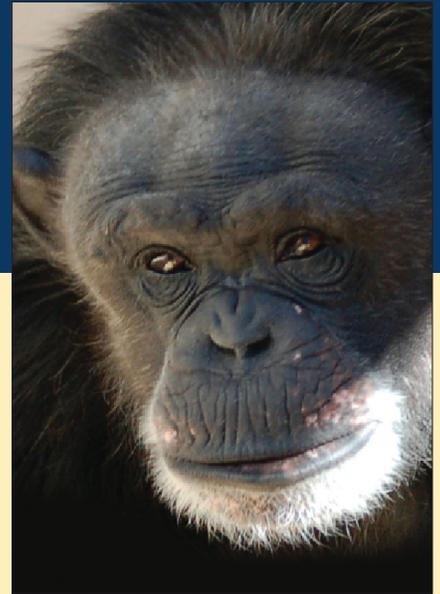


THE GREAT APE PROTECTION AND COST SAVINGS ACT

A SCIENTIFIC IMPERATIVE



Chimpanzees have been used for experimentation

in the United States since the 1920s and nearly 1,000 chimpanzees remain in U.S. laboratories today. While chimpanzees are humans' closest genetic relatives,¹ significant genetic differences result in critical differences in manifestation of diseases and effectiveness of treatments.² Chimpanzee experiments focusing on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis, Alzheimer's disease, and other diseases have failed to significantly advance human health research while raising profound ethical concerns and resulting in wasteful expenditures of tax dollars.

The United States is the last country to use chimpanzees in large-scale experiments. The United Kingdom, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Australia, Sweden, Austria, Japan, Balearic Islands, Belgium, Spain and the EU have all banned, or strictly limited their use.

The Institute of Medicine Committee on the Use of Chimpanzees in Biomedical and Behavioral Research found that chimpanzees are not necessary for research into any area of human health and that their use could hinder progress toward finding effective therapies and vaccines.³

Hepatitis C

- "The committee finds that chimpanzees are not necessary for HCV [hepatitis C virus] antiviral drug discovery and development and does not foresee the future necessity of the chimpanzee model."⁴
- "Chimpanzees are not necessary for the development and testing of a therapeutic HCV vaccine."⁵
- There was consensus among the committee that human trials of candidate hepatitis C vaccines could be designed and performed ethically without data from chimpanzee research.⁶

Monoclonal Antibody Development

- "[T]he continued use of chimpanzees for the production of monoclonal antibodies does not meet the suggested criteria for the use of the chimpanzee in biomedical research."⁷

Respiratory Syncytial Virus

- "Forgoing the use of the chimpanzee will not significantly slow or prevent advancement of either therapeutic or prophylactic drugs for RSV [respiratory syncytial virus]."⁸

Behavioral Research

- The committee concluded that noninvasive behavioral research could continue if it meets the established criteria and that it "should be permitted only on animals maintained in an ethologically appropriate physical and social environment or in natural habitats."⁹

Chimpanzee Research by the NUMBERS

Number of chimpanzees in U.S. laboratories:

937

Number of federally owned and supported chimpanzees in laboratories:

612

Average cost per day to keep a chimpanzee in a laboratory:

\$60

Lifetime cost to keep one chimpanzee in a laboratory:

More than \$750,000

Legal size of a chimpanzee cage:

5' x 7' x 7'

85 HIV Vaccines Failed in 200 Human Trials

In the 1980s and 90s chimpanzees were bred for use in HIV experiments. More than 85 HIV vaccines were developed that demonstrated benefits in nonhuman primates. All failed in at least 200 human trials¹⁰ and at least one HIV vaccine candidate appeared to increase the likelihood of infection in humans. By 1995, the National Institutes of Health imposed a federal ban on the breeding of chimpanzees because their use had declined, and the cost of maintaining chimpanzees in laboratories is prohibitive.

Drug Testing Using Chimpanzees Is Not Necessary

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations do not require the use of chimpanzees to test therapies or vaccines. Effective nonanimal methods are available for virus research and for preclinical testing required prior to human clinical trials.¹¹ The FDA discourages drug testing using chimpanzees and reports that such use is rare.

In May 2011, for the first time in more than a decade, the FDA approved two therapeutics for hepatitis C, Merck's Victrelis and Vertex's Incivek, and other therapeutics are on the way, including two from Pharmasset and Bristol-Myers Squibb, which have advanced to phase III clinical trials. All four drugs were developed and tested without the use of chimpanzees.

Chimpanzee Suffering In Laboratories Confound Experimental Results and Raises Serious Moral Issues

Physiological and behavioral abnormalities are associated with stress for animals in laboratories,¹² including changes in blood pressure, heart rate, stress hormones, experimental outcomes, and even genetic expression.¹³ Routine and nonroutine stressors can affect animals' health and behavior and impact experimental results.

Continuing to use chimpanzees in invasive experiments raises profound ethical concerns as chimpanzees in laboratories often suffer from serious psychological disorders and experience high morbidity and mortality rates due to their confinement and use in experiments.¹⁴

The Great Ape Protection and Cost Savings Act is the medically, scientifically, ethically, and fiscally responsible solution to these problems. Its passage would end invasive and harmful experiments on chimpanzees and encourage the use of more effective human-based research methods.

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