

What enables a university to work effectively with a private sanctuary to retire nonhuman primates

Dorothy Fragaszy, Christopher King,
and Leanne Alworth

The University of Georgia



In June 2014, seven monkeys moved from the University of Georgia to Jungle Friends, Gainesville, FL

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA Quicklinks

Text-only | Contact UGA News Service

UGA TODAY

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

All Releases Research News Honors & Awards University Events In the News Faculty Experts

TEXT SIZE: A A A

UGA's capuchin monkeys retiring to Florida's Jungle Friends in 2014

November 13, 2013

Print Share Like 69

Writer: Terry Hastings
Contact: Dorothy M. Fragaszy

Athens, Ga. - Over the past 17 years, seven tufted capuchin monkeys at the University of Georgia have given scientists new insights into cognition and behavior not only of primates, but also humans. In spring 2014, the monkeys are retiring to Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, in Gainesville, Fla., a lush property that's home to more than 100 New World monkeys.

Led by professor of psychology Dorothy Fragaszy, UGA researchers studied the UGA capuchins in the laboratory, and subsequently studied wild capuchins in the field. They documented capuchins' routine use of heavy stones as hammers for cracking nuts, a discovery that excited primatologists around the world.

In the laboratory, they discovered similarities in tool use among monkeys, chimpanzees and ancestral humans, and

Photography



Led by professor of psychology Dorothy Fragaszy, UGA researchers studied 7 UGA capuchins in the laboratory, and subsequently studied wild capuchins in the field. In spring 2014, the monkeys are retiring to Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, in Gainesville, Fla., a lush property

University's interests

- University care staff want to see animals cared for appropriately
- University wants to portray itself as promoting and maintaining high standards of animal welfare
- Univ. needs assurance that sanctuary and univ. present parallel messages/ have shared aims
 - Requires dialogue
 - Univ will see the sanctuary's portrayal of itself and of previous transfers in public media

Sanctuary needs from the University

- Financial support
 - Can include “in kind” donation of caging, materials
 - Can include provision of transport to sanctuary
 - Likely if the transfer is legally completed when animals arrive at the new facility
- Health records
- Background information about the individuals (especially housing /social history)
- Prepare animals (vasectomize/ovariectomize)
- Arrange transport [caging/vehicle/permits]

University responsibilities (due diligence)

- University cannot permit private adoption of NHP (although they can for other mammals - dogs, cats, rabbits, rats)
- Ascertain that the sanctuary will provide appropriate high-quality care
- Ascertain that the sanctuary has adequate financial resources and planning to provide life-time care for the number of monkeys that would be transferred to them

Mechanics of due diligence

- USDA – APHIS certification
 - Standards of care
- NAPSA membership and certification
 - Financial management
 - Affiliated with Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
- Visit site and meet staff

Preparing for a smooth transfer

- Start discussion two years ahead of desired transfer date
- Involve the Univ. public relations office from the beginning
- Coordinate press releases/web postings by sanctuary and university (shared links etc.)
- Invite the sanctuary personnel to visit, to see the current housing and to meet the animals
- Visit the sanctuary to understand housing plans
- Help Univ staff and Sanctuary staff

Shared good will promotes a good outcome for all parties



More from the UGA press release ...

- Jungle Friends, a non-profit organization, has launched a campaign to raise approximately \$420,116 to support the retiring capuchins for the rest of their lives. The funds will pay for the purchase of a five-acre property that will provide space for the seven UGA monkeys, plus expansion space for 12 additional monkeys on the Jungle Friends waiting list. It also will cover labor, food, veterinary expenses, and utilities. UGA has made an in-kind donation to support the capuchins' retirement.
- "We want UGA to be a model for other universities retiring their monkeys to permanent sanctuary homes," said Dr. Chris King, associate vice president for research compliance, and director of animal care and use at UGA. UGA has no plans to continue this line of research, he said.
- "UGA is a shining example to other universities who have research with monkeys that is ending," said Kari Bagnall, founder and executive director of Jungle Friends.