

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2009

Governor Bobby Jindal
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Jindal:

As three primary sponsors of the Great Ape Protection Act (H.R. 1326), we respectfully request that you consider authorizing the permanent retirement of 26 elderly, wild-caught chimpanzees currently residing at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's New Iberia Research Center (NIRC). We believe that the age and health of these animals would meet the federal standards for retirement eligibility, which examine factors such as the chimpanzees' current health, medical history, social status, and sanctuary capacity. Attached is a list of these chimpanzees in order from oldest to youngest, and their dates of capture from the wild.

As you know, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) conducted a 9-month undercover investigation of NIRC, one of the largest primate laboratories in the country and the largest chimpanzee lab in the world. The results of the investigation - revealing routine and unlawful mistreatment of hundreds of chimpanzees and other primates - were featured on ABC's Nightline and World News Tonight, as well as Good Morning America, and other media outlets throughout the country and world.

However, time is running out for these 26 elderly chimpanzees- many of which have been languishing in labs for over 40 years. One of the chimpanzees at the facility, Karen, was taken from the wild and has been housed primarily in a barren laboratory setting since 1958. Sixteen of these chimpanzees are female, estimated to be between 38-51 years of age; 10 are male, estimated to be between 34-51 years of age. By 2014, 12 chimpanzees (46%) are expected to have died, which means that almost half of the total 26 will likely die within five years.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is addressing NIRC's alleged lack of adherence to the minimum standards under the Animal Welfare Act, but we need your help to ensure the retirement of these 26 chimpanzees. Chimp Haven, the federally-funded chimpanzee sanctuary in Shreveport, Louisiana, has already agreed to take these 26 chimpanzees. We ask you to consider this opportunity to make a direct impact on the welfare of these animals by allowing them to live the last few years of their lives in the relative freedom of Chimp Haven.

We look forward to your prompt attention to this critical issue and await your response.

Sincerely,



DAVID G. REICHERT
Member of Congress



JAMES R. LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



ROSCOE G. BARTLETT
Member of Congress

**Wild-Caught Chimpanzees Held at the New Iberia Research Center, Born in 1980 or
Before**

1. Karen NIRC ID A192, Year of Capture 1958
2. Lady Bird NIRC ID A100, Year of Capture 1960
3. Sandy NIRC ID A185, Year of Capture 1960
4. Julius NIRC ID A202, Year of Capture 1960
5. Eric NIRC ID A254, Year of Capture 1963
6. Kathy NIRC ID A247, Year of Capture 1964
7. Penny NIRC ID A236, Year of Capture 1964
8. Willis NIRC ID A148, Year of Capture 1965
9. Phyllis NIRC ID A182, Year of Capture 1966
10. Terry NIRC ID A224, Year of Capture 1966
11. Simba NIRC ID X019, Year of Capture 1967
12. Margaret NIRC ID A336, Year of Capture 1967
13. Jerry NIRC ID A169, Year of Capture 1968
14. Linda NIRC ID A237, Year of Capture 1968
15. Queenie NIRC ID A320, Year of Capture 1968
16. Andy NIRC ID A264, Year of Capture 1968
17. Jessica NIRC ID A332, Year of Capture 1968
18. Paco NIRC ID A245, Year of Capture 1968
19. Debbie NIRC ID A223, Year of Capture 1968
20. Bacchus NIRC ID A333, Year of Capture 1968
21. Claudia NIRC ID X081, Year of Capture 1970
22. Sharon NIRC ID X038, Year of Capture 1970
23. Marilyn NIRC ID X150, Year of Capture 1970
24. Cindy NIRC ID X119, Year of Capture 1973
25. Judd NIRC ID X161, Year of Capture 1976
26. Nickey NIRC ID X105, Year of Capture 1977