

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFER OF CAPTIVE CHIMPANZEES: A CASE STUDY OF RELATIONSHIPS AMONG BEHAVIOR, PERSONALITY, AND “QUALITY OF LIFE”

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Captive chimpanzees are occasionally required to be transferred to another institute as a means of promoting reproduction as well as population control. However, these individuals may experience high level of stress by such drastic changes of environment. We thereby investigated how chimpanzees' behaviors and “Quality of Life (QoL)” change after the moving. A group of four chimpanzees moved from the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Uto (CSU) to Kyoto City Zoo (KCZ) were observed. The group included one adult male (Takashi), two adult females (Koiko and Yoko), and one hand-raised subadult female (Suzumi). Observation periods were between March at CSU, April and June at KCZ in 2009. Data from behavior coding and QoL assessment by caretakers showed a considerable individual difference. Daily behavioral patterns of Takashi and Koiko were relatively stable, and their frequencies of social interaction such as play and display increased as time passed in KCZ. In contrast, scores of QoL in Yoko and Suzumi decreased over time. Suzumi was reluctant to enter the outdoor enclosure for about a month after arriving, and appeared to have the most severe difficulty adjusting to the new environment. Physiological measures such as fecal cortisol concentration and composition of intestinal flora had limited validity for predicting stress response of individuals. Our case report is valuable not only for understanding individual differences in stress vulnerability but also for better management of zoo-housed chimpanzees.

Keywords: behavior, chimpanzees, individual difference, Quality of Life