

# Husbandry at Chimp Haven



## What is husbandry?

- Husbandry is the care of animals.
- At Chimp Haven, husbandry describes animal care for chimpanzees.
- Chimpanzees that live in sanctuaries need people to help take care of them.
- The Chimp Haven husbandry team is made up of animal “caregivers” or “care staff.”
- Care staff tend to the chimpanzees’ basic needs, like water, food, and shelter. The teams also takes care of the chimpanzees’ social needs and environment.
- Chimpanzees are very smart animals, which makes husbandry an exciting challenging field!

## What does Chimp Haven husbandry look like?

- Chimp Haven has a husbandry department devoted to caring for the chimpanzees.
- A team of 25 people look after the whole colony!
- There are day shift and night shift teams.
- There are 30 troops at Chimp Haven with an average size of 11 chimpanzees. Each troop has caregivers!
- Chimpanzees need care 365 days of the year – that’s every single day!
- Care staff use checklists to keep track of all of their tasks. They have lists for cleaning, feeding, and even nighttime duties! What kinds of lists do you use?
- Husbandry does a lot to care for the chimpanzees. Two important things are feeding them and cleaning for them.
- Care staff give the colony their diet 4-5 times per day with forage mixture twice weekly. That’s a lot of mouths to feed!
  - [Read more about feeding the chimps here!](#)
- Along with making sure the chimpanzees have clean habitats and are well fed, care staff delivers fresh nesting materials to the chimpanzees each day.



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- The colony always has hay or wood wool in their bedrooms to help them make cozy nests to sleep or relax in. One of the best nest-makers is Jacob, who will scoop up all the hay into one big pile and make a nest that is a foot thick!
- New team members learn to identify each of the chimpanzees in their care by sight within their first 90 days at the sanctuary. Some caregivers can even recognize the chimpanzees from behind, walking away, or at a distance!
- Care staff keep color coded checklists of troops to help keep track of the more than 300 chimpanzees!
- Knowing the chimpanzees is key! Care staff check on each chimpanzees every six hours.
- Caregivers make notes on each chimpanzee during checks. How do they look? Do they have any injuries? Are they acting like themselves? If anything if off they alert the veterinary team.
- Each chimpanzee troop is given a name. Naming the troops makes it easier to identify them.
- Troops are usually named after the Alpha (male or female), but sometimes the name comes from one member who represents the troop. Some troop names include Flora, Ladybird, and Slim!
- Safety is extremely important when working with chimpanzees, so caregivers must complete a lot of training.



Care staff are skilled to provide proper care to the chimpanzees. Check back for next week's lesson to learn more about how we care for the chimpanzees at Chimp Haven!

## What is Chimp Haven?

- Chimp Haven is a big sanctuary where chimpanzees live together in family groups, also known as troops.
- Chimp Haven is located in Louisiana.
- More than 300 chimpanzees live at Chimp Haven today!



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# An Apple a Day

Caregivers feed more than 300 chimpanzees each day! Help caregiver, Lisa, gather apples for 5 chimpanzee troops. Solve the math facts and use the guide below!

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# Chimpanzee Checklist

Chimp Haven's husbandry team uses checklists to make the most of each day with the chimpanzees. By following routine schedules the team ensures each task in their day is complete. Like people, chimpanzees have routines. Review a sample chimpanzee checklist, then create your own for a bedtime routine!

## Chimpanzee Bedtime Checklist:

- Take a sip of water.
- Patrol the habitat.
- Groom a friend.
- Give a pant-hoot to the troop to tell them goodnight.
- Find the perfect bedtime spot.
- Create a cozy nest with blankets and hay.
- Settle in, and sleep!

**How are your list and a chimpanzee's list similar? How are they different?**

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## \_\_\_\_\_ 's Bedtime Checklist:

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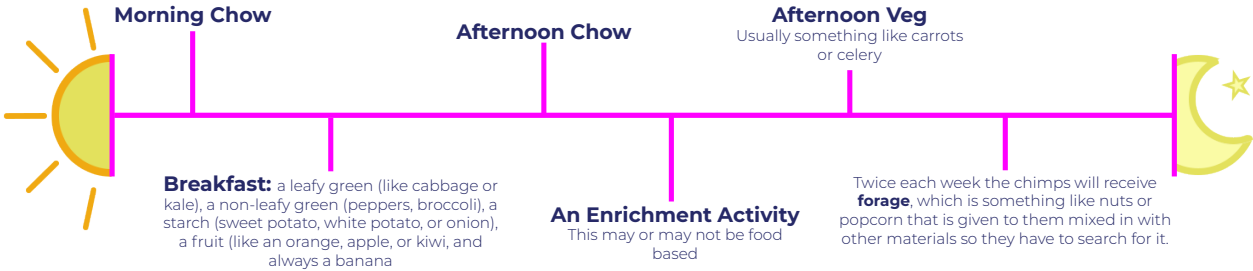
# Husbandry at Chimp Haven- Part Two

## What is husbandry?

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## What is a day like for Chimp Haven husbandry?

- The chimps at Chimp Haven receive round-the-clock care, so there are both day shift and night shift teams to care for the chimpanzees.
- With more than 300 chimpanzees to care for, there is a lot of work to do every day!
- Care staff follow daily routines to make sure they finish all their tasks. Do you have a daily routine?
- The days start bright and early. Staff begins by checking on each chimpanzee troop and bringing them their morning chow. It’s just the first of several meals the chimps will receive throughout the day:



- After checks and morning chow, care staff asks the chimpanzees to go outdoors so they can clean their inside bedrooms. Moving chimpanzees from one area to another is called “shifting.”
- Have you ever been asked to change rooms while reading your favorite book or watching your favorite TV show? Care staff must be patient and creative when asking the troops to shift.
- The chimpanzees eat their breakfast outside while care staff cleans indoors.
- Chutes connect each chimpanzee living space so troops can move from place to place. The chutes are kind of like above ground tunnels high in the sky!
- Husbandry staff sometimes do “troop moves” by shifting an entire chimpanzee troop into a new living space. By doing this, the chimps get to experience new and exciting environments, which they really love.
- Care staff think of chimpanzee moves like a puzzle game because there are lots of moving parts!
- The team works closely with the chimpanzees each day to build strong bonds and trust. When the chimpanzees trust the team it’s easier to shift!
- Because chimpanzees love new things and exploring new spaces, they pant-hoot and get excited when they see care staff getting the chutes ready for a move!
- Care staff also spend time throughout the day doing loads of chimpanzee laundry. Like humans, many chimps like to sleep with blankets, especially when it’s cold outside. Staff makes sure there are always plenty of fresh clean blankets for the chimps to cuddle up in.
- Some chimpanzees also love stuffed animals, so the team makes sure to clean those regularly too.
- The colony receives enrichment every day, which sometimes must also be cleaned (like puzzles or plastic toys). Care staff work hard to clean those items so that they can be used again.
- The team makes sure that the chimps’ food is ready for the next day by prepping their meals. Last year the colony went through 200,000 pounds of produce! Can you imagine chopping all of those vegetables?



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# Set Your Clock!

Time is of the essence with the crew when caring for more than 300 chimpanzees. Make your own analog clock to help keep track of how much time you spend on an activity, just like care staff!

## Suggested Materials

- Paper plate or construction paper
- Pipe cleaners
- Marker
- Scissors



## Directions

### Step 1

Gather your materials!

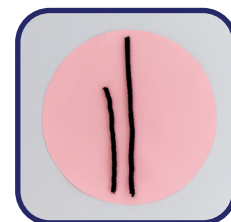
### Step 2

If you're using construction paper draw a big circle and cut it out.



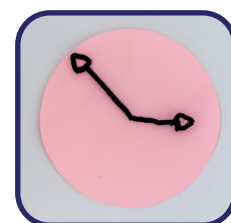
### Step 3

Use your scissors to make a small hole in the center of your circle (you may need an adult's help).



### Step 4

Cut your pipe cleaner so that one piece is longer than the other (making the "minute hand" and "hour hand" of the clock).



### Step 5

Insert the pipe cleaners through the hole in the middle of your clock. Bend the pipe cleaners so that they are flat against your clock on the front and back. Your pipe cleaners should be attached to your clock and should rotate like the hands of a clock!

### Step 6

Bend two small pieces of pipe cleaner into two small triangles.



### Step 7

Bend the small triangles onto the hands of your clock – you made pointers!

### Step 8

Draw the numbers 1 – 12 onto your clock.

### Step 9

Check the time on another clock in your house to help you set the time on your paper clock!

### All done!

Share your analog clock with us  
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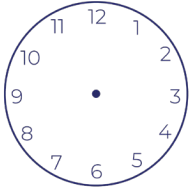
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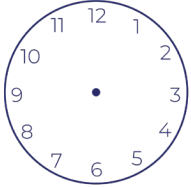


# A Day in the Life

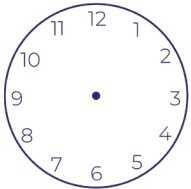
The day starts bright and early for care staff and the chimpanzees. Help the team finish their morning routine by filling in the minute hand (large) and hour hand (small) on the clocks.



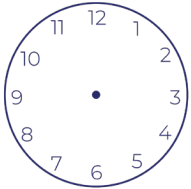
The sun is up and the chimpanzees are awake, and care staff arrive at 7 a.m. for another exciting day at the sanctuary.



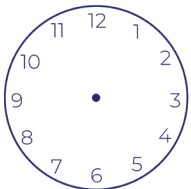
Kevin hops on a golf cart at 7:30 a.m. It's time to drive around and check on the colony!



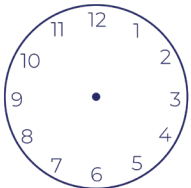
It's 8 a.m. and the chimpanzees are ready for their morning chow. Pant hoots all around as Kevin delivers the biscuits.



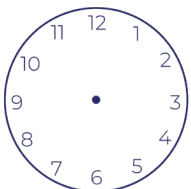
The sun is shining at 8:45 a.m. and the chimpanzees are asked to shift outside. Time for the team to clean bedrooms!



Hungry again? It's 10 a.m. and the chimpanzees are ready for another round! Kevin loads up to deliver their breakfast. Kale, peppers, potatoes and bananas are overflowing.



Kevin gathers the blankets at 10:15 a.m. to wash in the laundry. The chimpanzees will love their clean things!



Kevin and care staff got a lot done by following their morning routine. It's 11 a.m. and time for a break and a chimpanzee play session!



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# Key Terms



- **Husbandry** (hus·band·ry) – the care of animals
- **Routine** (rou·tine) – the process of doing something the same each time
- **Checklist** (check·list) – a list of things to be done



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