



## **Advocacy Position Statement Funding for Retired Primates**

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) strongly supports a system that establishes funding from research institutions, at the time a research proposal is developed, that directly contributes towards the construction of sanctuary housing and lifetime care of nonhuman primates retired from scientific research facilities.

It is in the best interest of nonhuman primates to be released to reputable sanctuaries after the conclusion of their use as research subjects instead of being euthanized or sent to an unaccredited animal care facility. Broad public sentiment is behind this notion, and an increasing number of scientists within the biomedical community also agree that retirement to sanctuaries should be the goal for primates used as test subjects.

As the biomedical field works to embrace the “3Rs” of Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement, steadily moving away from medical testing on primates, they should also be looking to the future of the estimated 100,000 primates being held, bred, or used in research labs and encouraging a fourth “R” - Retirement.

Sanctuaries providing lifetime care for animals who are unable to be repatriated to their natural habitats are a fairly new concept; Historically (and still, for the vast majority of modern sanctuaries) the onus to raise funds for the housing and daily care required to give captive nonhuman primates a good life in captivity was entirely on nonprofit sanctuary staff. Scientific institutions should be contributing towards these costs by developing a formalized process for providing lifetime care funding for the retirement of nonhuman primates in their care.

There are some precedents for this model: The Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act (CHIMP Act), requires all chimpanzees no longer used in research to be retired to the Federal sanctuary system, with a mechanism in place that funded 90% of the costs to establish sanctuary space and 75% of costs to maintain facilities. Increasingly, research institutions are doing the same for monkeys. Additionally, there are proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act that would mandate non-laboratory retirement of all animals when the animals are no longer being used in Federally funded research.

NAPSA supports efforts to retire non-human primates from research institutions to reputable sanctuaries, and we recognize that in order to make large-scale retirement possible for these deserving monkeys, funding mechanisms must be put into place.

For more information:

[“AFTER Act of 2019”](#), United States Congress

[“Research Retirement: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Sanctuary.”](#) Kari Bagnall.

[“Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act”](#), United States Congress.

[“Money for Monkeys and More: Ensuring Sanctuary Retirement of Nonhuman Primates.”](#) Erika Fleury.

[“Should Aging Lab Monkeys Be Retired to Sanctuaries?”](#) Science.

[“What Enables a University to Work Effectively with a Private Sanctuary to Retire Nonhuman Primates?”](#), D. Fragaszy