



COPENHAGEN ZOO  
Frands Carlsen  
Roskildevej 38, PO Box 7  
DK-2000 Frederiksberg  
Denmark



Phone: +45 72 200 223  
Fax: +45 72 200 229  
[www.zoo.dk](http://www.zoo.dk)

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### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The EAZA Chimpanzee EEP has been made aware of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center's (YNPRC) plan to donate a breeding group of chimpanzees, not assigned to subspecies, to Wingham Wildlife Park (WWP) in the UK.

The EEP does not support the proposed transfer.

Before the mid 1990es the European chimpanzee population was not managed as a program. As a result, there was no overview of how subspecies founders had been mixed at the institutional level and the consequent extent of subspecies hybridization.

Thanks to a thorough analysis of the extant population, it was possible to initiate a breeding program for the western subspecies (*Pan troglodytes verus*) in 2002. Due to the development of more complex and precise testing methods, recently it has also been possible to identify a smaller group of central chimpanzees (*P. t. troglodytes*) for which a breeding effort has now been started.

The testing also revealed an extensive level of subspecies hybridization in the population and as a consequence all other chimpanzees in the EEP are now on a breeding moratorium to avoid further hybridization unless there are urgent welfare issues involved, which that pull in another direction. To avoid the latter the population is managed in mixed taxon groups with a core of breeding individuals mixed with non-breeding individuals.

Lately the EEP has started a collaboration with the AZA SSP to test the SSP population (hopefully eventually also looking at the larger North American chimpanzee population) and the EEP also collaborates with other regions (Japan, Austral-Asia and Latin America) in this regard.

The proposed transfer of "generic" chimpanzees from YNPRC to WWP and plans to breed with this group is of course in direct contrast to the efforts outlined above

Despite the fact, that WWP are neither a member of EAZA nor the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), the EEP on earlier occasions discussed the possibilities of a chimpanzee facility in WWP. WWP asked for and received advice in this regard. Despite concerns, especially about WWP's lack of experience with the species, the EEP decided to look into the possibilities of placing a bachelor group at WWP in collaboration with the AAP Foundation in The Netherlands. By then WWP appeared to be on another track and did not respond to further correspondence. The EEP has not been contacted by WWP or YNPRC regarding the proposed transfer.

Under the right circumstances there would be plenty of chimpanzees in Europe for such a transfer, and the EEP is prepared to enter into new discussions with WWP in this regard. As there is already a serious issue with surplus of "generic" chimpanzees in Europe, it does not make sense to import more to the region, nor to initiate a new breeding group. There are still many chimpanzees in Europe that need outplacement and not enough good places to put them.

The EEP therefore sincerely hopes that both YNPRC and WWP will reconsider this transfer.

Sincerely

Handwritten signatures of Frands Carlsen and Tom de Jongh in blue ink.

*Frands Carlsen and Tom de Jongh  
EEP Coordinators Pan troglodytes*