

Black Pine Animal Park

Animal Facts

Breed: CHIMPANZEE

Names / Sex / Age:

Tarzan Male 30

Previous Home: Frank and Janet Burger, performers and handlers, New Jersey.

Native to: Africa (Tarzan was born in Sierra Leone)

Weight: 100-174 lbs. Females up to 4.25 feet tall; males up 5.5 feet.

Life Expectancy: 30-40 years in the wild, 60-80 in captivity.

Status: Updated in 2008 – with newly discovered populations numbers may be as high as 200,000. In 1900, over 1 million were estimated to be living in the wild. Chimpanzees are endangered primarily due to habitat loss. They are protected in preserves, though most are becoming too small for chimps to thrive and multiply.

Diet: 59% of their diet is fruit. 21% is leaves. They also eat buds, blossoms, bark, resin, honey, termites, ants, occasionally other mammals. They have also been know to hunt and eat each other. At Black Pine the diet includes commercially prepared primate maintenance biscuits, as well as a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, cooked meats, eggs, grains, nuts, and occasionally sweets and treats.

Facts:

- Chimps are not monkeys, they are apes. .
- Only 1.6% difference in DNA between man and chimp
- Gestation is 7-8 months, with usually one baby, but can have two.
- Home ranges vary in size from 7-8 square miles in the forest to up to 75 square miles in open country.
- When they display all their teeth, they are showing aggression. When exposing only bottom teeth they are “smiling”
- A chimps call can be heard 2 miles away, and each one has a different call.
- Man is the biggest threat to the chimp. They even suffer from many human diseases. Chimps, just like humans, go bald — most common in female chimps.
- Chimps are one of only four animals that use tools.

Personal History:

Coby passed away in November 2009 after battling renal failure, diabetes, and exhibiting symptoms of major organ failure possibly due to cancer. He and Tarzan joined the Black Pine family in 1995. Coby was 30 years old when he died.

Tarzan was wild caught in Sierra Leone when his mother was killed for bush meat. While still very young he was likely sold on the black market and made his way to the U.S. He retired

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from performing at about age 7, then lived with Coby at a private performer's compound in New Jersey until he was about 15 years old. Tarzan and Coby arrived at Black Pine in 1995.

After coming to the U.S., Tarzan spent most of his young life as a circus performer. He did not live like a human, with free access in a home; he was primarily caged, so he exhibits fewer human-like behaviors than some captive chimpanzees. Tarzan also did a lot of photographic work. His face has appeared on greeting cards and calendars.

Tarzan was neutered at about 17 years of age due to frequent displays of aggression that were somewhat dangerous and upsetting to Coby, his roommate. Tarzan still is driven by hormones to create and protect his territorial rights (even though no females are around). Tarzan can be loud and is comparable to a 2-3 year old child in many of his behaviors. He exhibits a very short attention span, and is easily gauged as either happy, sad, or mad.

Tarzan is not often motivated by food or toys. His favorite things are anything reflective, especially mirrors, and people. He tends to walk upright more than most chimps, and somewhat short and bulky compared to others.