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Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our 10 million supporters, I'm writing to you about the use of chimpanzees in laboratories, particularly in relation to our efforts to phase out invasive research and testing on these animals. You're receiving this correspondence because of your status as the designated institutional official responsible for oversight of all animal research at your facility.

The use of chimpanzees in research and testing is of increasing concern to our supporters, the public, animal protectionists, and members of Congress, as well as many scientists and research institutions. Nearly 270 scientists and chimpanzee experts have signed a statement in support of ending invasive research on chimpanzees. Recent surveys have shown that most people do not want chimpanzees used in research that causes them to suffer even when there is potential human benefit, and 71 percent believe that if a chimpanzee has been in a laboratory for 10 or more years (which is the case for an estimated 90 percent of the chimpanzees in laboratories today), he or she should be retired. Recent articles in journals such as *Nature and Science* focus on this issue, as does the PBS documentary *Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History*, which features chimpanzees retired from research and testing.

The HSUS estimates that approximately 1,300 chimpanzees live in nine U.S. laboratories, with the government owning about 600 of them. The number of chimpanzees in laboratories has declined by almost 30 percent since the late 1980s. More recently, as you may know, the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Research Resources announced in May its decision to permanently end breeding of government-owned chimpanzees for research. It's unclear how, if at all, this change will affect private companies.

As part of our effort, I am gathering information on the use of chimpanzees in private sector research and testing. Does your company use or fund the use of chimpanzees for biomedical research or testing (e.g., efficacy, toxicity, or pharmacokinetics)? If not, does your company have a written policy to this effect or does this simply reflect current practice? If your company does use or fund such studies, are chimpanzees kept on site, at an outside laboratory, or both? I would appreciate receiving your answers to these few questions by mail or e-mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions, would like to make further comments, or want more information on this subject. You can reach me at mstephens@humanesociety.org or 301-258-3040 or at the address below. If we do not hear from you within a few weeks, we will contact your office again.

With appreciation for your assistance,

Martin L. Stephens, Ph.D.
Vice President for Animal Research Issues