

Fauna Foundation



2024 Annual Report of Activities

Our mission:

- Sanctuary
- Education
- Conservation





Sanctuary Updates

Current residents

Since 1997, Fauna has provided sanctuary for 30 chimpanzees and monkeys – and our care continues still for Sue Ellen, Binky, Tatu, Loulis, and 6 geese. We are small so can cater to each individual. Our caregivers spend time with each chimpanzee noting and attuning to their health, behaviors, and moods. Relationships are critical to social chimpanzees so relationships with caregivers are essential to good care, connection, and felt safety.



Sue Ellen

She turned 58 this year. Sue Ellen continues to amaze. At her advanced age, she gets stronger and stronger. This year she had accessed rooms and spaces using stairs and her growing strength and mobility. She takes long walks down the tunnels to watch the geese and ducks almost every day. Remember this is a chimp who 6 years ago lost the use of her legs!



Tatu

She turned 49 this year and still keeps everyone on their toes. Tatu enjoys spending time with caregivers, often asking them to groom, to look at a magazine, or put on a mask. It has been great to see her interact with Binky and she always has her watchful eye on Loulis.

Like all the other chimps, food is always on her mind, she just signs about it, always. Tatu, like Loulis, continues to tell us with her signs what it's like to be a chimpanzee.



Loulis

He turned 46 this year. Loulis loves playing chase, tickle and getting drinks from the hose and spray bottle. Despite his age he still has great bouts of energy and is almost always ready for a game of chase.

Loulis, like Tatu, continues to tell us with his signs what it's like to be a chimpanzee.

Binky

He turned 35 this year and still seems to have the energy of his youth. Despite the loss of Rachel and Maya, Binky seems resilient and is very social/playful with caregivers. He's always up and energetic when caregivers arrive in the morning, and ready for an intense game of chase. It's been great to see him enjoy time with Tatu and his moments of play with Loulis and grooming with Sue Ellen.



Farm Animals

- For decades Fauna Foundation has provided sanctuary to farm animals, Hundreds lived their lives until the end with compassionate care, natural surroundings, and peace. The 6 domestic geese are the last. Every day caregivers count them and give them two meals a day and open a warm barn on winter days.



Sanctuary Update

Rachel

- Life with elderly chimpanzees and monkeys is filled with times of great joy, and times of sadness. In January we lost our beloved Rachel after illness related to uterine fibroids. Rachel had many friends and had come to Fauna from the laboratory LEMSIP with the first group in 1997. She was 41 when she died and had 27 years of friendship and healing at Fauna. She had been a pet for the first years of her life and was particularly affected by her time in the laboratory, showing symptoms of PTSD throughout her life. We take comfort in knowing that at Fauna she had many good friends and knew she was loved and cherished.
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Sanctuary Update

Maya

- On October 7 caregivers found Maya, Rachel's half-sister had died during the night. She was 47 years old, elderly for a chimpanzee. She'd had a great day, spending time enjoying a beautiful fall day on the island, her passing was unexpected with the exception of her advanced age. She had many lovely moments and made many friends in her years at Fauna. She adored and was adored by Regis, Jethro, Binky, Petra, Sue Ellen and Rachel. She too will be dearly missed.
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Sanctuary Update

Newton

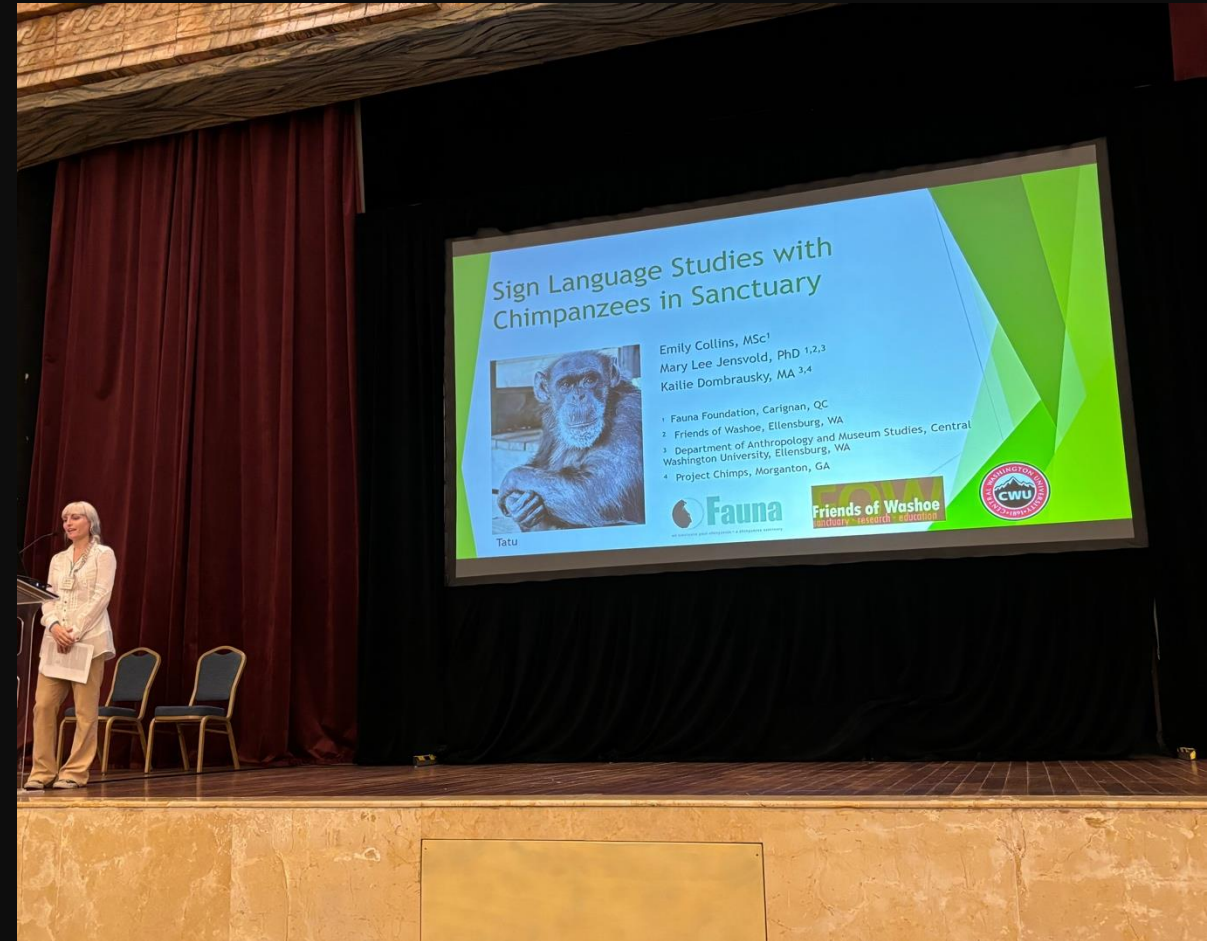
- In summer Fauna's last monkey, Newton died after a suspected brain tumor that had impaired his sight and hearing. He was 24 years old and had come to Fauna from biomedical research. Caregivers were with him constantly until the end.
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Education Conferences

We attended several conferences to learn about chimpanzees and share what we have learned.

- Best Practices and Common Procedures to Promote the Welfare of Captive Non-human Primates in Sanctuary Settings. Roundtable Discussion. American Society of Primatologists. Cancun, Mexico. September 9, 2024.
 - Jensvold, M.L. Professional Quality of Life in Caregivers of Chimpanzees. American Society of Primatologists. Cancun, Mexico. September 9, 2024.
 - Collins, E., Jensvold, M.L., & Dombrasusky, K. Chimpanzee Use of Signs in a Sanctuary Setting. American Society of Primatologists. Cancun, Mexico. September 10, 2024.
 - Advances in Cardiovascular Disease Management and Treatment in Great Apes. The Joint AAZV/EAZWV Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, September, 2024.
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Education Publications

- Dombrowsky, K., Jensvold, M.L., Shaw, H., & Davis, J.Q. (2023). Chimpanzees coordinate interrogative markers to ask questions. *Gesture*, 22, 121-153. doi.org/10.1075/gest.22022.dom
- Jensvold, M.L., Dombrowsky, K., & Collins, E. (2023). Sign language studies with chimpanzees in sanctuary. *Animals*, 13, 3486. doi.org/10.3390/ani13223486
- Johnson, S., Fenton, A., & Jensvold, M.L. (2025). *The three pillars of ethical research with nonhuman primates*. Cambridge



Education Media Coverage

- [Can This Home for Apes and Monkeys Count as a Sanctuary?](#) By Tracey McManus. *Tampa Bay Times*. August 8, 2024.
- Radio Interview with Quaid Hunt. 88.1 The Burg. June 1, 2024.
- [The Challenges of Studying \(and Treating\) PTSD in Chimpanzees.](#) By Tim Brinkhoff. *The Revelator*. April 24, 2024.
- Carol Gigliotti visited Fauna several years ago and included discussion of her visit in her book [The Creative Lives of Animals](#).
- A Quebec French documentary crew [L'OEIL FOU inc](#) filmed at Fauna in June 2023. They visited Fauna and interviewed Dr. Jensvold. The film explores the issues of our relationships with animals and questions our way of living with them.

Education Programs

Classroom presentations

We made Zoom presentations to the following classes:

- Mt Holyoke College Fall 2023 & Spring 2024
- Courtland Park International School May 2024
- Heritage High School December 2024

Internships

- This summer we hosted 2 interns at Fauna. They participated in a research project called A Sign from Space. This project was a collaboration with SETI and Daniela dePaula, an artist. It was to see if the chimps would react to a simulated message from space. This research had been done with humans so this was a follow up. The interns wrote a blog post about their experience.
- We hosted 6 remote interns who are participating in research in collaboration with Friends of Washoe.

Volunteers

- We have a core group of volunteers that help us in the chimhouse and with events. Pant hoots!!

Fauna visits

- On-site public programs at Fauna
- Fauna On-site Public Symposiums June 8 & 9, 2024 and September 28 & 29, 2024.

Online public program

- Fauna hosted online workshop “A Day in the Life of a Chimpanzee Caregiver” that featured a live stream from the chimhouse. This was well received with 61 attendees.



Education

Blogs, social media, & e-news

- Our blog contains articles about advocacy, chimpanzees, conservation, and more.
- We send regular e-news to our subscribers. This is the best way to keep current on Fauna. We won't flood your inbox with email and will share updates on our residents, advocacy, and events. Much of the content in e-news is not shared on social media.
- Check us out in social media. We are very active on Facebook and Instagram #faunafoundation with photos and videos.



Conservation

Bird count nears 160

Our inventory of bird species observed on the Fauna Foundation property has now reached a total of 158 species. The last species to be added to our list are the Marsh Wren, a small rusty-brown bird that inhabits marshland and builds its nests in reeds, the Willow Flycatcher, an insectivore that migrates to Central and South America in the winter, and the Herring Gull, a large gull that is common in North America.

The total of bird species on the property that are assessed to have a special conservation status by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and that are listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) remains at 9. These include the Bicknell's Thrush, Chimney Swift, Eastern Meadowlark and Wood Thrush which are assessed as *threatened* as well as the Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-pewee and Rusty Blackbird which are assessed as *special concern*.

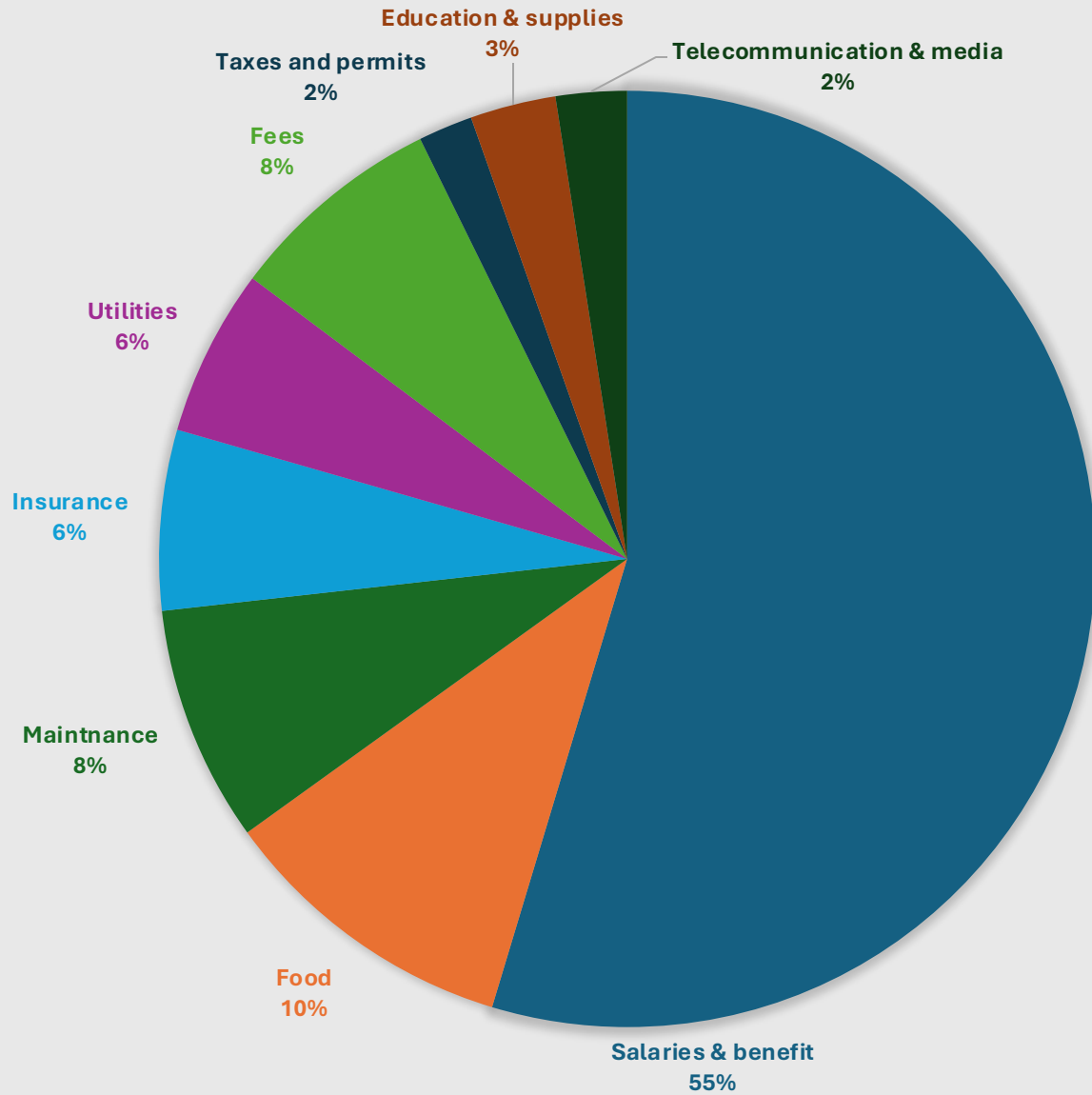


Common Tern (*Sterne pierregarin*)



Marsh Wren (*Troglodyte des marais*)

Expenses



You make it all possible!

Pant hoots of gratitude to our many many generous donors!! Thank you for your kindness.

Grants received: Friends of Washoe * Niagara Action for Animals * Toronto Anti-Vivisection Alliance



Our Team

Laurence Levesque, Chimphouse Supervisor
Kaeley Sullins, Animal Caregiver, ASL Interpreter
Dawna Grow, Animal Caregiver, Board Member
Glee Larsen, Animal Caregiver, ASL Interpreter
Claude Desrochers, Animal Caregiver
Justin Taus Animal Caregiver, Conservancy Outreach
Sharon Bauer Veterinary Technician Assistant
Emily Collins, Animal Caregiver
Ken McAuslan Arborist, Board Member
Trina McKellar, Donor relations, Vet tech
Wayne McKellar, Operations
Gloria Grow, Director & Founder
Richard Allan, D.V.M., Veterinarian
Mary Lee Jensvold, Ph.D, Associate Director

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www.faunafoundation.org

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