



R&R

RESTITUTION

Sue Ellen

Rescued
1997

A Chronology of Key Events

in the Scientific Use of Chimpanzees in the U.S.*

- 1900:** 🌍 1 to 5 million chimpanzees inhabit rainforests of West and Central Africa.
- 1923:** 🌍 Psychobiologist Robert Yerkes purchases two young chimpanzees, Chim and Panzee. Both die within the year. He then purchases young Bill and Dwina. In 1925, he obtains Pan and Wendy, from a sailor in Boston. These four chimpanzees provide a beginning for his laboratory research in Florida – the first of thousands of chimpanzees to be used by U.S. vivisectors.
- 1930:** 🌍 Yerkes obtains support from Yale University and several foundations to establish the first chimpanzee laboratory. The Florida facility is named the Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology.
- 1941:** 🌍 In honor of Yerkes' retirement, Yale renames their facility the Yerkes Laboratory of Primate Biology. The name is eventually changed to the Yerkes National Primate Research Center (Yerkes).
- 1950s:** 🌍 The U.S. Air Force acquires 65 young, wild-caught chimpanzees and establishes an aeronautical research facility at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.
- 1956:** 🌍 After Yerkes' death, Emory University assumes ownership of the Yerkes laboratory. (Using federal funding, Emory moves the Florida facility to its campus in Atlanta, Georgia.)
- 1960:** 🌍 U.S. Congress enacts the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Regional Primate Research Centers, establishing eight NIH-funded facilities.
- 1960s:** 🌍 The U.S. Air Force ends its use of chimpanzees. Many "Air Force Chimps" are leased to medical schools and other labs for use in painful and lethal experiments.
- 1960:** 🌍 Raised as if a human child, Washoe becomes the first of more than 10 chimpanzees to be part of cross-fostering language experiments.
- 🌍 The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is enacted to provide some protection for animals in research.
- 1969:** 🌍 *Science* publishes "Teaching sign language to a chimpanzee." Evidence that chimpanzees can learn a human language and communicate their emotions establishes profound ethical arguments against their use in harmful research.

*With reference to relevant international events.

- 1973:** 🌐 The Endangered Species Act is passed. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is signed by 167 countries.
- 1975:** 🌐 Listed as an endangered species, chimpanzees can no longer be freely removed from Africa. Chimpanzees in captivity in the U.S. are down-listed to “threatened,” allowing for their continued use in research.
- 1980:** 🌐 Dr. Christiaan Barnard, the world’s first heart transplant surgeon, recounts: “I had...two male chimps...they lived next door to each other in separate cages...before I used one as a [heart] donor. When we put him to sleep in his cage in preparation for the operation, he chattered and cried incessantly ...when we removed the body to the operating room, the other chimp wept bitterly and was inconsolable for days. The incident made a deep impression on me. I vowed never again to experiment with such sensitive creatures.”
- 1981:** 🌐 Frederick Coulston, a toxicologist, establishes the White Sands Research Center (renamed the Coulston Foundation), a biomedical research lab in New Mexico. For nearly 20 years, Coulston conducts invasive experiments on chimpanzees. Coulston is cited for multiple violations of the AWA after many chimpanzees and other primates die due to substandard care and neglect. Coulston eventually houses 650 chimpanzees, the world’s largest holding.
- 1985:** 🌐 The U.S. amends the AWA to include requirements for “psychological enrichment” for nonhuman primates. It mandates minimum cage size (for chimpanzees 5' x 5' x 7') and requires enrichment. In reality, the AWA has minimal effect on the safety and well-being of animals in research. However, the 1985 Amendment sets a precedent that psychological experiences of nonhuman species merit consideration, even though the Amendment is substandard and ineffectively implemented and enforced.
- 1986:** 🌐 Dr. Jane Goodall, a British primatologist, publishes *The Chimpanzees of Gombe*, detailing her field observations of free-living chimpanzees at Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Dr. Goodall’s work, which began in 1960, observes chimpanzees in their natural environment, documenting their intricate relationships and tool-making skills. Her work earns her an honorary doctorate from Cambridge University and sets the stage for a new understanding of humans and other great apes.
- 🌐 NIH establishes the Chimpanzee Breeding and Research Program designed to produce greater numbers of chimpanzees to be used in HIV/AIDS research.
- 1995:** 🌐 ABC News’ *20/20* airs a program about the morality of research on chimpanzees, featuring Booe, a former language-studies chimpanzee who was transferred to a medical research lab in 1982. The program broadcasts a reunion after a 13-year separation between Booe and Dr. Roger Fouts of Central Washington University’s Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI). Millions of viewers watch, overwhelmed, as Booe recognizes and ecstatically greets Dr. Fouts. The program results in such massive public outcry that five months later Booe and eight other laboratory chimpanzees are released to a sanctuary in California.
- 🌐 NIH acknowledges a “surplus” of chimpanzees for research. A panel is assembled to assess the problem. A voluntary breeding moratorium is initiated on chimpanzees owned/supported by the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a division of NIH.

1996: 🌐 The U.S. Air Force permanently divests itself of its 141 chimpanzees. Congress stipulates that the chimpanzees may go to qualified bidders for research or retirement. Though primate sanctuaries submit bids, 111 chimpanzees are awarded to Coulston where they are used in experiments and for breeding. Only 30 “Air Force Chimps” are retired (to Primarily Primates, Inc. a sanctuary in Texas).

🌐 Jerom, a chimpanzee infected with HIV at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, is the first and only chimpanzee to die of an AIDS-related syndrome. After his death, Jerom’s blood is injected into other chimpanzees with no resulting disease. The failure to generate AIDS in chimpanzees after more than a decade of research leads to a sharp decline in HIV studies on chimpanzees.

1997: 🌐 The Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) under New York University closes. NYU gives 225 chimpanzees and other primates to Coulston. Efforts by LEMSIP’s director, Dr. James Mahoney (DVM, PhD), rescues 109 chimpanzees and more than 100 monkeys from going to Coulston.

🌐 The Fauna Foundation (Fauna) in Montreal becomes the first sanctuary in North America to receive HIV-infected chimpanzees, rescuing 15 from LEMSIP. Over time it is revealed that HIV is no longer detectable in their blood.

🌐 The National Research Council, a division of NIH, issues: *Chimpanzees in Research: Strategies for Their Ethical Care, Management, and Use*. The report acknowledges that a higher ethical standard should be applied to chimpanzees and imposes a breeding moratorium at all NIH-supported research facilities.

🌐 The British government declares that it will no longer issue new licenses for procedures using great apes in biomedical research.

1999: 🌐 Coulston comes under increasing scrutiny for multiple violations of the AWA and Standards for Good Laboratory Practice. Financial problems escalate as contractors withdraw.

🌐 After a protracted lawsuit with the U.S. government, 21 former Air Force chimpanzees are removed from Coulston and awarded sanctuary at the Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care (now called Save the Chimps).

2000: 🌐 The New Zealand Animal Welfare Act becomes law. Great apes are banned from use in research, testing, or teaching.

🌐 The U.S. passes the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection (CHIMP) Act. The CHIMP Act provides for retirement and lifetime care of chimpanzees not in active protocols; it prohibits breeding in federal retirement and euthanasia for the convenience of a lab. However, it still allows for “retired” chimpanzees to be recalled back into research.

🌐 Only an estimated 150,000 chimpanzees remain in the rainforests of Africa.

2001: 🌐 The Netherlands begins to phase out (and eventually ban) harmful research on chimpanzees.

🌐 Pablo is the first of the LEMSIP chimpanzees rescued by Fauna to die. Born in Africa, Pablo’s mother and family were killed in order to capture him. He was used in research his entire life, including being one of the first to be infected with HIV at LEMSIP. He enjoyed only four years of sanctuary.

🌐 NIH awards 287 of the Coulston chimpanzees and a \$43 million management contract to Charles River Laboratories, Inc. (CRL) – a major breeder, importer, and supplier of primates and other animals for laboratories.

2002: 🌐 Coulston declares bankruptcy and collapses. The laboratory is renamed the Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF), where the aforementioned 287 chimpanzees remain under the care of CRL. An additional 266 chimpanzees formerly owned by Coulston are rescued by anthropologist Dr. Carole Noon, founder of Save the Chimps – the largest rescue on behalf of captive chimpanzees in history.

🌐 Annie, one of the first chimpanzees captured in Africa and brought to the U.S., dies at the age of 42. She was used in entertainment and later in research at LEMSIP. She was also part of a program with the Primate Foundation of Arizona (PFA) to “breed” more chimpanzees for research. Her wise and gentle nature earned her the position as matriarch of the Fauna chimpanzees; Fauna rescued her in 1997.

🌐 The Dutch government prohibits testing on chimpanzees after the end of trials in progress. The ban also applies to bonobos, orangutans, and gorillas. The Dutch Parliament votes unanimously to disband the last chimpanzee population used for research in Europe, which was located at the Biomedical Primate Research Center (BPRC) in the Netherlands. (Chimpanzees are actually “retired” from the center in 2004.)

2003: 🌐 John Strandberg, Director of Comparative Medicine at NIH, acknowledges in a public forum that a U.S. ban on chimpanzee research would come as no surprise to him, due to changing public attitudes.

🌐 Sweden bans the use of great apes in biomedical research, including a ban on the “lesser apes,” gibbons and siamangs.

2004: 🌐 An estimated 1,300 chimpanzees remain at six federally funded research facilities. Many are not being used in active protocols but remain “warehoused” in laboratory confinement.

🌐 The New Mexico District Attorney files charges against NIH-owned APF and its contractor CRL, for alleged neglect and abandonment resulting in the deaths of two chimpanzees.

🌐 In the Netherlands, the BPRC officially stops conducting research on chimpanzees. The 160 at the time of its closing are “retired” and to be placed in zoos and sanctuaries throughout Europe.

🌐 The Austrian Federal Minister for Education, Science, and Culture submits a draft amendment to the animal research law that would prohibit animal experimentation on great apes.

2005: 🌐 Austria officially amends its animal protection laws to forbid experiments on all great apes, including all eight species of gibbons, making it the fifth country to do so.

🌐 The first group of chimpanzees retired under the U.S. CHIMP Act arrives at Chimp Haven (CH). CH is the contractor of the national chimpanzee sanctuary system.

🌐 Donna Rae dies at Fauna after only 8 years in sanctuary. At the age of 12, she was walked into her cage at LEMSIP. She had been used since childhood in entertainment. She spent 19 years in a 5' x 5' x 7' cage before she was rescued.

🌐 The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) initiates an investigation of the New Iberia Research Center (NIRC) for alleged AWA violations and cruelty to chimpanzees, which came to light in a lawsuit filed by a former NIRC employee.

🌐 The USDA fines Emory University and their affiliated Yerkes National Primate Research Center \$1,375 for violations of the AWA due to the 2004 death of a chimpanzee named Dover.

🌐 The Humane Society of the United States files a lawsuit against the USDA for not responding to Freedom of Information Act requests from 2000 to 2004. The Department of Justice eventually orders the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service department to resume online posting of annual reports for U.S. research facilities.

🌐 During the 5th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life Sciences, national and international animal protection organizations, along with Dr. Jane Goodall, sign a resolution calling for an end to the use of nonhuman primates in biomedical research and testing.

🌐 A Brazilian judge recognizes Suíça the chimpanzee as a legal subject in a proceeding seeking her release from a zoo to a sanctuary. Although Suíça passes away before her release, the decision marks the first time a nonhuman species has been admitted as a legal subject in a court action.

🌐 Genome sequencing of DNA from a chimpanzee named Clint reveals similarities and critical differences between humans and nonhuman primates. Humans are considered 96 percent similar to chimpanzees. Clint passes away at Yerkes before the sequencing is completed.

2006: 🌐 NEAVS officially launches **Project R&R: Release and Restitution for Chimpanzees in U.S. Laboratories**, a national campaign to end the use of the first nonhuman species, chimpanzees, and therefore all great apes, in U.S. labs.

🌐 PBS begins its 25th season of *NATURE* with a premiere showing of *Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History* by Allison Argo — a documentary that provides a first-hand glimpse of the lives of chimpanzees from research who are now in sanctuary.

🌐 Two Swiss federal commissions call for tighter regulations on primate experimentation in Switzerland, including a total ban on tests involving great apes because of their high level of cognitive faculties.

🌐 The PFA announces that it will be closing in 2010, transferring ownership of its chimpanzees to the federal government. Of its 73 chimpanzees, 69 will be sent to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Texas. Only four are scheduled for sanctuary.

🌐 Ohio State University closes its primate research lab and relocates nine chimpanzees to Primarily Primates, Inc. (PPI). Several months later, PPI, which has approximately 70 chimpanzees, is put under receivership by the Texas Attorney General. The investigation results in the establishment of a new board of directors.

🌐 The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care puts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on probation for problems in animal care. A chimpanzee underwent 10 liver needle biopsy attempts — more than three is a violation of CDC regulations.

🌐 A federal appeals court overrules a lower court's decision to dismiss a lawsuit against the USDA. The lawsuit was aimed at getting the USDA to improve current minimum standards of care for nonhuman primates. Current regulations — in effect since 1991 — are considered inadequate and ineffective by most primate experts.

🌐 The only remaining Japanese pharmaceutical company conducting invasive research on chimpanzees sends its 80 chimpanzees to sanctuary.

🌐 Billy Jo, a beloved chimpanzee at Fauna sanctuary, passes away at age 37. Billy was the subject of a paper on identity confusion and depression in chimpanzees from research.

2007: 🌐 The Parliament of the Balearic Islands, one of the Autonomous Communities of Spain, announces its approval of a resolution to grant legal rights to great apes. The resolution is also presented to the Spanish government.

🌐 NCRR announces they will no longer fund the breeding of NCRR-owned chimpanzees for research, thus making the breeding moratorium first initiated in 1995 permanent.

🌐 *Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History* wins an Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft for Research.

🌐 The scientific paper commissioned by Project R&R: *Chimpanzee Research: An Examination of Its Contribution to Biomedical Knowledge and Efficacy in Combating Human Diseases* is released. The paper concludes that research conducted on chimpanzees has not demonstrated a significant or essential contribution towards treating or curing human diseases, but instead has incurred considerable animal welfare, ethical, and financial costs.

🌐 Washoe, the first nonhuman to acquire a human language, passes away at the age of 42.

🌐 The U.S. passes the “Chimp Haven is Home Act,” prohibiting all “retired” chimpanzees in federal sanctuary from ever being returned to research. This law secures the original intent of the 2000 CHIMP Act – to provide chimpanzees with permanent protection from research.

🌐 Fauna mourns the loss of Jeannie. She was 31 years old. Jeannie, along with Rachel, also at Fauna, were the focus of a paper on posttraumatic stress in chimpanzees from research. Despite meticulous care both physically and emotionally, Jeannie never fully recovered from her life in a lab.

🌐 An Austrian court denies legal guardianship for a chimpanzee named Hiasl. Hiasl was rescued some 20 years earlier during an illegal attempt to send him to a vivisection lab. He was sent to sanctuary. When the sanctuary faced bankruptcy, Paula Stibbe of Britain tried to prevent his transfer to a zoo by applying to be his legal guardian.

🌐 Yerkes NPRC is awarded a \$10 million federal grant to compare how mental abilities decline in aging humans, chimpanzees, and rhesus macaques. The study includes human subjects.

🌐 Emory University is assessed a \$15,000 civil penalty for AWA violations that occurred at Yerkes in 2006.

🌐 A new chimpanzee sanctuary, Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, prepares to welcome its first seven residents. These residents are the last remaining chimpanzees held by the Buckshire Corporation, a private lab in Pennsylvania with a long history of using chimpanzees.

🌐 The New York Blood Center (NYBC) closes its Vilab II primate research facility in Liberia. NYBC purchased more than six islands off the coast of Liberia as sanctuary for its 74 chimpanzees.

🌐 A report by *Science* reveals that the U.S. is the last country still conducting biomedical research on chimpanzees, with some 1,100 chimpanzees still in U.S. research facilities.

🌐 The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments calls for the European Commission and Parliament to incorporate a ban on the use of primates, including all great apes and wild-caught primates, in research.

2008: 🌐 On April 17, bi-partisan legislators introduced [The Great Ape Protection Act](#) (H.R.5852) to end invasive research and testing on chimpanzees in the U.S. The bill would retire approximately 600 federally owned chimpanzees to permanent sanctuary. U.S. Representatives Edolphus Towns (D-NY), David Reichert (R-WA), Jim Langevin (D-RI), and Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) introduced the legislation, along with Bruce Braley (D-IA), Tom Allen (D-ME), John Campbell (R-CA), and Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) as original cosponsors.

🌐 A scientific paper, *Building an Inner Sanctuary: Complex PTSD in Chimpanzees*, is published in vol. 9(1) of the *Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*. The paper reveals how psychological suffering crosses species lines by demonstrating that posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) afflicts chimpanzees from laboratories in the same way as it does human trauma survivors. The paper includes co-authors from Project R&R and Fauna.