

The Elgin Center

Project Chimps

Audit & Assessment

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Introduction

The audit aims to comprehensively measure all aspects of animal welfare at the facility. The audit is holistic, in that it evaluates how all departments work together to provide a facility where animals can thrive, where their individual needs are met, and work together to provide evidence-based care in a proactive and consistent manner. The audit specifically measures how the facility provides evidence-based and individualized care, how the facility consistently adheres to written protocols, the facility's enrichment program and ability to self assess its effectiveness, the facility's ability to provide a rich social environment to all animals based on their individual social thresholds, the housing, space, and climbing structures provided to the animals, the facility's general husbandry practices, the facility's general veterinary practices, the facility's diet and nutrition protocols, the records keeping system employed by the facility, an assessment of a culture of safety present at the facility, the facility's handling of staff or public welfare concerns, the facility's transparency with staff and the public, the availability of required resources to provide adequate care to the animals, and the overall means to thrive for each animal. The results of this audit are owned by the facility to disseminate as the organization sees fit. The Elgin Center maintains confidentiality regarding all aspects of this audit unless directed otherwise by the facility's leadership.

Project Chimps

Project Chimps is home to 95 chimpanzees who have been retired from laboratory research. These chimpanzees have arrived at a home where they enjoy an organized care regiment, dedicated staff, and acres of lush forested habitats and climate controlled indoor enclosures with large vertical spaces. The stated mission of the sanctuary is to provide lifetime exemplary care to chimpanzees retired from research. This audit and assessment finds that Project Chimps generally meets its stated mission; however some key challenges should be addressed in order for the sanctuary to continue to be a place where its residents can thrive.

A chimpanzee at Project Chimps lives with a large amount of space (relative to other captive situations) and within a large social group. Such housing allows for a modicum of freedom of choice and self-determination with regard to where a chimpanzee may chose to go, and with whom a chimpanzee can interact. The enclosures themselves, along with a prescribed enrichment program, creates a cognitively stimulating environment. Though in the past, the sanctuary has faced challenges due to the limitations in giving yard access on a regular basis to each chimpanzee, Project Chimps has made great strides over the last several years both in integrating social groups, as well as constructing new yards that allow for greater access to these outdoor habitats. Additionally, when chimpanzees are indoors, they receive a robust enrichment regimen, as well as enjoying large indoor spaces, including outdoor patio areas and vertical space, which exceeds many indoor habitats currently occupied by captive chimpanzees in other facilities.

The staff at Project Chimps comes from a variety of backgrounds and experience levels. However, what is observably shared by all staff — from entry level staffers to the top levels of leadership — is an undeniable commitment to the care and welfare of each chimpanzee. This shared commitment among staff members has created a camaraderie that appears to transcend any interpersonal issues or day to day frustrations that are typical within the workplace of an animal care facility.

Staff members maintain clearly defined roles, which by all observable accounts are used to the fullest ability with staff operating within their assigned roles to promote the care and well-being of every individual resident at the sanctuary. There is a culture of openness and transparency that has instilled an aura of trust. This has allowed for a seemingly universal “buy-in” from all staff as to the methods and protocols required in achieving the sanctuary’s mission.

A culture of safety is evident within the working environment at Project Chimps. This extends to the safety of both the staff and the chimpanzees. At all times, staff are observably aware of their surroundings while following safety protocols precisely. On the property, safety drills are performed semi-frequently (see details within the report). There is also a novel training regimen, which includes engaging in creative interactive activities for staff members that teach them safety protocols and emergency responses and even includes a tabletop role playing game that is both fun and informative.

Project Chimps maintains an active core of volunteers. This volunteer program is extremely robust and provides much needed assistance to the staff as well as providing a central role within the daily care of the chimpanzees, such as preparing diets and other aspects of daily husbandry. Additionally, this volunteer program serves as an effective outreach tool to the general public, with volunteers spreading the word about what they do within the sanctuary (as well as discussing chimpanzee welfare) when they go back out into the local community.

Project Chimps appears to be sustainable in terms of its present and future resources. Currently, fundraising is operating as per plan according to the budget. Operating costs are actually below budget for the year. However, it should be noted that this is mostly due to staffing shortages (see details in the report below).

As with all organizations, Project Chimps faces some challenges. However, none is insurmountable and can be mitigated by the suggestions and recommendations in the report below. The most critical of these challenges provide significant obstacles towards the sanctuary’s ability to maintain true evidence-based care and true individual care — an integral element of providing exemplary care. These issues should be addressed immediately, with many stemming from a lack of key personnel. Additionally, some protocol changes could mitigate these challenges, and are described in the report below.

This audit and assessment was conducted over a period of 4 days — August 22-25, 2024. The audit consisted of direct observations of current practices, a thorough examination of current written standards, and confidential interviews with staff members at all levels of the organization.

Measures of Animal Welfare

1. Evidence-Based and Individualized Care

- Evaluate the facility's implementation of evidence-based practices in veterinary care and husbandry.
- Assess the provision of individualized care tailored to the specific needs of each animal.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate practice of evidence-based and individualized care
 - 2: Limited practice of evidence-based and individualized care
 - 3: Moderate practice of evidence-based and individualized care
 - **4: Good practice of evidence-based and individualized care**
 - 5: Excellent practice of evidence-based and individualized care

Positive areas:

- Diet and nutrition are individually prescribed based on body condition scoring and the chimpanzee's individual weights. Dietary intake is managed through the individual staple diets (primate "chow").
- Chimpanzees who are underweight are monitored through individual dietary intake sheets.
- Staff, at the caregiver level, are trained and aware of all *known* individual chimpanzee veterinary and behavioral challenges.

Areas needing improvement:

- The facility is currently doing no regimented care and welfare assessments, which, if performed, could examine behavioral challenges.

Recommendation:

Begin a process of care and welfare assessments. Each individual chimpanzee should be assessed for a period of at least 60 days on specific indicators of welfare. The results can be quantified and form the basis of individual care plans. This process can ensure that chimpanzees have the tools to overcome barriers and challenges to thriving.¹

¹ Upon request, The Elgin Center can provide Project Chimps with a Care & Welfare Assessment Protocol, as well as process for written individual care plans based on veterinary examinations and Care & Welfare Assessments.

2. Adherence to Written Protocols

- Evaluate the facility's adherence to written protocols in veterinary care and husbandry practices.
- Assess the consistency and effectiveness of protocol implementation.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Poor adherence to written protocols
 - 2: Limited adherence to written protocols
 - 3: Moderate adherence to written protocols
 - **4: Good adherence to written protocols**
 - 5: Excellent adherence to written protocols

Positive areas:

- Staff are trained according to clearly defined levels, responsibilities, and protocols. (See Figure 1)
- Staff training is consistent.
- Safety protocols are consistent and known by each staff member.

Areas needing improvement:

- Chimpanzee care manual is currently extremely outdated.²

Caregiver Training						
Name		Date of Hire/Beginning Date New Position		Date of Training Completion		Signature of Caregiver/Manager
Task	Observe/Teach	Observe/Teach	Observe/Teach	Perform	Perform	Perform
Manuals/Training	Date Trainer Initial					
Orientation						
Radio Use						
Emergency Roles						
Training Class						
Carts						
Fancy/Fancier						
Golf Carts						
Afternoon Tasks						
Meals-Breakfast, Dinner						
Meals- Lunch						
Produce						
Kitchen Cleaning						
Enrichment Prep						
Enrichment Building						
Trash						
Wood Work						

Figure 1: Training sheet for staff at Caregiver level.

3. Proper Enrichment and Effectiveness Assessment

- Evaluate the provision of proper (and species-relevant) enrichment activities for animals.
- Assess the effectiveness of the enrichment program in promoting natural behaviors and overall well-being.
- Evaluate the facility's ability and practice of self assessing its enrichment program.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate enrichment and effectiveness
 - 2: Limited enrichment and effectiveness

² Revised and updated written protocols are currently being written.

- 3: Moderate enrichment and effectiveness
- **4: Good enrichment and effectiveness**
- 5: Excellent enrichment and effectiveness



Figure 2: Enrichment calendar showing planned enrichment for each day.

Positive areas:

- Enrichment is planned according to schedule. (See Figure 2)
- All enrichment items must go through an approval process.

Areas needing improvement:

- Currently no enrichment assessment tool is being utilized.
- Currently no individually prescribed enrichment is being utilized as part of an individual care plan.

Recommendation:

Utilize an enrichment assessment tool that ensures that enrichment is promoting an active engagement with the environment, as well as identifying key enrichment goals. This can be such goals as “promoting movement”, “promoting socialization”, “promoting cognitive stimulation”. Having this information on various enrichment activities can allow for individually prescribed enrichment that can be used to mitigate certain welfare challenges. In turn, this can lead to husbandry solutions to psychological or behavioral issues for chimpanzees.³

4. Social Environment and Individual Assessment

- Assess the facility's ability to provide a rich social environment based on species specific needs for each animal.
- Evaluate the ability to individually assess a animal's social threshold and provide appropriate social interactions.

³ Upon request, The Elgin Center can provide an enrichment assessment tool and assistance on how to utilize enrichment in treating certain welfare challenges.

- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate social environment
 - 2: Limited social environment
 - 3: Moderate social environment
 - **4: Good social environment**
 - 5: Excellent social environment

Positive areas:

- All chimpanzees are currently living in large social groups.
- No chimpanzees are living alone or with limited social companionship.
- Wounding data is being regularly recorded by the veterinary assistant. This data can be used to identify individual social challenges. (See Figure 3)

Areas needing improvement:

- Other than wounding data, no social threshold data (grooming, proximity, etc.) is being collected or quantified.

Recommendation:

Begin maintaining grooming and proximity charts that can show alliance shifts. This can be used for future social introduction plans.⁴

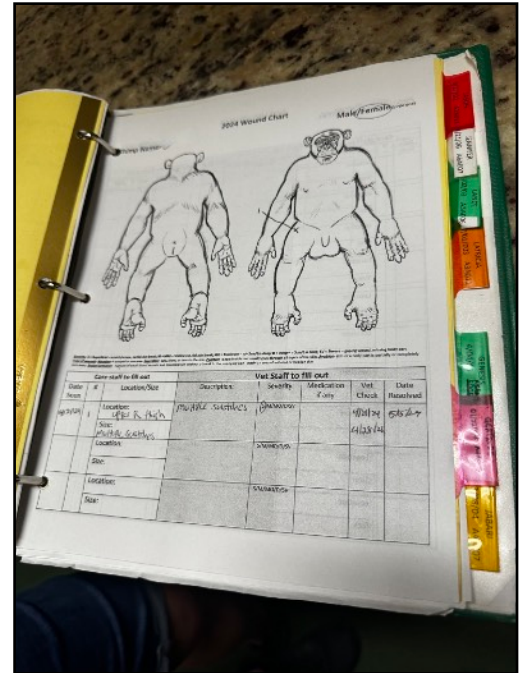


Figure 3: Wounding chart, maintained by veterinary assistant.

5. Proper Housing, Space, and Climbing Structures

- Evaluate the provision of proper housing, adequate space, and suitable structures for animals.
- Assess if these elements provide the ability for freedom of movement and natural behaviors.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate housing, space, and structures
 - 2: Limited housing, space, and structures
 - 3: Moderate housing, space, and structures
 - **4: Good housing, space, and structures**
 - 5: Excellent housing, space, and structures

⁴ Upon request, The Elgin Center can provide a tool for collecting grooming and proximity data, as well as assistance on how this information can be utilized.



Figure 4: Outdoor habitat.

Positive areas:

- Outdoor habitats are large, with a variety of features, making for an extremely diverse and enriching environment. (See Figure 4)
- Climbing structures appear safe and in proper shape.
- Indoor habitats have an abundance of vertical space relative to other indoor captive chimpanzee environments. (See Figure 5)
- Indoor habitats are climate controlled.
- Indoor habitats have enrichment features (mounted television screens, areas for hanging enrichment devices, etc.).
- Indoor habitats have outdoor “patio” areas.
- There is no observable containment issue in either outdoor or indoor habitats
- A newly constructed yard, dubbed “the annex”, has allowed daily outdoor access for one of the chimpanzee groups. This has increased outdoor access for two other groups from once every two days, to every other day.

Areas needing improvement:

- Three of the social groups share the “south yard” and receive yard access only once every two days. However, it should be noted that two of these groups have very large indoor habitats.

Recommendations:

Construct another “annex” outdoor habitat for the “Harmony” group, occupying the south yard. This would allow the two groups occupying “The Chateau” to have access to the south yard every other day, while giving the Harmony group access to an outdoor habitat every day.

Consider social introductions, with the goal of integrating two of the existing social groups into one; thus, increasing yard access and enhancing a rich social environment.

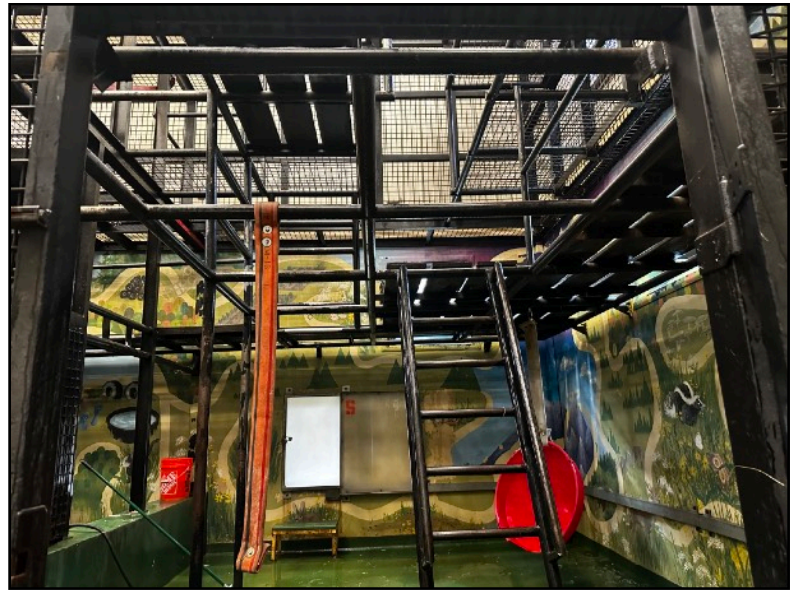


Figure 5: Indoor enclosure.

6. General Husbandry Practices

- Assess the facility’s cleaning and sanitation protocols and practices.
- Assess the facility’s ability to maintain animal facilities.
- Assess the facility’s ability to provide adequate bedding/substrate and proper climate control.
- Assess the effectiveness of pest control.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Poor husbandry practices
 - 2: Limited husbandry practices
 - 3: Moderate husbandry practices
 - **4: Good husbandry practices**
 - 5: Excellent husbandry practices

Positive areas:

- Cleaning protocols are effective. Facility is constructed in such a way as to aid effective sanitation (proper drainage, water supplies, etc.). (See Figure 6)
- All buildings are observably sanitary. No sanitation issues were witnessed.
- Disinfection protocols are effective. Proper chemical disinfectants are being utilized.



Figure 6: Indoor enclosure during routine cleaning.

- All indoor habitats are climate controlled.
- Pest control is being utilized in the form of snap traps for rodents and electric insect control ("bug zappers"). No noticeable pest control issues were detected.

Areas needing improvement:

- Not all chimpanzees had access to bedding and substrate in the indoor enclosure.

Recommendation:

Increase the amount of bedding used indoors. Currently the sanctuary uses excelsior wood wool and blankets. Consider complimenting this bedding with straw or hay. This would both provide more bedding for the chimpanzees, but also help to absorb wastes.

7. General Veterinary Practices

- Assess the facility's ability to provide preventive care to animals.
 - Assess the facility's ability to provide emergency care to animals.
 - Assess the facility's ability to provide routine veterinary examinations, including observational assessments such as body condition scoring and more thorough examinations requiring anaesthesia.
 - Assess the facility's system of reporting veterinary concerns.
-
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Poor veterinary practices
 - **2: Limited veterinary practices**
 - 3: Moderate veterinary practices
 - 4: Good veterinary practices.
 - 5: Excellent veterinary practices



Figure 8: Mobile veterinary materials. Before any veterinary procedures begin, these must be transported to a chimpanzee villa via trailer, with the assistance of the maintenance staff.

hook up a trailer and load an array of equipment into the trailer, then unload it to the villa. (See Figure 8).

Recommendations:

A certified veterinary technician should either be hired, or an existing staff member should be certified to administer anaesthesia. Additionally, a staff member should be certified to administer euthanasia. This would allow Project Chimps to handle emergency situations in the absence of a veterinarian.

Consider having a dedicated trailer that can be pre-set with veterinary supplies and can be called into action in the event of an emergency. Once a full time veterinarian begins, routine veterinary physicals should be performed on all chimpanzees deemed healthy enough to undergo the procedure. This can allow for greater preventative care as the chimpanzee population ages. Additionally, this can allow for greater individualized care (eg. Special climbing structures for chimpanzees diagnosed with locomotive issues, specialized diets based on blood work, etc.)

8. Diet and Nutrition

- Assess the facility’s diet and nutrition plan for animals.
- Assess the facility’s ability to provide individualized diets to animals with special dietary needs.
- Assess the facility’s feeding protocols.
- Assess the quality of food items at the facility.
- Assess the system of diet preparation at the facility.
- Assess how food is stored at the facility.

- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Poor diet and nutrition practices
 - 2: Limited diet and nutrition practices
 - 3: Moderate diet and nutrition practices
 - **5: Excellent diet and nutrition practices**

Positive areas:

- Chimpanzees are fed a varied diet that is thoughtfully presented.
- Chimpanzees are fed either through direct feeding (via feeding chute “hopper”) or scatter fed, allowing for foraging. This presents an enriching feeding protocol.
- Chimpanzee weekly diets are planned and varied through a process of having an “A menu”, “B menu” and “C menu”. This ensures that chimpanzees receive a varied menu over each 14 day period. (See Figure 9)
- Chimpanzee diets are individually prescribed and controlled based on body condition scores and individual weights.
- Of the 95 chimpanzees, only 5 could currently be considered obese.

Areas needing improvement:

- No observable areas needing improvement.

9. Veterinary and Husbandry Records Keeping

- Assess the facility's practices for keeping and storing written veterinary and husbandry records.
- Evaluate the completeness, accuracy, and accessibility of records.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Poor records keeping and storage
 - 2: Limited records keeping and storage
 - **3: Moderate records keeping and storage**
 - 4: Good records keeping and storage
 - 5: Excellent records keeping and storage

Positive areas:

- Digital records are stored via *Animal Care Software*. Records are searchable.
- Staff write daily records — however, this is done by paper log sheet, then entered into *Animal Care Software* by a volunteer.
- Medication dispensing is recorded by staff, via paper log, then entered into the medical records in *Animal Care Software* by the veterinary assistant. (See Figure 10)
- Staff maintain an official WhatsApp group chat for communication.

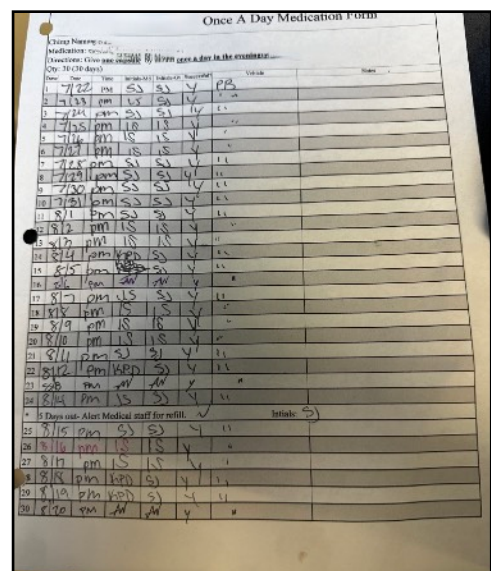


Figure 10: Paper medication log sheet.

Areas needing improvement:

- Staff have no access to digital records and must communicate either by white board, or direct communication.
- Staff are not able to directly enter records in *Animal Care Software*.

Recommendation:

Consider allowing staff to directly enter husbandry records, medication dispensing, and staff communication into *Animal Care Software*. This preserves the record of communication and allows staff consistent access to potentially critical information.

10. Culture of Safety for Staff and Animals

- Evaluate the facility's practices and protocols to ensure a culture of safety for both staff and animals.
- Assess the presence of safety training, emergency response plans, and risk mitigation measures.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Unsafe culture for staff and animals
 - 2: Limited culture of safety for staff and animals
 - 3: Moderate culture of safety for staff and animals
 - **4: Good culture of safety for staff and animals**
 - 5: Excellent culture of safety for staff and animals

Positive areas:

- Emergency responses protocols are sound and effective.
- All staff are keenly aware of existing safety protocols and emergency response protocols.
- Staff are keenly familiar with a system of emergency response codes. Codes are posted throughout the sanctuary. (See Figure 11)
- Staff training includes a comprehensive safety checklist. This ensures know the ID's of each chimpanzee, the locations and operations of all doors and locks, and all safety protocols.(See Figure 12)
- Safe areas are clearly marked across property
- Daily emergency response manager is assigned.

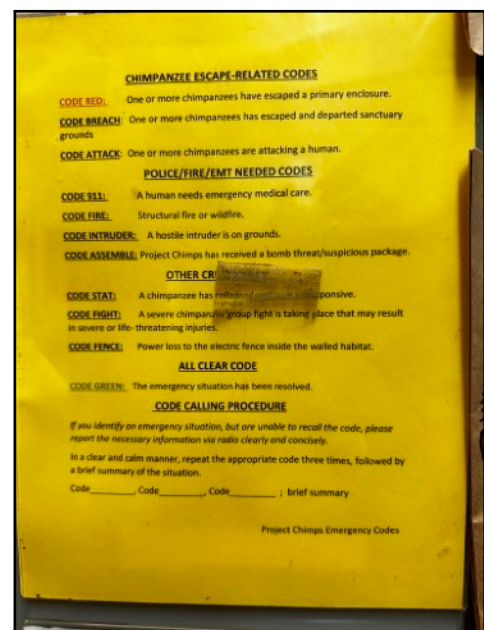


Figure 11: Emergency response codes are posted throughout the the sanctuary.

- This emergency response manager is called each time chimpanzees are given access to outdoor yards.
- This emergency response manager is responsible for knowing who is within the perimeter in the event of an emergency and can, therefore, account for all personnel.
- There is easy access to dart guns and sedatives for emergency responses.
- An effective number of staff are trained to use a dart gun in the event of emergency.
- A novel safety training, involving a role-playing style game, is utilized to familiarise staff with emergency responses. The game is engaging and effective.

How to Complete the Safety Checks Training Sheet

	Observation #1	Observation #2	Observation #3	ID Test #1	ID Test #2	ID Test #3
CT						
CLJF						
CLA						
HM						

- First, must complete 3 Observations.
 - This includes being taught the ID's of the chimps 3 times, on 3 different days (minimum). Additional online material is available to study as well.
- When confident on all ID's of a group, and have completed the minimum of 3 Observations begin ID Tests.
 - Complete/pass three ID Tests, on 3 different days before moving on to Safety Checks.
 - ID Tests must be started within three weeks of doing the first Observation

	Observation #1	Observation #2	Observation #3	Control confirm with they pass ID Tests	Safety Check Test #1	Safety Check Test #2	Safety Check Test #3
Safety Checks							
VRC							
Chateau							

- Complete 3 Observations of safety checks.
 - This includes being taught how to complete safety checks 3 times, on 3 different days (minimum).
 - Safety checks include: learning the door numbers in the building, what doors should be open/closed when entering the chimps rooms, ID'ing the chimps and knowing what rooms they should be in, and checking the door operations to confirm that they are off/locked.
 - All doubles need to understand how the doors work, so they understand what they are looking for (even if they are not allowed to operate/move the doors.)
 - The 3 safety check Observations can be done while still completing the ID section.
- Pass 3 ID Tests and complete the 3 safety Observations; take the 3 Safety Check Test, on 3 different days.
 - If an ID of a chimp(s) is missed on any of the tests, start all the way over on test #1 of ID's. For example, if they miss ID two chimps on the second Safety Check Test, they must start over and take all 3 ID tests and then start their Safety Check Tests again.
 - Fail a Safety Check Test by incorrectly doing checks and begin on Safety Check Test #1 again.
- The final Safety Check Test must be completed by your supervisor.
- After completing the 3 ID Tests, and 3 Safety Check Tests begin the tests for other villas. Only 3 Observations and 3 ID Tests need to be marked off for the other villas. However, to be a double for Chateau, complete the 3 Observations and 3 Safety Check Tests because the doors are manual and not electric. If trained in Chateau first, do the same before doubling a villa.
- You are not able to ID all of the chimps for Safety Checks, until you have been marked off on Safety Check Test #3 (with your supervisor) with your first Villa/group.
- If an ID of a chimp(s) is missed multiple times after being fully trained, start the training all way over on test #1 of ID's.

Figure 12: Safety training checklist.

- Staff have a double lock check system for all doors in chimpanzee habitat and enclosure areas.
- Safety lines are clearly marked on the floors of indoor enclosures. Staff levels of experience are required to be at certain distances from the mesh.
- Electrified hot wire is used throughout the property as an additional containment method. There are sound protocols in place should the hot wire malfunction.

Areas needing improvement:

- Onsite safety drills only occur 1-2 times per year. Because of shift variance, several staff members, even those that have been employed by Project Chimps for over a year, have never been present for a safety drill

Recommendation:

Hold onsite safety drills once per month at different days of the week; thus ensuring that all staff have performative familiarity with emergency responses.

11. Handling Welfare Concerns and Anonymous Reporting System

- Evaluate how the facility handles animal welfare concerns from staff.
- Assess the availability of an anonymous reporting system that protects concerned staff members.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate handling of welfare concerns and reporting system
 - 2: Limited handling of welfare concerns and reporting system

- 3: Moderate handling of welfare concerns and reporting system
- 4: Good handling of welfare concerns and reporting system
- **5: Excellent handling of welfare concerns and reporting system**

Positive areas:

- There is a clearly defined chain of command and chain of reporting within the care department. Staff are able to report welfare concerns to any level of this chain. There are multiple reporting avenues.
- Staff members, in general, report that they believe that they would have an effective avenue for reporting welfare concerns, and these concerns would be addressed by the sanctuary.
- All members of leadership maintain an open-door policy and confidential avenue for reporting concerns.
- Anonymous reporting “suggestion boxes” exist at the sanctuary.

Areas needing improvement:

- No observable areas needing improvement.

12. Transparency with the Public and Staff

- Evaluate the facility's transparency in sharing information with the public and staff.
- Assess the availability of public audits, communication channels, and engagement with stakeholders.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Lack of transparency with the public and staff
 - 2: Limited transparency with the public and staff
 - 3: Moderate transparency with the public and staff
 - 4: Good transparency with the public and staff
 - **5: Excellent transparency with the public and staff**

Positive areas:

- Staff, in general, feel a sense of transparency with the organization.
- Project Chimps reports challenges, as well as success to the public.
- Project Chimps publishes regular audits and assessments (such as this report) to the public.

Areas needing improvement:

- No observable areas needing improvement.

13. Availability of Required Resources

- Assess the availability of resources necessary to provide exemplary care to animals.
- Evaluate the adequacy of funding, staffing, facilities, and other resources.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate availability of required resources
 - 2: Limited availability of required resources
 - 3: Moderate availability of required resources
 - 4: Good availability of required resources
 - **5: Excellent availability of required resources**

Positive Areas:

- Fundraising is currently on-budget.
- Sanctuary is currently operating below budget.

Areas Needing Improvement:

- No observable areas needing improvement.

14. Means to Thrive for Animals

- Assess the facility's practices and written protocols to ensure the well-being and thriving of animals.
- Evaluate the provision of physical and mental stimulation, social interactions, and opportunities for natural behaviors.
- Likert Scale Scoring System:
 - 1: Inadequate means to thrive
 - 2: Limited means to thrive
 - 3: Moderate means to thrive
 - **4: Good means to thrive**
 - 5: Excellent means to thrive

Positive areas:

- Chimpanzees are Project Chimps are observably interactive with each other and their environment.
- Existing protocols are sound in their focus on thriving for chimpanzees.
- Chimpanzees benefit from the nutrition program, operant conditioning (PRT) program, enrichment program, and social environment that is provided by their life at Project Chimps.

Areas needing improvement:

- Chimpanzees would benefit from more access to outdoor habitats. As previously noted, though outdoor access has improved, three of the chimpanzee groups only have access to outdoor habitats every three days (roughly twice per week). Additionally, because chimpanzees are only allowed outdoor access during staff hours, even on days that chimpanzee groups have access, they are limited to just 8-9 hours of the day.
- Mitigation of behavioral challenges involving husbandry protocols, rather than a reliance on medical protocols should be considered.
- As previously stated, enrichment assessments would allow the sanctuary to boost its enrichment program and ensure that chimpanzees have ample opportunities for meaningful engagement with their environment.
- A more robust veterinary program is essential to thriving for the chimpanzees at Project Chimps.

Recommendations:

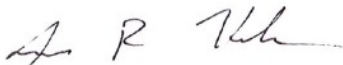
Project Chimps should consider boosting staff levels to enable a more robust behavioral program. Behavioral protocols, such as care and welfare assessments, enrichment assessments, more operant conditioning, etc. can be carried out by a well trained husbandry staff — however, staff levels should be large enough to accomplish these goals without neglecting basic husbandry protocols (cleaning, feeding, etc.).

Project Chimps should consider staggering staff shifts to cover more hours of the day. This would enable longer yard access, as well as providing the benefits of having staff on property throughout more of the day.

General Comments:

Of the 14 areas assessed in this audit, Project Chimps holds an average score of **4**, thus giving the sanctuary an overall score of **4.1 out of 5**. Such a score represents **GOOD TO EXCELLENT MEASURES OF WELFARE** at Project Chimps.

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