

Submitter: Walter Shelton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB181

Today in WAPO was a news story with the title of “Chimps sometimes care for others’ wounds, and scientists want to know why”. In summary it said - observations, published Wednesday in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*, raise questions over chimpanzees’ capacity for empathy and altruism. Their behavior was evidence of their capacity for “prosocial behaviors,” or voluntary actions that serve the best interest of another.

Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC, or PRC for short) uses the term “non-human primates” for their 5,000+ chimps/monkeys. I assume the PRC is staffed and controlled by Human Primates, meaning they are, euphemistically, distant cousins. The human brain possesses the ability for complex language, abstract reason, deductive reasoning and long-term planning. Logically, a human’s best role is higher management for the good of all on Earth.

It states on the PRC website that their research is for “The Most Essential Research Endeavors”. It also states they are a “Multigenerational” facility – meaning they breed non-human primates for research. Examples of both those statements in reference to their research demonstrate falsehood and an unforgivable abuse of primate fetuses/infants. Two research programs as examples: 1) forced ingestion of copious volumes of alcohol by female nonhuman primates, starting before mating, going through pregnancy until birth. More than 500 continuous days of this to evaluate the severity of the damage to the fetus. 2) Immediately after birth infants are forcibly separated from the mothers to quantify the psychological trauma caused to the infant and mother.

How are either of those examples of using our unique human qualities mentioned above? We are conducting brutal research using fellow animals to further human interests. Using my tax money for this disgusts me.

This happens to a myriad of other peaceful, gentle, affectionate fellow animals just because they are what they were born as – dogs, cats, rabbits, monkeys, etc. Born to a life without the wonderment for joy, excitement and love. It isn’t right to do this to them! I support SB181 and an amendment to include nonhuman primates to the bill.