



# HI, MY NAME IS PUMPKIN

## BIOGRAPHY

Pumpkin was born on October 27, 1986 to his mother, known only as "CH-136". His father is unknown. He was born in a now defunct laboratory in New York State known as LEMSIP, the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates. He was occasionally taken from his mother for physicals but otherwise was allowed to stay with her until July 5, 1988 when he was taken from her.

We can only imagine the fear and confusion Pumpkin must have felt being taken from his mother at such a young age and the sorrow his mother must have felt at losing her child. Over the next eight years, Pumpkin was "knocked down" (i.e. anesthetized with Ketamine) approximately 180 times and had his liver biopsied at least 23 times. When he was five years old, Pumpkin began self-mutilating, creating wounds

on his abdomen, side and legs. In October 1996, just before his tenth birthday, Pumpkin was sent to the Coulston Foundation (TCF), a research laboratory in Alamogordo, New Mexico. TCF had a poor record of animal care, with several violations of the Animal Welfare Act but ironically life at TCF was an improvement for Pumpkin. He got a break from the knockdowns and subjected to just a few per year. He was also introduced to a small group of chimpanzees, two older females from TCF, Rebecca and Edith, and two other chimps from LEMSIP, O'Dell and Jaybee. He also had the opportunity to go outdoors for possibly the first time in his life. He continued to frequently self mutilate, however, causing severe wounds to his abdomen and legs and medications were prescribed in an effort to reduce his behavior.

On September 12, 2002 Pumpkin was rescued by Save the Chimps and his life in a research lab came

to an end forever. Pumpkin is a handsome chimp with a striking face and a kind and gentle personality. He has a particular fondness for basketballs and will often carry one wherever he goes – at least until it deflates! Due to his years of confinement, Pumpkin (also known around here as "Mr. P") prefers to stay indoors, often in the company of his longtime friend O'Dell. His caregivers do spy him sitting outside when he thinks no one is looking, and he has even been spotted venturing away from the building he calls home onto the grass where he likes to browse for nuts and seeds. For awhile Pumpkin continued to self-mutilate when stressed or bored, but thanks to the attentive care of his veterinarians and caregivers, he hasn't engaged in this behavior for some time. We are hopeful that Pumpkin will continue to expand his horizons and further explore his island home!



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**MISSION:** To provide and build support for permanent sanctuary for the lifelong care of chimpanzees rescued from research laboratories, entertainment, and the pet trade.

# CERTIFICATE OF **ADOPTION**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

PROUD ADOPTIVE PARENTS OF

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DATE OF ADOPTION



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JEN FEUERSTEIN  
SANCTUARY DIRECTOR



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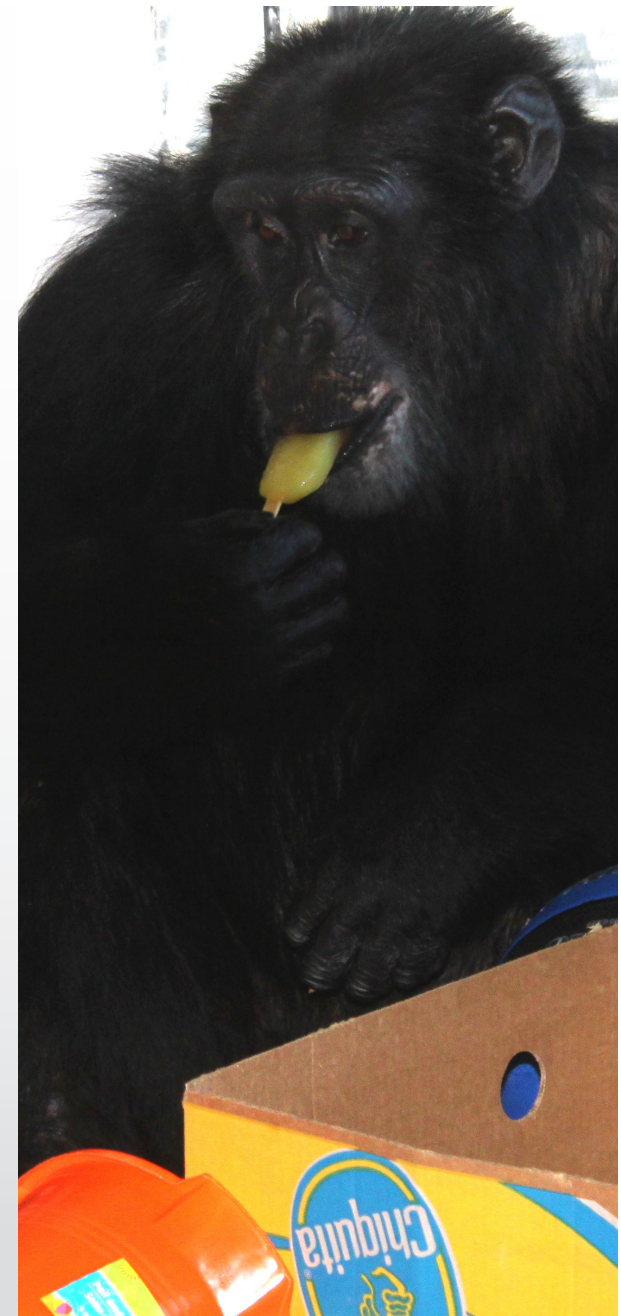
# UPDATE ON PUMPKIN 2015

As we shared last year, after 9 years at Save the Chimps, Pumpkin aka “Mr. P” went out onto his island for the very first time. It was a lesson to us to never give up hope for the chimps who are reluctant to go outdoors, due to their years of confinement in cages. You just never know when a chimp will decide that today is the day to bravely explore the island! We are happy to report that Pumpkin continues to venture out onto the island. His longtime friend O’Dell, herself a veteran of LEMSIP who often prefers to stay indoors, will sometimes join him. There is nothing so heartwarming as the sight of Pumpkin wandering far out onto the hills and platforms!

Because of Pumpkin’s history of self-injury, he gets special enrichment daily. He’s not always interested in our regular enrichment items,

however, like foraging boards or boxes with seeds and nuts mixed into shredded paper. His caregivers and the enrichment technician have had to get creative to pique his interest, and come up with new and challenging devices for him to use. He especially enjoys a new device that is similar to a “rain chain” in which cold water or juice flows from one cup to another. Not surprisingly, he finds it particularly fun to use on hot days!

Mr. P is a respected member of his group, often acting as a mediator during disputes, and a knight in shining armor to the elderly females if the younger boys tease them—although every once in awhile Pumpkin’s mischievous side shows itself and he is the one to do the teasing!



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