

WOODY HARRELSON

January 20, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Madam Secretary and Dr. Collins,

I was pleased to learn from my friends at PETA that the government has shelved plans to send 186 chimpanzees from Alamogordo, N.M., to a laboratory in my home state of Texas, where they would have been used in painful infectious disease experiments. While I thank you from the bottom of my heart for granting a reprieve to these animals, I ask that you extend the same mercy to the 14 chimpanzees who were transferred to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) last year and immediately return them to Alamogordo.

These aging chimpanzees have been imprisoned for their entire lives. They have endured decades of violence and torment, having been used in everything from space experiments to high-velocity seat belt tests. Only in the last few years have they enjoyed bedding, fruit, toys, the touch and companionship of other chimpanzees, and freedom from the knife. Will you please return the 14 chimpanzees at SFBR to these simple pleasures and allow them to continue the rehabilitation that they have more than earned?

Will you let me know your decision regarding this urgent matter as soon as possible? Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Woody Harrelson