

Antonio Carlos Pannunzio
Mayor
Sorocaba, Brazil

23 November 2014

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the United Nations' Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) and its unique alliance of national governments, conservation organizations, research institutions, U.N. agencies and private companies, I am writing to respectfully request that you permit the solitary male chimpanzee at the Sorocaba zoo be transferred to the Great Ape Project (GAP) – Brazil sanctuary in Sao Paulo.

Chimpanzees are highly social animals who require contact and interaction with other chimpanzees to remain healthy. Alone since his long-time mate died three years ago, this chimpanzee – nicknamed “Blackie” – is already estimated at 50 years of age and deserves to live the final years of his life in comfort.

GRASP is committed to ensuring the long-term survival of great apes and their habitat in Africa and Asia, but the welfare of captive apes around the world is also an important part of our work. GRASP supports the transfer of Blackie to the GAP-Brazil sanctuary, and can vouch for the GAP-Brazil sanctuary as a world-class facility.

Please accept GRASP's assurance that this transfer is the right thing to do, and GRASP's commitment to help affect this transfer as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Doug Cress
GRASP Programme Coordinator