



Funding for Chimpanzee Retirement

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is a coalition of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent who care for over 800 nonhuman primates (including over 700 chimpanzees) who are retired from the entertainment, biomedical research, and exotic pet industries. NAPSA members are experts in providing enriched lifetime care to captive animals and have overseen the rescues and retirements of thousands of primates.

NAPSA member sanctuaries are licensed by the USDA, accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, and are committed to providing enriched and individualized lifetime care to every animal at their facility. As nonprofit organizations, they must carefully consider their responsibility to provide the highest quality of lifetime care when considering taking in a new sanctuary resident. The demand to house captive primates in the United States exceeds sanctuary space due to high numbers of animals used in various industries, many of whom eventually need housing. As such, sanctuaries frequently are in the position of turning away animals in need, despite their desire to help as much as possible.

Chimpanzees in particular are a challenging species to build and care for, due to their strength, intelligence, complex social needs, and long life spans (averaging 40 years, though some chimps live into their 60s). As the use of chimpanzees in various industries wanes, and there is excitement and dedication from animal welfare groups to bring them to sanctuary, the following factors impact the likelihood of securing sanctuary housing for them:

- The average annual cost to care for a chimpanzee in a sanctuary is \$29,000, though this does not reflect the entire cost of lifetime care. While it includes typical animal care expenses like food, staff, and veterinary services in addition to enrichment, facility repairs, maintenance, and utilities (all of which are necessary for ensuring animal welfare), there are additional expenses, such as transportation and development, that the sanctuary must absorb is not often calculated into annual care costs.
- Chimpanzee care costs can vary between facilities, depending on factors including sanctuary size, geographical location, age of sanctuary, age and history of facility residents, and more. For example, sanctuaries in different parts of the country may have higher or lower costs of living that impact staffing expenses, and certain climates may

require funds be spent to hurricane-proof buildings (in the south) or retain heat (in the north.)

- Prior to working to bring captive chimpanzees to sanctuary, groups advocating for chimpanzee retirement must ensure that the sanctuary in mind has physical space to take the individual(s) of concern, and also is provided with funds necessary to provide appropriate care to the individual(s).

Successful chimpanzee rescue goes well beyond advocacy work, and must include careful consideration of sanctuary capacity, needs, and funding. With ongoing collaboration involving advocacy organizations, funding foundations, and accredited sanctuaries, responsible chimpanzee placement is possible.

For more information:

Fobar, R. (2022, June 16). What do we owe former lab chimps? *National Geographic*.

Havercamp, K. et al. (2019). Longevity and mortality of captive chimpanzees in Japan from 1921 to 2018. *Primates*, 60, (525-535). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10329-019-00755-8>

Ross, S. R. et al. (2022). A 25-Year Retrospective Review of Mortality in Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in Accredited US Zoos from a Management and Welfare Perspective. *Animals*, 12(15), 1878. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani12151878>