



Save the Chimps

SPEAKING OUT FOR THEM

www.savethechimps.org

A Summary of the History of the Chimpanzees in Alamogordo, New Mexico

Save the Chimps did not acquire custody of the chimpanzees housed at Alamogordo Primate Facility (APF) on Holloman Air Force Base when we rescued 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys from The Coulston Foundation in September 2002. There has long been confusion about the history of chimpanzees in Alamogordo, and the difference between Save the Chimps and the Alamogordo Primate Facility.

A summary of the history of chimpanzees in Alamogordo, NM is follows:

There have been chimpanzees on Holloman Air Force Base since the late 1950s when the Air Force and NASA used Holloman AFB as a training ground for the space chimps. When the chimps were no longer needed for the space program, they were relegated to other biomedical research studies. Different institutions managed their care over the years, including, but possibly not limited to, Albany Medical College, University of NM Primate Research Institute, and The Coulston Foundation (TCF). When the Air Force gave up its chimps in 1997, the vast majority of them were turned over to TCF, including the housing on the Air Force Base. By this time, The Coulston Foundation was thought to have ownership of approximately 550-650 chimpanzees, nearly half of the US research population of chimps.

In 2000, after years of severe violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the National Institutes of Health (NIH, which provides the vast majority of biomedical research funding in the US) terminated The Coulston Foundation's funding. The NIH then took custody of 288 of TCF's chimpanzees, housing them all at Holloman AFB. The remaining chimps remained in TCF custody at their own facility just outside of Alamogordo, 15 miles from Holloman. In 2001, Charles River Corporation received a multi-million dollar ten-year contract to manage the care of the chimps on the Air Force Base, and the facility was renamed "Alamogordo Primate Facility," aka APF. No invasive research was permitted on the premises, but these chimps were *not* retired from biomedical research. The chimps were simply being warehoused, and were listed as available for research on the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR, a branch of the NIH) website if they were transported to other research labs.

In 2002, TCF went bankrupt, and at that time they owned 266 chimpanzees. Dr. Frederick Coulston contacted Save the Chimps, and STC was able to rescue those chimpanzees in September 2002. Save the Chimps was never given custody of any of the chimpanzees living at APF on Holloman.

Over the past decade, the number of chimpanzees at APF has dropped to approximately 200 chimps, due to transfers to other laboratories or deaths. Next year, the contract with Charles River Corporation to manage the chimps expires. The NCRR has made the decision to transfer the remaining chimpanzees to Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) near San Antonio, TX, rather than retiring the chimpanzees. The NIH and NCRR have not contacted Save the Chimps.

Many thanks for your concern of the chimpanzees. We encourage you to visit Animal Protection of New Mexico (www.apnm.org) or Project R & R (<http://www.releasechimps.org/2010/07/08/200-chimps-being-shipped-to-texas-for-research/>) for further information on how to help.