



July 11, 2018

An open letter to ABC, Anderson Cooper, AOL, CBS, CNN, Fox News, Inside Edition, MSN, New York Post, Today, and Yahoo,

Concerned viewers have notified us of a video from Zoological Wildlife Foundation (ZWF) that you recently posted, about a chimpanzee hugging his former caregivers. There are a number of highly misleading messages in this video that we expect will have you reconsidering the promotion of this foundation.

ZWF is not an endangered animal rescue, but is a for-profit facility that exposes exotic animals to potential harm through public contact, photo opportunities, handling, and performing. The chimpanzee featured, Limbani, is a very young chimpanzee who should be in the company of other chimpanzees. Although Limbani was supposedly rejected by his mother after birth, it is a very common practice for animal breeders to remove infant chimpanzees from the mothers shortly after birth in order to more easily handle and sell them, resulting in long-lasting and harmful repercussions throughout the chimpanzee's entire life.

Behaviors seen in this video are in direct opposition to the [advice](#) of reputable and experienced primatologists. The amount of human contact that chimpanzees experience is in [direct correlation](#) to physical manifestations of stress throughout adulthood, which can include self-harm, depression and antisocial, aggressive behaviors. Debilitating and sometimes fatal [zoonotic diseases](#) can be easily passed between humans and other primates. Infant chimpanzees are endearing and somewhat manageable, but as they grow they quickly become strong, rebellious and manipulative, which makes properly caring for them in a human household impossible. Our [Position Statement](#) on the private ownership of primates goes into more detail on this topic.

The problem is that the general public will see this video and erroneously think chimpanzees make suitable "pets." [Data](#) proves that misleading videos like this encourage the private ownership of primates, which leads to more animal suffering.

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is a coalition of nine of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for over 730 primates, many of whom were formerly living in human homes. Our sanctuaries are full (with waiting lists) due to the use of primates in entertainment and the pet trade, and we don't want this perpetuated.

Please remove the video from ZWF. We have produced another [Position Statement](#) on how to identify pseudo-sanctuaries so you may avoid inadvertently promoting organizations to your many followers. We urge you to use your powerful voice to promote only accredited sanctuaries who responsibly keep the welfare of their animals as their first - and only - priority.

Sincerely,
The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance

NAPSA is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, an Oakland-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
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Visit our website at www.PrimateSanctuaries.org