

Chimpanzees

One of my favorite animals is the chimpanzee. One of the reasons I like them is because they are very smart. They use twigs to dig into termite mounds to get bugs. The main reason I like them is that infant chimpanzees are very cute. Right now, they are having lots of problems in the wild. There are three big problems that I want to talk about. The first problem is the bush meat trade. The second one is loss of habitat. The third is loss of infants through trade. There are also some solutions I want to tell you about.

The bush meat trade is one dilemma for chimpanzees. Chimpanzees are being killed for their meat because the population of Africa is increasing in the cities. Since there are more people, they need more food. The Africans usually eat fish, but the fish supply is also decreasing. One reason this is happening is because other countries are taking some of the fish. My solution is that other countries should stop fishing in African waters. The government should continue to have checkpoints to see if people are carrying weapons into the bush or bush meat out.

Chimpanzees are also faced with increasing destruction of their homes. The tropical rainforest is disappearing very quickly. Wood is being sent to the West for building materials, and other parts are being destroyed for space for agriculture. The population of humans is also increasing, and this means more space is needed. The result is that chimpanzees have to live in smaller places. This is a very hard problem to solve because many of these countries are so poor. Developed countries like the United States should help these countries create and protect nature preserves.

The Live Infant Trade is another problem for chimpanzees in the wild. The Live Infant trade is where infant chimpanzees and other exotic animals are taken for illegal trade. These infants are then sold to individuals around the world for amusements and pets. Often, the traders must kill the mother in order to get her baby away from her. I believe that people who love

chimpanzees should never try to buy one. Every chimp that is being sold legally should have papers showing where it was raised. It might be fun to have a chimpanzee as a pet, but that does not mean it is a good idea.

I recently saw the baby chimpanzee at the Tulsa Zoo. At first, I could not see him very well because he was outside in his mother's arms. Later, we were able to see him up close. Chimpanzees are very much like humans. They were even having a birthday party! Sometimes, I worry that chimpanzees might go extinct. I hope that these problems will be fixed before it is too late. Someday, I would like to see chimpanzees in their natural environment and help them live good, long lives.