

**SIGNIFICANCE OF PANTING AND FUNCTION OF PENILE ERECTION DURING MALE-MALE INTRODUCTION IN CHIMPANZEES**

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Panting by chimpanzees to one another during social interactions is an important affiliative gesture. (Goodall, 1968, 1986). Panting is well recognized (van Hooff 1973, Leavens 2009). Its main functions during chimpanzee introductions have been explored (Baker, et al., 2000) but at least one has not been recognized. Captive chimpanzee male-male introductions are risky. It is important for captive managers to interpret the cues given by the animals to proceed safely and successfully. Panting is an acoustically non-vocal sound, which when it occurs mutually and simultaneously between individuals, has a crucial meaning. Panting promotes and likely speeds up affiliative contact. Mutual panting is especially significant during chimpanzee introductions when two or more adult males introduced to each other. Similarly, while penile erection usually occurs during sexual and food excitement (Goodall, 1989; Plooj, 1984, Nishida, 1999), such as in courtship displays (Nadler et al., 1997), it also plays a significant role during dyadic introductions. Penile erection occurs at greetings (de Waal 1982) either during or after panting starts. Penile erection, when it occurs between two adult males during introduction, is a behavior that predictably leads to an eventual positive contact. Panting and penile erection during chimpanzee male-male introductions are fundamental and crucial during group formation. This study is intended to prove the significance of these two behavioral elements.

Keywords: panting, penile erection, communication, captive management