

Retirement of Non Human Primates

Rachele McAndrew, B.S., LAT
Arizona State University

Adoption of animals in research

○ Many institutions have an adoption program for animals that are considered typical “pets”

- Cats
- Dogs
- Rats and mice
- Rabbits
- Birds



However, nonhuman primates do not make good pets!

Nonhuman primate retirement

- Nonhuman primates can be retired to nonhuman primate sanctuaries but there are difficulties
 - Institutional and PI resistance
 - Time investment for due diligence
 - Sanctuary space availability
 - Cost
 - Terminal studies



Resistance

- Some institutions and PIs are resistant to the idea of retiring nonhuman primates
 - Has the potential to bring unwanted publicity to their institution/lab
 - Some feel it can be a slippery slope in promoting the end of monkey research
 - Concern sanctuaries will speak negatively about their institution/lab



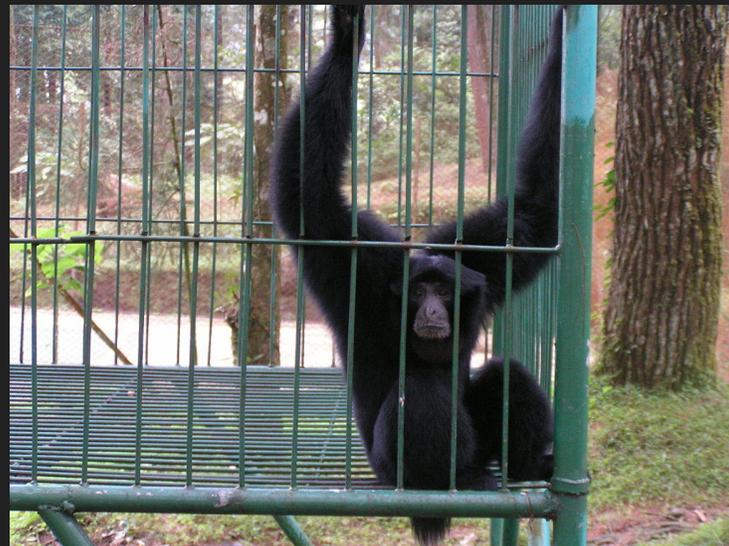
Time investment



- Choosing a reputable sanctuary takes time. One needs to ensure:
 - they are financially stable
 - they have a quality enrichment program
 - website doesn't have any negative information regarding institutions that have retired animals to them
 - they have SOPs in place for medical care, disaster plans for inclement weather, escapes, etc.
 - housing is acceptable for the environment
 - They are held accountable by some regulatory agency (i.e., USDA, GFAS, NAPSA, ASA)

Sanctuary availability

- There are a handful of NHP sanctuaries in the US
- Many sanctuaries are at capacity with their current housing
- Recent survey found 89% of sanctuaries had to reject monkeys due to lack of space in 2014 (Kerwin, et al. pending review)



Cost

- Providing enough funding to the sanctuary for care of the animal for the rest of his or her life is quite prohibitive
- Can be about \$58,000 to build a new enclosure
- Food can be as much as \$1000 per animal/per year
- Keep in mind cost of medical care, husbandry, enrichment, staff time for introductions of new group members
- Cost of transportation of the animal to the sanctuary



Cost...cont

- Grant funds are used for research, retirement costs are rarely budgeted, or even allowed
- So where can this \$ come from?
 - PIs should start including retirement costs in their budget proposals
 - Lab fundraising campaigns
 - The research institution

What can you do?

- Start with providing your administration information
 - Show them the benefits
- Develop an SOP for retirement
 - Define an “adoptable animal”
 - Define how you will choose a sanctuary
 - Define any procedures that will need to be done before the animal can be retired

Choosing a sanctuary

- Visit the sanctuary prior if possible. Look into the following:
 - Do they have adequate housing with heated or indoor space?
 - Social housing
 - Do they breed?
 - Enrichment is high priority
 - Veterinarian accessible
 - Well trained staff and volunteers
 - Fresh produce and adequate diet

Choosing a sanctuary

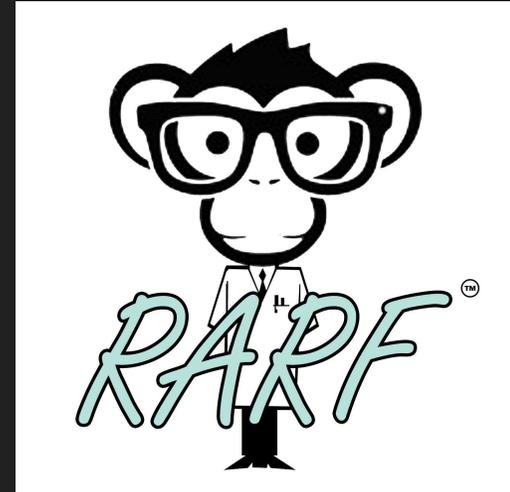
- Review:
 - Financial records
 - Animal transfer, handling, veterinary care and quarantine SOPs, and emergency protocols
 - Accreditation or USDA records
 - Sanctuary website, Facebook page, etc.

Sanctuary requirements

- Most sanctuaries require or would greatly prefer the following:
 - Males should be vasectomized or castrated (preference depends on the sanctuary)
 - Applicable medical records
 - All visible implanted devices should be removed
 - Information on any non-visible implanted devices
 - Behavioral information

Research Animal Retirement Foundation

- Founded in 2015 to assist labs with the retirement of their nonhuman primates
 - Financial assistance
 - Logistical assistance
- Rarfoundation.org
- Facebook – Research Animal Retirement Foundation



Thank you! Questions?

Rachele McAndrew
rarfoundation@gmail.com

