



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Senator Tom Udall to be Briefed by Experts on Chimpanzee Welfare During Live Event

Animal Protection of New Mexico to Host Live Social Media Event on Friday

Albuquerque, N.M. – October 6, 2020 – Animal Protection of New Mexico, the state’s leading advocate for the humane treatment of animals, announces “Hope for Chimpanzees,” a live online event featuring U.S. Senator Tom Udall of New Mexico on Friday, October 9. The livestream will honor and showcase the senator’s tireless work on behalf of chimpanzees nationwide. Senator Udall has been instrumental in retiring hundreds of chimps used for biomedical research to animal sanctuaries throughout the United States.

“We are thrilled to honor Senator Udall’s work helping to provide chimpanzees with a better quality of life. After long, hard years in the lab, many chimps are now comfortably living out their lives in large bonded social groups, climbing trees, eating their favorite fruits, running, playing, and exploring their surroundings rather than residing in a lab,” said Laura Bonar, chief program and policy officer with Animal Protection of New Mexico and host of the livestream event. “All chimp survivors of invasive testing deserve this opportunity.”

The Zoom Webinar and Facebook Live event will feature Senator Udall in a presentation and question and answer session. Diana Goodrich, director of chimpanzees from Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest, a private nonprofit refuge located on 26-acre farm in the Cascade mountains east of Seattle, Wash., will join him describing the sanctuary and discussing the psychological welfare of captive chimpanzees. Both Senator Udall and Goodrich will take questions from the public regarding the chimpanzees.

While Senator Udall has helped retire more than 90 New Mexico chimps, the state currently has nearly 40 additional chimps located at Holloman Airforce Base in Alamogordo, N.M. Although these chimpanzees are no longer needed for biomedical research, NIH has kept them at the laboratory facility on the air force base rather than relocating them to a sanctuary to live out the lives they deserve.

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“Hope for Chimpanzees” will take place on Facebook and Zoom on Friday, October 9 at 12:30 p.m. MDT. The event is open for the public and they can register at [Animal Protection of New Mexico Facebook](#) page or [Zoom](#) and click on “Hope for Chimpanzees.”

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About Animal Protection of New Mexico

Since 1979, APNM has been advocating for animals by effecting systemic change, working towards the humane treatment of all animals. This includes active support of local and state legislation towards the prevention of animal cruelty, direct service programs as well as public awareness campaigns designed to teach students and communities across New Mexico about the ongoing threats to animals. For more information about Animal Protection of New Mexico’s accomplishments, current priority issues and more, please visit www.apnm.org, and be sure to follow Animal Protection of New Mexico on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).