

## Jane Goodall Institute Statement on Ape Rights and Zoos

**The Jane Goodall Institute supports working together with a large variety of organisations that aim to help apes, such as animal protection or welfare organisations, conservation organisations, accredited sanctuaries and zoos which meet the highest welfare standards and moderate animal rights groups.**

Dr Jane Goodall's pioneering, lifetime research has shown that apes are sentient beings with complex minds, richly emotional and social lives and intellectual capacities. The future of apes has come at a critical point in history, and we need to emphasise the value of all apes. Therefore, the Jane Goodall Institute supports the idea of granting fundamental rights to apes so that we enable them to live according to these capacities.

The Jane Goodall Institute calls for collaboration to defend the interests of apes. We always call for constructive and respectful dialogue where differences of position occur. These rights protect the interests of apes.

### Jane Goodall Institute Rights for Apes

1. Apes have the right to live.
2. Apes should have freedom from pain, neglect and suffering.
3. Apes should have the freedom of choice – apes should be able to make his or her choice within the environment where they live and within reasonable boundaries, such as not harming the interests of others.
4. Apes should reside in an environment that provides sufficient space, enrichment, and structure to develop normal and natural behaviour and includes an appropriate social group of compatible individuals.

These rights for apes act as trump cards to protect their interests. Although there are differences in the interests of humans and apes, we do share some key interests based upon our similarities. More precisely:

- We condemn the use of apes for invasive biomedical and behavioural experiments.
- We support organisations working to retire these apes into appropriate sanctuaries.
- Apes in the wild should have the right to live without fear of human persecution and loss of habitat; we acknowledge that this is a right denied to many humans too. We need to conserve apes' natural habitats and find solutions for conflicts with the input of human communities for better coexistence.
- The Jane Goodall Institute takes a nuanced approach regarding the keeping of apes in captivity. Ideally, all apes should live in the wild. Unfortunately, the situation throughout

much of the range of apes is far from ideal as most apes live in non-protected areas and face habitat loss.

- Apes born in captivity should live in social groups that resemble how they live in the wild, including spacious naturalistic enclosures with plenty of enrichment opportunities and the option to make choices within limits. Living conditions for apes should always include access to indoor and outdoor space, and the ability to retreat from visitors and conspecifics. Such a life may be meaningful for an individual ape who lives in captivity.
- If a facility does not have the space or resources to provide high-quality care for apes, they should not keep them. Instead, individuals living in unsuitable facilities should be retired to accredited zoos or sanctuaries.
- The Jane Goodall Institute supports limited breeding within captive groups as this may lead to a richer social life for the community of apes. However, our support of breeding in captivity only applies when the ape resides in a high-quality environment. In addition, the zoo or sanctuary should guarantee lifelong care for ape babies born in captivity and have a clear plan for their future.
- The Jane Goodall Institute condemns the killing of healthy apes for population management. Apes should never ever be killed because of being considered as so-called 'surplus'. If a facility does not have the place or resources to provide high-quality care for apes, the facility should not keep or breed apes. Instead, these apes should be retired to a suitable sanctuary.
- The Jane Goodall Institute condemns the disruption of social bonds by sending individual apes to another facility as part of a breeding program. If it is necessary to transfer an individual to another zoo, we do not believe it is ethical to transfer the sex that in the wild would not move to another group.
- The Jane Goodall Institute works with other organisations to ban the use of apes for entertainment (i.e., circuses, roadside attractions, in films or television, advertisements) and as pets. In addition, we support the closure and rehoming of apes living in inadequate and substandard facilities.
- The Jane Goodall Institute is highly supportive of developing international standards of welfare, management and housing that should be integrated into the accreditation process for the zoo and sanctuary communities and encourages collaboration between both communities.

Our support for ape rights is based upon rational, ethical, empathic, scientific and legal considerations. There should be cooperation between those supporting basic rights, welfare needs and conservation aims.

Respect for each and every individual drives respect for their welfare interests and for the conservation of the species to which they belong.

It is crucial that in an individual case, we look to the interests and well-being of the individual. The future is uncertain, and difficult ethical and legal decisions will need to be made. However, in making decisions, the Jane Goodall Institute believes these should always be taken with the best of interests of each and every individual involved in mind.

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