



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

## **GREAT APE PROTECTION AND COST SAVINGS ACT: SAVINGS OF NEARLY \$30 MILLION ANNUALLY TO TAXPAYERS**

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the federal government spends an estimated \$63 million annually on chimpanzee research and maintenance, keeping these highly intelligent and social creatures in barren but costly laboratory cages. Few of these animals are used in active research, since chimpanzees have largely failed as a research model. Since 2002, NIH has paid another \$6 million toward breeding chimpanzees, despite a prohibition against breeding of government owned and supported chimpanzees. Every federally owned chimp born into the system is approximately a \$1 million dollar commitment by the government -- with an average cost of \$20,000 per chimp annually over a lifetime of up to 60 years. It makes financial and moral sense to stop this funding once and for all and retire these remarkable animals to sanctuaries where they live together in natural settings rather than being warehoused.

**Ending invasive research on chimpanzees, transferring all government-owned chimpanzees to sanctuaries and discontinuing the government support of privately owned chimpanzee colonies in laboratories is the most cost effective and humane method of providing quality care for the government-owned chimpanzee population and would save the government an estimated \$29.4 million per year.\***

### **Chimpanzee Population Demographics**

- It is estimated that there are 633 chimpanzees owned by the government; approximately 511 are kept in laboratories and the remaining 122 live at Chimp Haven – the national, federally-funded chimpanzee sanctuary.
- There are also approximately 450 privately owned chimpanzees; laboratories receive government funding for 244 of these animals.\* (See Table on reverse side)
- 60% of the chimpanzee population are middle aged (15-30 years).

### **Government Expenditures Related to Chimpanzees in Laboratories**

#### **1. Chimpanzee Maintenance**

- Chimpanzees are the most expensive animals kept in laboratories. A chimpanzee living to be 52 years may cost \$626,340 – 1,252,680 to care for over his/her lifetime.
- Government contracts or grants to maintain government owned chimpanzees at three laboratories totaled \$9.5 million at an average cost per chimpanzee per day of \$51 in 2010.\*
- Government contracts or grants to maintain privately owned chimpanzees at two laboratories totaled \$3.6 million at an average cost per chimpanzee per day of \$41 in 2010.\*
- High quality care at the federally-funded sanctuary is \$32 per day per chimpanzee.

#### **2. Chimpanzee Research**

- In FY 2010, it is estimated that NIH spent approximately \$22 million solely on invasive research using chimpanzees.\*

**\*Table: Estimated government costs related to the care and use of chimpanzees in laboratories and sanctuaries as well as the estimated savings from passage of the Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act**

Facility	Location	Chimpanzee Population	Gov't. \$/chimp/day	Total Gov't. \$ per year
<b>Costs for government owned chimpanzees in laboratories</b>				
Alamogordo Primate Facility	New Mexico	202 <sup>1</sup>	\$66	\$4,887,292 <sup>2</sup>
New Iberia Research Center	Louisiana	150	\$33	\$1,821,517 <sup>3</sup>
MD Anderson Cancer Center	Texas	159	\$49	\$2,827,232 <sup>4</sup>
Total costs gov't owned chimpanzees in laboratories		511		\$9,536,041
Average per diem for gov't owned chimpanzees			\$51/day	
<b>Costs for government support of privately owned chimpanzees in research laboratories</b>				
Southwest National Primate Research Center	Texas	148 <sup>2</sup>	\$41 <sup>5</sup>	\$2,214,820 <sup>6</sup>
Yerkes National Primate Research Center	Georgia	96	\$41 <sup>6</sup>	\$1,436,640 <sup>7</sup>
Total for gov't costs for privately owned chimpanzees in laboratories		244		\$3,651,460
Average per diem for privately owned chimpanzees in laboratories			\$41/day	
<b>Costs for government owned chimpanzees in sanctuaries</b>				
Chimp Haven	Louisiana	122/0	\$32/day	\$1,411,815/year <sup>7</sup>
<b>Potential savings in taxpayer dollars through passage of the Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act</b>				
Potential savings on care costs if government-owned chimpanzees are retired to sanctuary			\$19/day <sup>8</sup>	\$3,543,785/year <sup>9</sup>
Potential savings on care costs if government discontinues support of privately owned chimpanzees in labs			\$41/day	\$3,651,460/year
Potential savings on research costs if invasive, government-funded research is ended				\$22,208,028/year <sup>10</sup>
<b>Total Savings in Taxpayer Dollars through passage of the Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act</b>				<b>\$29,403,273/year</b>

<sup>1</sup> In summer of 2010, 14 government-owned chimpanzees were moved from Alamogordo Primate Facility to Southwest National Primate Research Center. Therefore, there are now 14 government-owned chimpanzees at Southwest National Primate Research Center and 186 chimpanzees remaining at Alamogordo Primate Facility.

<sup>2</sup> Calculated for FY 2010 based on contract award information obtained through Freedom of Information request

<sup>3</sup> Includes maintenance grant info from RePORTER for FY 2010 and payments for a multi-year contract to produce infants for \$760,000 (which includes endowments for long term maintenance).

<sup>4</sup> Based on maintenance grant information from RePORTER for FY 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Exact amount unavailable. National Primate Research Centers receive large base grants for thousands of nonhuman primates (including chimpanzees). Estimated based on quote from John Vandenberg, Director of the Southwest National Primate Research Center, in the San Antonio Express News Report from July 28, 2010 which estimated that costs of caring for the colony of 202 chimpanzees moving from Alamogordo Primate Facility to Southwest National Primate Research Center would be around \$3 million/year.

<sup>6</sup> Exact amount unavailable. National Primate Research Centers receive large base grants for thousands of nonhuman primates (including chimpanzees). Estimated based on Southwest costs since both are National Primate Research Centers and could be assumed to have similar costs associated with housing and maintaining chimpanzees.

<sup>7</sup> Chimp Haven did not receive funding in FY 2010. This was estimated by determining the funding that Chimp Haven has received from NIH since its contract began in 2002 and divided by the number of years it has been supported to get an average amount per year.

<sup>8</sup> Calculated by subtracting cost for chimpanzees in sanctuaries from the average for gov't owned chimpanzees in labs

<sup>9</sup> Calculated by multiplying daily savings from transfer to sanctuaries by 365 days. Then, multiplying that number of gov't owned chimpanzees still in labs.

<sup>10</sup> Calculated based on reviewing and analyzing information about projects involving chimpanzees in the NIH RePORTER system for FY 2010.