



From:

Patrick van Veen, Chair of the Jane Goodall Institute Global

Concerning:

Inspection of the chimpanzees Bally (female, 48 years) and Limbo (male, 28 years) in the Zoo Krefeld, Germany

Date of observation:

12th January 2021

Date of report:

13th January 2021

Introduction

On the 1st January 2020 a fire destroyed the Ape-House in Zoo Krefeld and killed all apes in the house except the two chimpanzees subject of this inspection. At the time of the inspection there is criticism in the media, social media and society, on the holding of the two chimpanzees in the current facilities in the zoo for over a year. Objective of the inspection is getting a better understanding of the health and social condition of both chimpanzees, make an inventory of the holding facility and potential needs and give an opinion on the potential next steps for the mid and long term related to Bally and Limbo.

Notes:

1. Have executed this inspection in my expertise as behavioural biologist, chimpanzee expert, and in my role as expert and member of the research program ChimpanZoo of the Jane Goodall Institute Global. I have not executed this inspection with veterinarian expertise.
2. The inspection is a visual inspection and an observation of behaviours, started the 12th January 2021 at 2 pm.
3. This inspection had not the objective to judge on the role of the zoo or any individual related to the fire on the 1st of January 2020.
4. This inspection does not have the objective to advise on the future plans of the zoo for rebuilding an ape house or facilities.
5. All local Covid19 regulations, that were in place at the moment of the inspection, have been respected.

Condition of the two chimpanzees

Chimpanzees Bally and Limbo look and behave as two healthy chimpanzees. There are no signals of stress, discomfort or illness following the trauma they experienced or due to their current situation.



The only remaining visible signs of the burning are the pale skin tones, the bare skin is lighter than is normal for Western chimpanzees. This is of course not causing any problem to the chimpanzees and only a visible sign of their traumatic experience.

They have a full fur that is covering their body, which is a positive sign, as most time signals of stress and stress related behaviour are shown by bare places on the skin and an unregular fur. Bally demonstrates to be the more confident individual as she approached the mesh fence first when we entered, she also takes as the first the curious position to study the guests entered. Limbo takes at the beginning a more following position. However, after 15 minutes Limbo displays with firm drumming and demonstrating his physical condition. The display directed to the unknown person (me as observer) is a positive behavioural pattern for a male chimpanzee demonstrating his position and confidence.

There are no signs of plucking, rocking, stereotype repeating behaviours or introvert depressive behaviour that can be expected observing chimpanzees that have experienced a traumatic incident, or that can indicate that the current conditions are cruel or damaging.

It is evident that both chimpanzees are attached to each other, where it looks that Bally is the initiator and Limbo follows. Nevertheless, the type of attachment is healthy, they are not constantly in physical contact however they sit, laydown and rest in a close distance. Limbo gives a gentle and a little submissive impression. He is small for an adult male, however with healthy proportions. (Photo 3) The impression of his behaviour and personality is also confirmed by the keepers, this is important to acknowledge for future steps.

It is evident that the long and intensive medical care (more than half a year) and the dedication of the staff have an impact on the behaviour and the current condition of Limbo and Bally. Both chimpanzees are very calm when approached for checks, they demonstrate their fingers and other body parts to the keepers without any signs of physical and psychological discomfort. At this stage I think we need to consider the keepers as a part of their social environment, reassuring them and contributing to the comfort.

It needs to be noted that the zoo is very open about the current situation of the two chimpanzees, entering the visitor's area of the Gorilla enclosure information of both chimpanzees is available including a live video link to one of their enclosures (Photo 1 and 2). I am aware that at this moment this specific information is not public as the zoo is closed due to Covid19 regulations.

Holding facilities

The current two quarters used for housing the two chimpanzees are located in the gorilla building (see Photo 4 for the location). The smaller room is a typical night or sleeping quarter,



with platforms and very well suited for observation, medical training, offering enrichment and check-ups. The larger quarter (See photo 5) has daylight, it is possible to open doors to get fresh air inside, it has climbing structures, playing and resting platforms. The floor is a substrate floor.

Keepers have provided different forms of enrichment and according to their explanation, enrichments is regularly renewed. In my perspective the offered enrichment has a positive impact on the behaviour of the chimpanzees.

The size of both rooms is not according the standard national regulations and we would never advise to use facilities like these for long-term keeping of chimpanzees.

However, in my opinion it is acceptable to have both chimpanzees for over one year in these facilities given the background and circumstances. There is also no urgent need for relocation to bigger facilities. I expect even that the stability is more important then the square metres.

My motivation is:

- Given the medical condition in the first half year / full year after the fire it would not have been responsible to transport the chimpanzees. By keeping them at this location they could receive the care needed and provided by a team they were familiar with.
- The physical condition does not show any signs that the facilities and space are too limited.
- The chimpanzees do not show any signs of stress or trauma.
- There is enough enrichment provided.
- The size of the facilities can be criticized however the general condition of the quarters meet high standards, like substrate floors, natural light and air.

Two points of critics on the current facilities:

- There is no outside enclosure and for the long term it would be required to have this additional space and the opportunity for the chimpanzees to be outside. Nevertheless, I understand that in this time of the year of would not be of additional value.
- The current size does not allow to extend the group at this location. For the future health and welfare of the chimpanzees it is important that the group will be extended. Specially for Limbo I expect that on the longer term the extended social contacts and interactions are important for his welfare. However, the question is if it is necessary to realize this on a short or mid-term.



Advise on the mid- and long-term plans for the chimpanzees.

The individual welfare and health of Limbo and Bally is at this moment more important than finding a short-term solution based on false judgements, pressure of groups or emotions. The stability, close contact to trusted staff and good care is in this stage most important.

Nevertheless, I recognize that the current situation is not a long-term solution for years. I advise to use the time to find the best solution that takes in consideration:

- Limbo and Bally need to stay together, separation can cause new trauma's and would be cruel to both.
- The current role of the staff is important to comfort the two chimpanzees, in any transport and relocation the staff needs to be part of the team and join the chimpanzees for a longer time.
- Introduction of an adult male (Limbo) in a mixed group will be difficult. It could be preferred to add females and young males to the group of these two or an introduction of Limbo and Bally in a female group.
- As I noted Limbo his personality seems to be submissive. In planning and introductions this should be taken in account, he will probably depend on Bally for his position. Further observations and consultation should be recommended.
- We need to take in consideration that there are no visual impacts of the trauma they experienced. However, it is possible that transport, disruption of their current social environment, complex integrations in groups or different care can trigger traumatic experiences again.

If the chimpanzees will stay longer (for more than 6 months) in Krefeld Zoo it is necessary to see what the opportunities are for constructing a safe outside enclosure as additional space. From my perspective and expertise, I think there are opportunities around the current location.

What are the given options for the mid and long term:

1. Keeping the chimpanzees in the current location until there is a new housing (will take at least two years). *This is only acceptable when the current facilities are extended (with an outside enclosure, plus new individuals will be integrated in the group to provide more social contacts.*
2. Keeping the chimpanzees in the current location to find the best option within one year. *This can be acceptable however the current facilities should be extended with an outdoor enclosure.*
3. Relocating the chimpanzees to another zoo and integrate them in a group. *As I described the integration in a group can be problematic and stressful, also given the fact that Limbo is an adult male and Bally an old female. However, this is potentially the best opportunity however with some restrictions. When they stay within the EEP there needs to be an agreement that relocation and integration in the future is restricted.*



4. Relocation to a specific sanctuary, as is suggested by some groups. *I would not support this as there is no plan and proof of best potential care. Relocating them to a location that cannot provide and guarantee a long-term social group for Limbo (as he is the youngest) I cannot support. We need to be aware in this case several zoos can offer better conditions (quality of enclosure, care and social structure) than can be provided in the suggested sanctuary. I acknowledge the role and need of good sanctuaries; however, I do not see it as an option in this specific case.*

Final Note:

I am aware of the pressure to relocate the two chimpanzees to a sanctuary. In my opinion it is important to recognize that discussions and perspectives are mixed and used for the false reasons. Anti-zoo activist use the current situation to make their point, others who have the opinion that Great apes should not be kept in a zoo use this as an example they are right. I understand the mix of emotions, opinions, convictions, egos and interests and I support the need to have an ongoing constructive discussion about the future and the role of zoos in our society. However, as I learned from the founder of our organization, Dr Jane Goodall, in the first place we need always to look to wellbeing and the best interest of the individual. And in that spirit, I have executed my inspection and written this report.

Dalhem 13.01.2021

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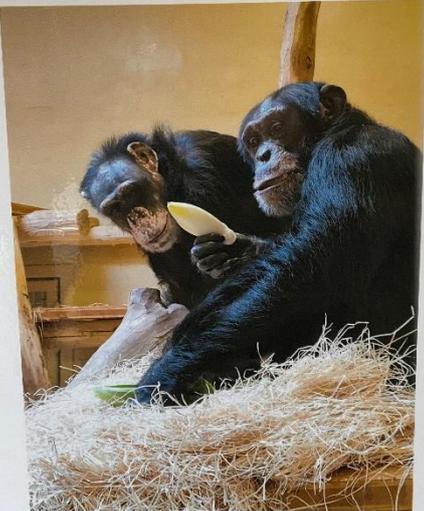
Attachments

Photo 1 and 2 available information in the zoo to follow both chimpanzees.

**Live-Übertragung aus dem Gehege der Schimpansen:
Bally und Limbo geht es gut.**

Unsere Pfleger machen intensives Medical Training mit den beiden überlebenden Schimpansen. Bally und Limbo haben sich mittlerweile vollständig von den Schrecken des Brandes in der Silvesternacht erholt.

Ihnen stehen drei Innengehege zur Verfügung, die sie nach Belieben aufsuchen können. Im Rahmen des Erhaltungszuchtprogramms EEP sollen sie in andere Zoos vermittelt werden. Dies dauert leider viel länger als von uns erhofft.





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Photo 3, Limbo





Photo 4 The location of the chimpanzee quarters marked with a red star in the gorilla house and Photo 5 The larger quarter with substrate floor and windows at the side and roof

