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From: Brent C. Morse, DVM, DACLAM   
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To: Patricia A. Brown, VMD, DACLAM  
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Subject: Site visit to assess Chimp Haven's ability to accept additional NIH-owned or supported animals and the sanctuary's compliance with the PHS Policy.

The NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) conducted a site visit to Chimp Haven, Inc., the federal sanctuary for retired chimpanzees, on August 9, 2016 to evaluate the institution's ability to care for chimpanzees retired from NIH-supported research. In order to evaluate the details of the program first hand, OLAW conducted this visit to view the facilities, support spaces, records, animals, and to interact with the key staff members involved with chimpanzee care.

The site visit team consisted of Brent Morse, DVM, DACLAM and Neera Gopee, DVM, PhD, DACLAM, DABT, Animal Welfare Program Specialists within the Division of Compliance Oversight, OLAW. OLAW personnel were accompanied by representatives from the USDA-APHIS-Animal Care; Dr Gwendalyn M. Maginnis, Nonhuman Primate Specialist and Dr. Simone Tomlinson, Veterinary Medical Officer. We formally met with the following Chimp Haven, Inc. staff members:

Ms. Cathy Willis-Spraetz, Institutional Official  
Dr. Raven Jackson-Jewett, Attending Veterinarian  
Dr. Corrine Brown, SCCC Chair, Part-time Veterinarian  
Ms. Amy Fultz, Director of Behavior, Research and Education  
Ms. Kathleen Taylor, Director of Animal Care

Following a discussion regarding the veterinary, husbandry, and behavioral programs with these subject matter experts, the team visited the facilities to evaluate the environment housing the animals and the structures, substrate, foraging and environmental enrichment devices, and support areas such as the veterinary clinics, and the food storage and environmental enrichment preparation areas. We also reviewed representative veterinary medical records and records on behavioral assessments of individual chimpanzees.

The following represents the site visit team's assessment of the issues surrounding the most recent transfer of animals from MD Anderson's Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research (KCCMR) to the federal sanctuary at Chimp Haven and our recommendations for the facilitation of future transfers:

1. After the review of medical records pertaining to the nine chimps transferred to Chimp Haven from KCCMR between December 2014 and April 2015 that have subsequently died, it became apparent that not only were seven of the nine animals geriatric, but several also had serious, chronic preexisting conditions. Of the two non-geriatric animals that died, one had a preexisting respiratory tract infection that developed into bronchopneumonia after arrival at Chimp Haven and the other died of sudden cardiac arrest.
2. Chimp Haven's current facilities, including the quarantine area, are more than adequate to house and care for up to an additional 75 animals. Approximately 90% of the animals are rotated through the two natural, forested habitats over a 12-month period. All animals have access to both indoor and outdoor enclosures at all times. The quarantine facility for housing and evaluating newly-arrived animals is now open and occupied. This area also contains an additional new veterinary clinic.
3. The number and qualifications of personnel required to conduct and support an animal care program depend on several factors, including the type and size of the institution, the administrative structure for providing adequate animal care, the characteristics of the physical plant, the number and species of animals maintained, and the nature of the activities. With NIH's plan to transfer more animals to Chimp Haven as soon as possible, there should be a mechanism in place for increasing the staffing levels commensurate with the animal population. This should occur well in advance of transfers to ensure newly hired employees are adequately trained to perform all required tasks. Although there is a current job posting for an Assistant Veterinary Technician, further consideration should be given for additional veterinary staffing. There are currently two Animal Behavior Technicians to assist Ms. Fultz with the Behavior and Enrichment program. Additional staffing should also be considered for these activities well before the arrival of additional animals.
4. Dissemination of copies of medical records, summary sheets and completed behavioral reports from the sending institution well in advance of the impending transfer is critical to increasing the success rate of the transfers of animals to Chimp Haven. It is important for the veterinarian or the veterinarian's designee to review the health status and other housing and husbandry requirements before authorizing shipment of animals. This action will ensure that effective quarantine practices are implemented for incoming animals and address any special requirements needed to ensure animal well-being. Special considerations are necessary for transporting animals during certain phases of their life or with certain health conditions, such as geriatric animals and animals with preexisting or chronic medical conditions.
5. Movement of animals within or between sites or institutions should be planned and coordinated well in advance by responsible and well-trained persons at the sending and receiving sites to minimize animal transit time or delays in receipt. Defining and delegating responsibility to the appropriate persons, who are knowledgeable about the needs of the species being shipped, will help ensure effective communication and planning of animal transport. If allowed by legal or contractual obligations, members

of the veterinary or behavior staff from the sending institution should accompany the animals during transportation and introduction to aid in the transfer success and wellbeing of the animals. Therefore, support by the NIH Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP) of on-site preparatory visits and post-visits after transfer is critical to the entire transfer process and would directly benefit animal welfare.

6. Consideration should be given to prioritizing the transfer of middle-aged chimps to the sanctuary followed by younger animals and finally any remaining geriatric chimps. This would greatly increase the likelihood of successful integration of new animals at Chimp Haven and their subsequent survival.
7. Discussions with Chimp Haven indicated that communication appears to be non-existent between the staff at Chimp Haven and the sending Institutions. Clear, concise, and direct communication should continue to be provided from ORIP to the sending institutions and to Chimp Haven regarding NIH's expectations for the timetable and processing of animal shipments. This recurring communication will need to continue to be facilitated and directed by ORIP with the expectation that each institution will have available the individual or individuals with authority to agree to a detailed plan and schedule regarding imminent as well as subsequent shipments.

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