



Chimpanzees in Need Campaign

Memo July 30, 2020 addressing recent misinformation

Some rumors and questions have recently been circulating about the need to rehome 32 chimpanzees from the closed Wildlife Waystation refuge in Sylmar, CA. NAPSA, its chimpanzee experts and fundraising partners, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife have been collaborating on this campaign for a year, united in keeping the welfare of the chimpanzees as their top priority.

Rumor: The Wildlife Waystation and the remaining chimps are for sale.

Truth: **The portion of the Wildlife Waystation property that is currently on the market is privately owned by the founder. The chimpanzees themselves and the portion of the property where they are located is not for sale.**

Rumor: The chimpanzees can stay at the Waystation.

Truth: **The Waystation is no longer a functioning entity and does not have the resources to provide lifetime care to chimpanzees. The sanctuary location is problematic, lacking a water source and in an area with high risk of wildfires. The chimpanzees' care has been overseen and funded by California Department of Fish & Wildlife since August 2019 who took over operations due to significant concerns about the ability of the Waystation to care for the animals.**

Rumor: The Waystation can be saved with a fraction of the cost it would take to rehome the chimpanzees.

Truth: **If a private individual or nonprofit organization stepped in, it would take many millions of dollars to build equivalent habitats for the chimpanzees onsite to those at sanctuaries where they would be rehomed. Even with millions for building, the fire risk and other infrastructure problems would still exist and permitting would not be guaranteed. On top of the costs for bringing their home up to proper standards, it would cost at least \$20,000 per year per chimpanzee for their care, with most of the chimpanzees living for decades longer.**

Rumor: As social animals, it is inhumane to disrupt the social groups of the chimps.

Truth: **The 32 Waystation chimpanzees currently live in six distinct social groups, and those groups will remain intact whenever possible throughout their placement.**

Rumor: The chimpanzees will suffer when rehomed.

Truth: **The Waystation cannot meet the complex needs of the chimps. There are no resources, permits, or infrastructure to do this. Trusted and experienced chimpanzee sanctuaries are preparing to provide enriched lifetime care to these deserving beings.**

The Chimps in Need campaign has already successfully rehomed nine chimpanzees from the Wildlife Waystation to new facilities, where the individuals are thriving. A fundraiser is in place to ensure the remaining chimpanzees can also be rehomed.

To learn more about the campaign and its supporting organizations and to donate, visit primatesanctuaries.org/chimps-in-need.