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## Chimpanzee Born at the Jackson Zoo

The Jackson Zoo is pleased to announce the birth of a male chimpanzee. The new addition, named MoJo, was actually born March 8, 2009, but has been inside with mom since birth. The name MoJo was inspired by combining father JoJo's name and mother Missy's name. The Jackson Zoo has nine chimpanzees representing three generations, with JoJo being the oldest at 45 and MoJo the youngest at 4 weeks. The chimps have formed groups, with Judy (41), Jeanette (40), Jackson (31), MaeBelle (20) and Binti (10) making up the first group. The second group is made up of JoJo (45), Belle (34), Missy (29) and MoJo (4 weeks).

"This is such a special birth," said Zoo Director Beth Poff. "It has been some time since we have had a chimp born at the Jackson Zoo, and they always inspire such fascination and joy among visitors."

**MoJo and mom Missy should be on exhibit for the public to see for the first time, Wednesday, April 8, 2009 by 1:00 p.m.**

**MoJo is also available for adoption. Adoption helps provide support for the animals all year long. Please visit [www.jacksonzoo.org/friends/adopt.html](http://www.jacksonzoo.org/friends/adopt.html) or call 601-352-2580 x 226.**



Chimpanzee faces are pinkish to black, and the apes' bodies are covered with long black hair. Chimps lack a tail. Their opposable thumbs and toes help them grasp objects easily. Chimpanzees are quadrupedal, which means that they walk on all four limbs, although they can also walk upright (bipedal) for short distances. They stand up to 4 feet high. Males are larger than females. Males weigh between 90-115 pounds and females weigh between 57 and 110 pounds.

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 chimpanzees remain in the wild and can be found in 21 African countries.

Chimps prefer dense tropical rainforests but can also be found in secondary-growth forests, woodlands, bamboo forests, swamps, and even open savannah. Chimpanzees are omnivores, meaning they eat a wide variety of foods that includes fruits, nuts, seeds, and insects. Chimps occasionally hunt and eat meat.

Chimps live in communities. These communities are composed of family groups of three to six individuals, totaling about 50 animals. Hierarchies are formed by the adult males of the community, which is led by one alpha (the highest) male. Adolescent females may move freely between communities, although territory is strictly patrolled and conflicts can occur between neighbors. Most mothers give birth to one young an average of every five to six years in the wild. Young chimps stay with their mothers for up to 10 years.

Habitat destruction is the greatest threat of the chimpanzee. Large population decreases are also blamed on hunting and commercial exportation.