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January 20, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Professor of Psychology, and Co-Director of the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute at Central Washington University along with my wife Deborah. We have studied chimpanzee behavior since 1967, and have published more than 100 scientific articles dealing with primate behavior. Our particular expertise is chimpanzee behavior with a focus on communication. We have also studied and published research on environmental enrichment techniques for chimpanzees and participated in behavioral rehabilitation efforts. We have been involved in the captive care of chimpanzee since 1967 and have seen a range of conditions from roadside zoos to large biomedical facilities.

Lisa Wathne sent us 14 photographs taken of chimpanzees in enclosures and she asked that we give our professional opinion of these photographs. It is our professional opinion that the sewer-like conditions and the evidence of chronic neglect with regard to hygiene and general sanitation are some of the most deplorable conditions we have ever witnessed in our 36 years of caring for chimpanzees. We saw evidence of what looked like an open sewer, though it was most probably a low area that collected water and organic waste. This is highly unsanitary and if the chimpanzees were to drop some food in it and then eat it, given the apparent decaying conditions of the matter, they could become very ill. In our professional opinion chronic neglect with regard to proper cleaning and sanitation procedures was evinced by what appeared to be long established stains possibly from urine, feces and body oil. In our opinion from the stains the walls looked as if they had never been thoroughly cleaned. Other unsafe and unsanitary conditions we observed in the photos were a black desiccated banana peel, evidence that this garbage had not been recently removed. We observed that dangerous nails were protruding from a board that had once apparently held a plank which was now gone. We observed rust evident on the cages near what looked like some welding had been performed.

In general, it is our professional opinion that the conditions we viewed in the photographs represent a health and safety hazard to the chimpanzees being kept in the cages and are completely unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Fouts, Ph.D. and Deborah H. Fouts, M.S.