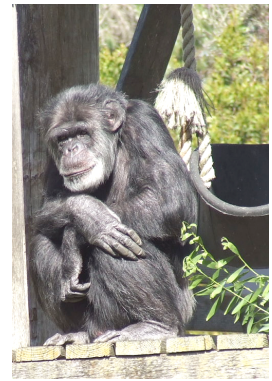


# CHIMPANZEE

PRIMATA  
 Family: Pongidae  
 Genus: *Pan*  
 Species: *troglodytes*



**Range:** West and Central Africa, north of Zaire R, to Senegal and Tanzania

**Habitat:** deciduous woodland to mixed savanna

**Niche:** terrestrial / arboreal, diurnal, omnivorous

**Wild diet:** ripe fruit, young leaves, blossoms, seeds, stems, bark, resin, honey, insects, eggs, meat  
 80 different items 60% fruits, 30% other vegetation, 10% animal matter

**Zoo diet:** fruits, vegetables, monkey chow

**Life Span:** (Wild) 40-45 yrs  
 (Captivity) 60 yrs

**Sexual dimorphism:** M larger than F

**Location in SF Zoo:** Triple Grotto

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## APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

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There is no hair on a chimpanzee's face, hands, or flesh-colored feet, but the rest of its body is covered with coarse long and generally black or mahogany brown hair, except for a white patch near the rump. Black face has prominent brow ridges; short, white beard is common in both sexes. Baldness is frequent in adults; typically as a triangle on forehead of males, more extensive in females. Face normally darkens with age (usually pink in younger animals); big ears and expressive eyes.

Opposable thumb is adapted for climbing, picking fruits and catching insects. Not only are chimpanzees tool users, they are also tool makers.

Dental formula:  $I2/2 - C1/1 - P2/2 - M3/3 \times 2 = 32$  with 20 baby teeth.

They have spatulate (i.e. shaped like a spatula) incisors; squared-off cheek teeth bearing relatively low cusps, canine teeth are prominent. Rear edge of each upper canine hones against the front edge of the first lower premolar.

<b>Weight:</b>	M 126-176 lbs F 100-150 lbs
<b>HRL:</b>	M 30-36 in F 28-33
<b>TL:</b>	None

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## STATUS & CONSERVATION

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Listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Populations have been reduced due to habitat loss, hunting by humans for food and to protect crops, and commercial exportation for the animal trade. In 1976 the USDI classified *P. troglodytes* as threatened which resulted in regulations reducing legal importation to the U.S. they were reclassified as endangered in the wild in 1990 which strengthens regulations covering animals in captivity as well. There are only four subspecies of chimpanzee left in the wild today. Habitat loss, poaching, and the bush meat trade are the main causes behind chimp deaths.

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## COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

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13 categories of calls have been recognized including shrill screams, grunts and moans.

A fundamental social of chimps is made up of several family groups. Within these family groups there are usually about 6 to 10 individuals. An entire chimp community can sometimes have as many as 100 members, made up of many different family groups. One adult male can be the leader of the community, while in other communities leadership is shared among several males. Chimps use body language, facial expressions; hand-clapping, grooming, and kissing to communicate within their peers. Usually a male chimp stays in the community into which he was born, while females transfer to other groups when they become adults. It is rare to find the whole community in one place. Whenever possible they eat large meals from a single food source so they can rest an hour or two before going to the next tree to eat. Chimps build tree nest of vegetation each night. Adults sleep alone while infants sleep with their mother until the next baby is

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## COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

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Female chimps in the wild usually give birth for the first time when they are between 12 and 15 years old. They mate when in heat noted by genital swelling, i.e. pink perineal skins. For the first week or so they mate an average of 6 times a day and with any male; toward the last week of estrus (near ovulation) the high-ranking males compete for mating rights - exclusive "consortship" formed. Infants stay with mothers until at least 5-7 years old, although weaning occurs starting the third year. They can begin walking on their own at about age four.

Estrous: Polyestrous, men. 33-38 d. / receptive 6.5 d.

Gestation: avg 230 days (7.5 months)

# of Mammae: 1 pr

# of Young: 1 rarely 2

Sexual Maturity: M - 15-16 yrs / F13 - 14 yrs

Weaning Age: 3.5-4.5 yrs

Weight at birth: 4 lbs

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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Research has shown that chimps and humans share 98.4 percent of their genes

Their distinctive mode of travel requires walking on the soles of their feet and the knuckles of their hands

Chimpanzees make a grunting sound when they are happy. A toothy "grin" actually indicates fear or anxiety.

Some observers have noted chimps feeding on medicinal plants when they are ill or injured

### **Sources:**

Updated: 11/94, 3/08

Brainard, ed 1983; Grzimek 1990; Kavanagh 1983; MacDonald 1984; Nowak ed. 1991

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-chimpanzee.html>

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