

Council of Councils Working Group on Assessing the Safety of Relocating Chimpanzees

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For Today

- Background on the Use of Chimpanzees in NIH-funded Research
- Retirement-eligible and Relocation to the Federal Sanctuary System
- Chimpanzee Census by Location
- Why the Need for a Working Group
- Charge

Use of Chimpanzees in NIH-funded Research

- NIH has owned and supported chimpanzees used in research for several decades
- Because of their close genetic proximity they have provided valuable information about some human conditions, notably development of vaccines for hepatitis A and B and identification of hepatitis C; development of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies; and other
- Limited use led to a breeding moratorium in 1995

Assessing the Necessity: The IOM Report

CHIMPANZEES IN
BIOMEDICAL
AND BEHAVIORAL
RESEARCH
ASSESSING THE NECESSITY

- In December 2010, the NIH asked the IOM to review the current use of chimpanzees in NIH-funded biomedical and behavioral research
- The IOM committee focused its efforts on the nearly 700 chimpanzees owned or supported by the NIH
- On December 15, 2011, the IOM issued a report, *Chimpanzees in Biomedical and Behavioral Research: Assessing the Necessity*, summarizing the committee's findings
- In this report, the committee identified three principles to serve as the basis for its criteria for assessing the use of chimpanzees in biomedical and behavioral research

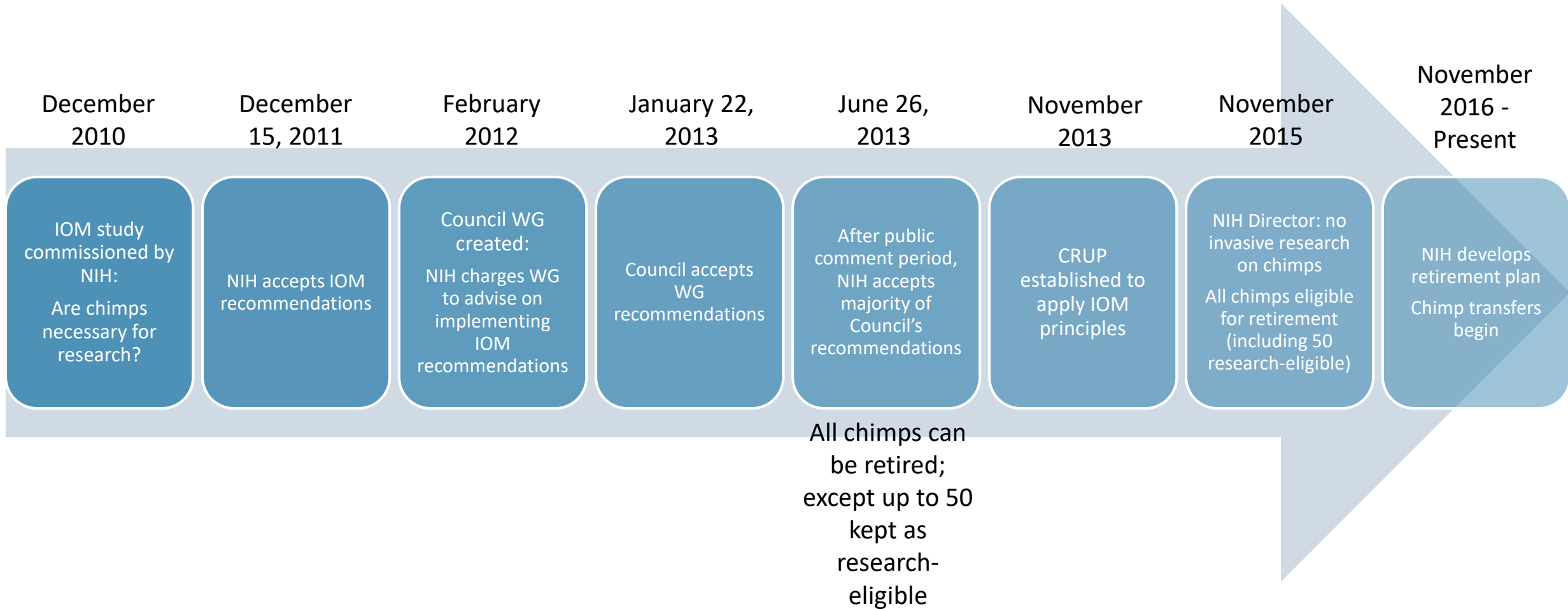
The IOM Report (continued)

- The IOM concluded that *“While the chimpanzee has been a valuable animal model in past research, most current use of chimpanzees for biomedical research is unnecessary....”*
- The committee also stated that the following areas might continue to require the use of chimpanzees:
 - some ongoing research on monoclonal antibody therapies; research on comparative genomics; and noninvasive studies of social and behavioral factors that affect the development, prevention, or treatment of disease

The IOM Report: Principles

- 1. The knowledge gained must be necessary to advance the public's health;*
- 2. There must be no other research model by which the knowledge could be obtained, and the research cannot be ethically performed on human subjects; and*
- 3. The animals used in the proposed research must be maintained either in ethologically appropriate physical and social environments or in natural habitats*

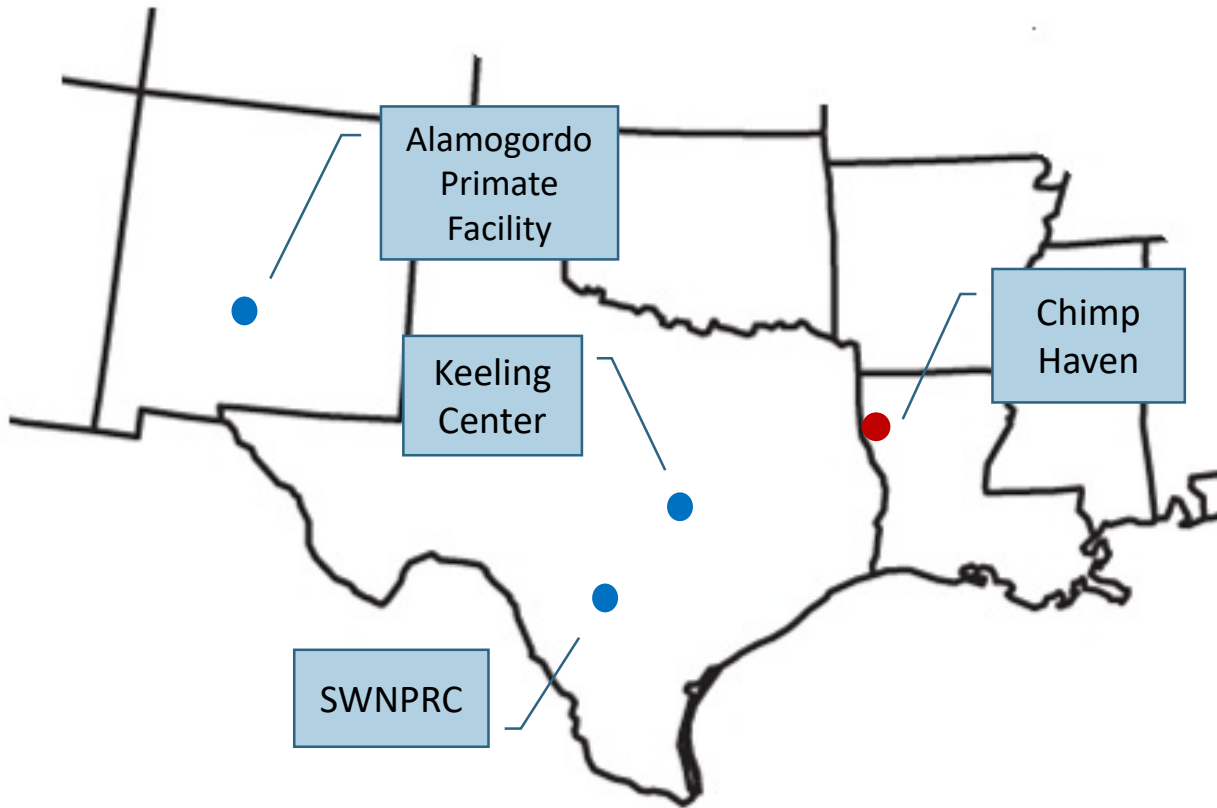
Summary Timeline



Chimpanzee Housing and Relocation to the Federal Sanctuary System

- CHIMPANZEE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND PROTECTION ACT (CHIMP Act of 2000):
 - *“to provide for a system of sanctuaries for chimpanzees that have been designated as being no longer needed in research conducted or supported by the Public Health Service, and for other purposes”*
- Federal Sanctuary System operated by Chimp Haven Inc. in Keithville, Louisiana
- Between 2005 and 2017, 352 chimps relocated to Chimp Haven
 - 33 relocated in FY17
 - 19 relocated so far in FY18

Chimpanzee Census by Location



| | Location | Chimpanzees* |
|---|---|--------------|
| 1 | Alamogordo Primate Facility (Alamogordo, NM) | 79 |
| 2 | M.E. Keeling Center (Bastrop, TX) | 130 |
| 3 | SW National Primate Research Center (San Antonio, TX)** | 79 |
| | Federal Sanctuary Chimp Haven (Keithville, LA) | 225 |
| | Total | 513 |

*Census information collected on January 1, 2018

**NIH-supported chimpanzees

Why the Need for a Working Group?

- The population of federally-owned and supported chimpanzees residing at non-sanctuary facilities requires relocation to the Federal Chimpanzee Sanctuary System
- The NIH has devised a plan for the safe relocation of retirement-eligible chimpanzees into the sanctuary ([ORIP website: Retirement Plan](#))
- Relocation includes:
 - procedures required in preparation for transport,
 - the physical transport itself, and
 - procedures required after arrival at the Federal Sanctuary (including quarantine and socialization with new animal groups)
- Some of these animals experience age-related ailments which will complicate the relocation process
 - these animals are identified as part of the at-risk chimpanzee population
 - trained staff at each facility available to address health concerns of at-risk animals
- NIH considers the health and welfare status of each chimpanzee will provide the deciding factors in whether at-risk chimpanzees can be safely relocated to the federal sanctuary

Charge to the Council of Councils Working Group on Assessing the Safety of Relocating Chimpanzees

- The charge of the Council of Councils Working Group on Assessing the Safety of Relocating Chimpanzees is to provide advice and recommendations on factors to be considered by attending veterinarian staff when deciding whether to relocate NIH-owned and supported chimpanzees between federally supported facilities, specifically to the federal chimpanzee sanctuary.
- The Working Group will provide their findings for consideration by the Council of Councils

Questions