



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Noelle Callahan

Chief Program & Policy Officer, Animal Protection New Mexico

(202) 981-4348 | noelle@apnm.org

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH CONTINUES
TO PRIORITIZE LABS AND DENY CHIMPS SANCTUARY
TWO YEARS AFTER ILLEGAL, WASTEFUL DECISION**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM (Oct 28, 2021)—This week marks the second anniversary of the shocking October 2019 decision by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to keep 44 chimpanzees in the Alamogordo Primate Facility, a laboratory on Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico in direct violation of the federal Chimpanzee Health, Improvement, Maintenance and Protection (CHIMP) Act. Charles River Laboratories, a global institution built on animal experimentation and suffering, profits from housing the chimps.

In September, the NIH announced another indefensible decision to deny sanctuary to at least another 49 chimpanzees currently held at the Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research, in Bastrop, Texas. The NIH announcement was made on their website, keeping the names and details about the individual chimpanzees impacted secret from the public. Both decisions contradict federal law *and* NIH director Dr. Francis Collins' prior commitment to move these chimps to Chimp Haven, the federal sanctuary in Louisiana, where the chimps' wellbeing is the only focus, and the cost of care for taxpayers is dramatically lower. Yet, since 2015, Dr. Collins has denied sanctuary to nearly half of the chimpanzees eligible to live out the remainder of their lives in relative freedom.

In early 2021, APNM and allies sued the NIH in federal court for blatantly violating the CHIMP Act. Between the two decisions, NIH has refused to send nearly 100 chimpanzees to sanctuary. Rather than living out the rest of their natural lives at sanctuary, Montessa and all the other chimpanzees—who were all used for invasive biomedical experiments—will languish in laboratories at greater cost to the taxpayer.

“NIH’s director, Dr. Francis Collins, could right this wrong today. Taxpayers are demanding to know why the NIH is wasting taxpayer dollars to prop up labs, getting away with breaking federal law, and renegeing on its promise to send chimps to sanctuary. NIH has betrayed

everyone but the labs,” said Elisabeth Jennings, executive director of Animal Protection New Mexico. “NIH has forgotten the chimps. We haven’t.”

#

About Animal Protection New Mexico

Animal Protection New Mexico’s mission is to advocate the rights of animals by effecting systemic change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals. For more than 40 years, APNM has planned, implemented, and succeeded with dynamic programs, projects, services, and collaborations that span a broad spectrum of animal protection issues.

Visit www.apnm.org and follow APNM on Facebook [@animalprotectionnm](https://www.facebook.com/animalprotectionnm), Instagram [@animalprotectionnewmexico](https://www.instagram.com/animalprotectionnewmexico), Twitter [@apnm](https://twitter.com/apnm), and YouTube [@apnm](https://www.youtube.com/apnm).

Media Contact: Jennifer Abbots, Communications Manager
Animal Protection New Mexico
(505) 280-4287 | jennifer@apnm.org