a trusted, steady group alpha and a favorite of his caregivers. As he entered his 50s, Pierre began stepping back as alpha of his group, seemingly ready for a slower pace in his retirement.

But shortly after, he started experiencing trouble with his eyesight, causing him to withdraw from activities that were previously part of his daily life. Caregivers and groupmates rallied around him, ensuring accommodations and friends to help him navigate his space and routines, but the team was eager to do more.

A visiting veterinary ophthalmologist determined Pierre was a candidate for cataract surgery – which, if approved, would be the first of its kind at Chimp Haven. The surgery wouldn't be without risks, especially as it pertained to post-op care, which can present unique complications when working with chimpanzees.

Throughout the spring and summer, Pierre's care team worked tirelessly with him on training to present

his eyes for inspection and accept the eyedrops that would be crucial to a successful recovery. As much as they wanted Pierre to have a chance at surgery, they knew he would need to be an active participant in his recovery to make it happen.

If there's one chimp who knows how to show up, it's Papa Pierre. Day after day he worked to master his training and showed his care team just how dedicated he was. Because of his remarkable efforts, Pierre was approved for surgery.

As Pierre embarks on this journey, we'll be following him every step of the way – from the procedure, recovery, and hopefully, a wonderful second act in his retirement. (Stay tuned and follow along @ChimpHaven to see how it went!)

As more Chimp Haven residents reach their golden years in the seasons ahead, the level of expert, individualized care you make possible for each of them will matter more than ever. We are committed to ensuring their retirement remains full of freedom and choice as they age – and we're grateful for your partnership in providing this remarkable opportunity for Pierre.

Save the Date: **Fall at the Sanctuary**

The sanctuary opens to the public just a few times each year. Here's your fall lineup.



December

Chimpanzee Discovery Day | Saturday, Oct. 17

A family-friendly fun and educational morning with the chimps! Observe chimp families in their forested habitats, hear chats from the team, learn at interactive stations, and take a hayride tour.

Chimp Chat | Saturday, Oct. 17

A behind-the-scenes look at life at the sanctuary and in-depth conversation with experts on the Chimp Haven team.

Schedule a Tour

Private tours are available on a limited basis; contact the team to schedule yours.



Learn more and plan your visit!

www.chimphaven.org/plan-your-visit/

Only at Chimp Haven

Moments you'll only see at the world's largest chimpanzee sanctuary, made possible with your support.

This summer, the chimps were treated to a private DJ courtesy of intern Ren, who generously shared his talents with Blue's group as they enjoyed the tunes and popsicles.



Ask a Caregiver!

You ask, the chimp experts answer!

Q: Do chimps laugh?

Answer: Chimps do laugh! It's one of my favorite things to see chimps do. It's not like us where we laugh out loud. It's way more subtle, so you have to be paying attention to hear and see them do it. They will go up to each other and make a breathy pant. It's such a joy to see and to hear.

Rebekah Lewis, Director of Behavior