

CHESTER ZOO News

15p
ALL FOR ZOO FUNDS

CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • RECREATION •



GO FOR GOLD

REMEMBER the new Chimp House with the special chocolate 'gold' medallion, featuring Boris, the chief Chimp. From all zoo shops and kiosks.



Three year old Hannah Ormerod presents the traditional bouquet to the Princess.



Senior Ape Keeper, Niall Ormerod passes on 'in-house' secrets.



Director, Dr Michael Brambell (L) and Chairman, Mr Andrew Thomson (R) lead Princess Diana to the Kodak Photo Point on 11th April.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES BRAVES RAIN - AND TO FANFARE - UNVEILS PLAQUE SO THAT £380,000 HOUSE IS NOW OUR CHIMPANZEES'

NEW HOME



Centre piece of the indoor exercise area is the giant climbing frame, with platforms and ropes — so chimps can climb right up to the roof.

Finest in the Country

AFTER almost two years work, and vigorous fund raising, our new Chimpanzee House — and extra space on new 'islands' — is now open and giving a wonderful view of the apes.

There is a 30 foot climbing frame, an artificial termites nest (for chimp use of 'tools' to extract 'honey') and best of all, plate glass viewing windows so that whatever the weather, you'll always see our Chimps.

Their 'islands' have almost doubled in size — now nearly an acre, and the Kodak Photo Point means you can get good pictures — with even the simplest cameras.

To Kodak, The English Tourist Board, Roberts Bakeries and the Chester Chronicle Junior Club — our special thanks — and to everyone else who bought 'bricks' — it has all come true. Come to see!



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(except Xmas Day)

Roberts didn't monkey around when they helped to build my new house!

Thanks to everyone who's helped by collecting Roberts Bread special vouchers!



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Saving endangered barn owls



CHESTER ZOO ACTION

Fifty years ago, we estimate that there were over 250 pairs of barn owls in Cheshire. A special survey over 1982/5, shows that this is down to only 33 pairs.

This is a critical level. There is very great danger that we could lose this beautiful and valuable bird. Climatic changes, changes in land usage, more traffic on the roads, overhead power lines and the use of pesticides are all blamed for the loss — but thanks to the work of the Zoo's bird staff, we are making positive efforts to restore the Barn Owl to Cheshire and the surrounding counties.

Breeding begins

Our programme began in 1986, when we were given two male birds to pair with two females that we received from London Zoo in the previous year. Nine owlets were raised that year — and by working closely with Carole and Paul Hackney who are the local co-ordinators for the Barn Owl Release Scheme and with Malcolm Ingham of Wirral Country Park — these were released back to the wild.

In 1987, we had an excellent year, and 18 birds were released and in 1988, we provided a further 17.



Young owlets are taken from the Zoo for local release.

The owlets are taken from their nest when between five and six weeks old, and given an identity ring. They are then taken to the release site — usually a nesting box in the loft of a barn, and fed until they are able to hunt for themselves.

We can't say that the programme has saved the Barn Owl — yet. But there are positive signs that owls have been seen at sites where they were released and we hope that soon there may be evidence of successful breeding.

The Zoo is proud to be associated with this work, and congratulates the Hackneys on their Royal Society for Nature Conservation Award in 1986.

The wild & wonderful world of Chester Zoo

Capricorn TV have just completed a souvenir zoo video — lasting 55 minutes — available both in popular VHS and Betamax formats. It is a wonderful way to remember your visit. £8.95 — post free from Party Office or at our shops.

Teachers' Information

For the latest Z.E.S.T (Zoo Education Services for Teachers) Pack, please write to Party Officer, Chester Zoo, Chester CH2 1LH.



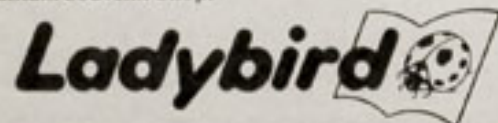
OUR FAVOURITE ZOO CHEWS

99p Pocket guides to animals

We all love the thrill of seeing animals in the zoo and in the wild. This selection of Ladybird books give a vivid insight into the huge variety of wildlife that can be found in Britain and around the world.



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Ladybird Books Limited, Barches Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2NQ



Tribute to Kirkland

Thanks to admirable photographic "detective work" by Dr David Cooke and Miss Jean Dixon — both members of the Zoo's Council, we have been able to publish a selection of the animal photography of the late Eric Kirkland, FRPS. Price £4.50 from the Fountain Shops.

Give them the Zoo!

It is one of those ideas that are so simple that you wonder why it has not been thought of years ago. That's why we launched Zoo Gift Vouchers — value £4 each — that can be bought in our Fountain Shops — or via the post — and can be used for any purchases you want in the Zoo — including entrance, meals or items from the shops.

And at no extra cost, we give you a Greetings Card — just like a Book Token. Just send cheque (or PO) in multiples of £4 to Party Office and we'll do all the rest for you.



CHESTER ZOO GIFT VOUCHER

Valid for admission or ANY purchase in the Zoo.

£4

(Change can be given)

The Oakfield — perfect for your party

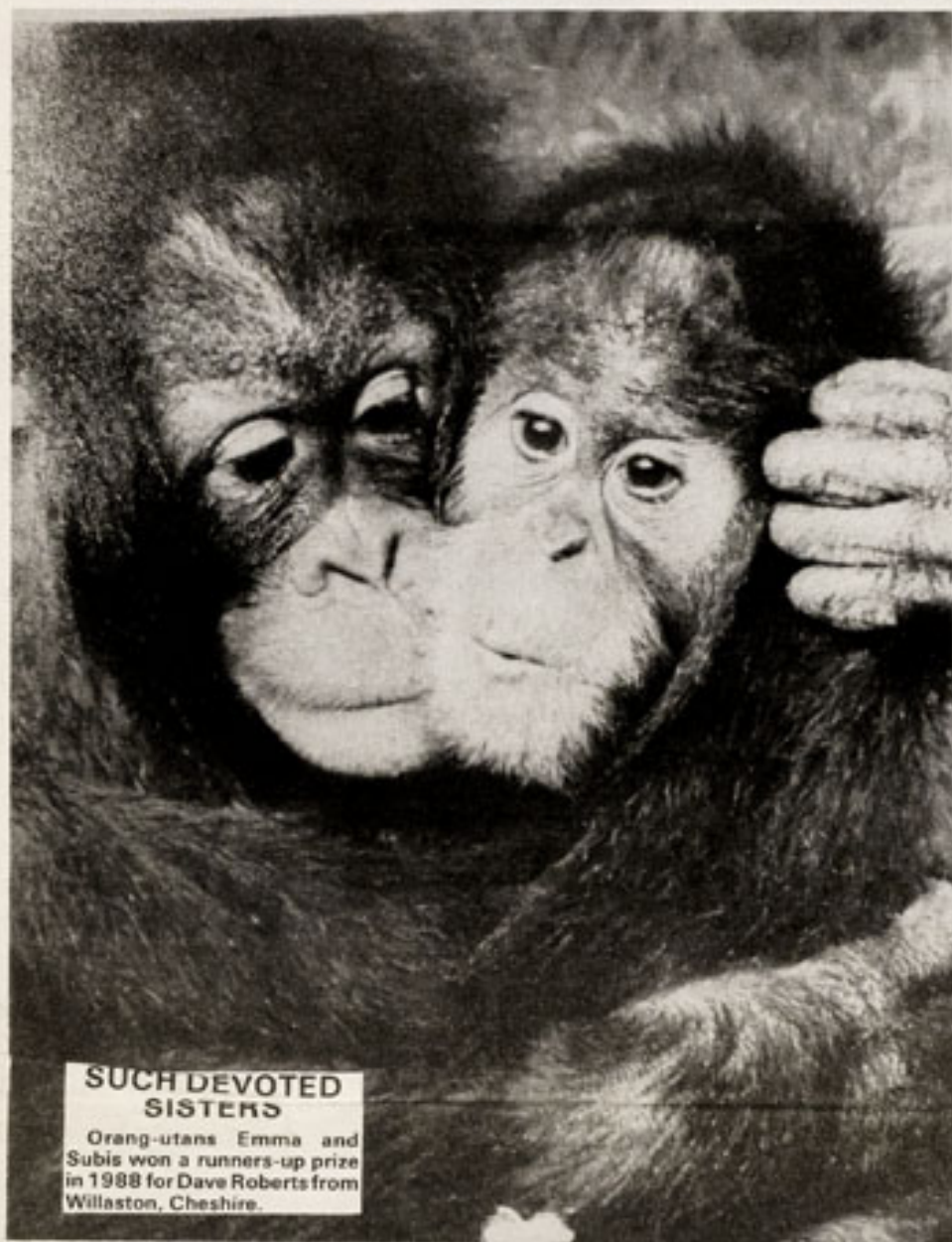
The word is getting around that the Oakfield is a splendid location for a wedding reception — and during 1988, Debbie Cooke in Party Office tells us that there were no less than five receptions there. For 1989, there are three bookings as we go to press. And no wonder — for with formal seating in the restaurant for up to 70, or buffet style for 200 or more, plus the lawns and gardens for superb wedding photographs, the Oakfield offers so much.

We can offer space and privacy for your function, and can arrange whatever menus and facilities you would like. As a first step, consult Debbie Cooke or Lynn Rayner at Party Office. Tel. 0244 380280.



A vintage Rolls Royce, a beautiful bride and a dashing groom in his cavalry uniform — the Oakfield makes a perfect setting.

SNAP UP YOUR PHOTO-PRIZE



SUCH DEVOTED SISTERS
Orang-utans Emma and Subis won a runners-up prize in 1988 for Dave Roberts from Willaston, Cheshire.

£700 worth of prizes for colour prints

Bigger and better — that's our 1989 Zoo Photo Competition. There are more prizes than ever before for visitors who find the colour and excitement of the Zoo makes a perfect photo.

Top prize for the "Photographer of the Year" is a £200 weekend at the new Chester International Hotel, plus the Eric Kirkland Trophy to hold for a year. Runners-up get Certificates and £50 photo vouchers from Ness Photo Labs and Fishwicks — both good friends of the zoo, and Sealand Nurseries have presented a trophy and a £25 voucher for the best garden picture.

There are special awards of zoo tickets and Kodak film and a Junior section too. The theme is "My Favourite Chester Zoo Memory". Pick up your entry leaflet at the zoo or send SAE for details.



TA TO THE RESCUE

Thanks to the volunteers from Birkenhead, Huyton and St Helens from 107 Field Squadron Royal Engineers of the Territorial Army, the flamingos now have a new area within the lemur island lake. Dr Roger Wilkinson, Curator of Birds, has long wanted to split the flock into Caribbean and Chilean — so as to avoid hybrids — and with the Army providing labour and equipment to clear the site, fell trees and position the protective fencing, the project has been a successful "jungle bashing" exercise.

If this sort of part time activity interests you, contact 107 Field Squadron RE (V) on 051-652 3406 during the day — and mention the zoo! Failsforth's 143 Plant Squadron RE (V) will also be working on zoo projects this year.



COATI CAUSES FORECAST CHAOS

Granada weather man — Fred Talbot — managed the forecast from the Zoo, but only just — with an armful of inquisitive Coati to cope with. During the year, we've hosted Fred and the Granada weather team many times — but Coati's forecast chaos!



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I was a bit of a drop-out at school...

David Bellamy's early school career was not a resounding success. But the family owned a set of Britannica and young David looked things up in it.



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NEWCOMERS



CHANG — a seven year old bull elephant joined us from Denmark and soon became a favourite with the staff.

MORE THAN A THOUSAND ADDITIONS

THE ZOO has 572 different species, and 3852 specimens in the collection. During 1988, 161 of the different species bred and reared their youngsters successfully and together we estimate that there were well over 1,000 additional specimens. Even if we don't count the Fish and the Invertebrates — there were 891 Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians bred and reared in the zoo — and that is 15 per cent more than in the previous year.

All these details are in the Zoo's Annual Report for 1988 — but for most visitors the best memories of the collection are the young animals in the enclosures. Also — of course — there are always a number of zoo exchanges — with creatures leaving Chester to go on breeding loan to other collections — and in turn, we receive animals ourselves. It is in this way that the major zoo and wildlife collections in the UK and abroad help each other in the vital work of conservation, and by interchange of stock, make sure that gene pools are maintained.



SENIOR Keeper Alan Woodward with Tweedy the two week old Bama — hand reared in the Children's Farm because its mother had no milk.



A RED Eyed Tree Frog on Herpetologist Keith Brown's thumb — we raised 50 of these in 1988.



ANKOLE Cow and her calf in the Cattle House.

The all American CORN COATED HOT DOG ON A STICK

THE EXCITING NEW HOT DOG TASTE
NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ZOO



ZOO PARTIES

WHAT a great idea for children... there are hats and novelties, and for parties of twelve or more, there's a special Zoo Birthday Cake — with our compliments.

Please contact Party Office, where Debbie or Lyn will give you full details. The telephone number is Chester (0244) 380280 — or on weekdays come to the Oakfield reception.



GROWN UPS TOO!

PHOTO POINT

Look out for these distinctive photo-points around the zoo. A shot from each of these points will make sure you don't miss any of the zoo's major attractions.

Guides, Books, Postcards, Pens, Stamps, Toys, Prints & Pictures, Games, Masks, Caps, Badges, Posters, Films, Batteries and much much more...

The Zoo's shops are at the Fountain, in Jubilee Square, by the Rainbow Lawn and at the Monkey House.

ALL AROUND THE ZOO ENJOY

JUBILEE CAFETERIA
(just by the Tigers) for BRUNCH, LUNCH, TEA, SNACKS & TAKEAWAY TOO

YOU COULD WELL BE LOST WITHOUT OUR SOUVENIR GUIDE
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Juniors saw the famous deer rut at Tatton Park near Knutsford — and enjoyed a good country walk too.

JUNIORS SEE THE ACTION

Junior membership of the Society is the bargain of the year.

We have over 700 Juniors (by which we mean under 18) who enjoy a year-round programme of visits, special events and social activities. Where else could you have the chance (for example) to help a keeper, see the deer rut at Tatton Park, go fossil hunting, walk the Sandstone Trail or cross to Hilbre Island?

You could make plaster casts of tigers' paw prints or visit a trout farm. There's an annual conference and a party too. Juniors receive their own copies of Chester Zoo Life and the present subscription is £5. Most activities are for over 8s (and some for over 12s). Penny Rudd is the Junior Club organiser and can give more details.

There is an application form in the Membership Leaflet. Adult helpers are always welcomed.

THE FEDERATION
of British and Irish Zoos links collections, large and small, whose interests place the welfare and conservation of species as a prime concern. Chester is a founder member.

RYE GRASS OR RHINOS? asks our chairman

ZOO MASTER PLAN FOR 21ST CENTURY

The Zoo has been offered a very substantial sum for a parcel of land adjoining the A41, for a proposed development that will include a food-based supermarket, a hotel and a filling station.

This plan would give the public a new access in — in safety — from the A41, and would provide the zoo with an endowment of several million pounds.

The opportunity is unlikely to occur again until well into the 21st century, when the green belt boundaries are again revised.

Park 'n' Ride

Moving the access to the zoo to the A41 will not only give a better placed entrance, but it will free the local residents of Caughall Road from the heavy traffic of our busy days. A Park 'n' Ride scheme from the new car parks will give the City of Chester an opportunity to relieve its parking problems.

The proposals require a review of the Green Belt boundaries — redrawing them to exclude the 15 acres involved. The Society have made a submission to the Chester Local Plan inquiry that the Zoo's

perimeter would be a more logical boundary to the Green Belt.

Should this proposal fail — says our Chairman, Mr Andrew Thomson — then Chester will have lost a unique opportunity and will be blamed in the future for lack of vision. The choice is stark — he adds — and is, quite frankly, rye grass or rhinoceroses.

Details of the Zoo's master plan are available to members of the North of England Zoological Society.

IT'S WILD

Chester Zoo leaflets, explaining opening times, how to get there and facilities including party meals, special occasions, catering and details of our education services are available on request.

Simply telephone Party Office on (0244) 380250.



TASTE THE MAGIC
Available at all
Zoo Kiosks

Golden Wonder
Wotsits
* MELT IN THE MOUTH TEXTURE
It's Wot it's all about!

SCOUSE MOUSE

by George Nicholas

We echo thanks



Adoptions Secretary, Maureen Allsopp, noticed the Scouse Mouse cartoon in the *Liverpool Echo* — and invited the cartoonist, George Nicholas to lunch. The surprise in the Oakfield was when Maureen presented him with an adoption of a Collared Peccary — almost the creature that he had drawn!

Our links with the Merseyside evening paper have been further cemented with the *Echo* adopting a Giraffe — and the handsome plaque recording the link is now on show by the giraffe exhibit.

We are grateful for all the interest shown by the *Post* and *Echo*. Full adoption details are in our new leaflet, available in the Zoo or sent with an SAE.

Reproduced courtesy of Liverpool Echo.

Your Favourite days out

IN AND AROUND CHESHIRE



The Zoo joins each year with other leading attractions in and around Cheshire to produce a special joint leaflet giving details of the facilities that are available, plus useful maps and "how to get there" information.

Below we give you a "taste" of these attractions — you can get more information and the leaflet from any of them — or by sending a SAE to the Chester Zoo Marketing Office, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester CH2 1LH.

NESS GARDENS

The University of Liverpool Botanic Garden is at Ness, Neston. Open daily (except Xmas Day) from 9am to sunset. There are 62 magnificent acres to enjoy, with sweeping lawns, heather, rock, water and herb gardens.

There are fine views over the Dee and to the Welsh Hills, with a Gift Shop, Tea Room (until September), Children's Playground and Picnic Areas. Admission charge. Free parking. Disabled facilities. Tel. 051-336 2135.



Stapeley Water Gardens

Have a family day out at Europe's largest water garden centre. Enjoy the "Palms", a tropical oasis with exotic palm trees, fish and giant water lilies. There are 40 acres of garden and two acres of shopping ideas.

Open every day from 10am. Admission charges to The Palms, 92 London Road, Stapeley, Nantwich, Cheshire. Tel. (0270) 623860. The Palms (0270) 628628.



Chirk & Erdigg

National Trust Properties

Chirk Castle. Magnificent Marcher fortress. Open daily except Mon/Sats until end Sept, and Sat/Sun in October. Tel. (0691) 777701.

Erdigg Hall, near Wrexham, Clwyd. Unique "upstairs/downstairs" restored house with formal garden and park. Open to end Oct, but check days and times on (0978) 355314. Admission charges.



Chester Visitor Centre

Vicars Lane, Chester. Three minutes from the Dee and city centre. Range of visitor facilities and Tourist Information Centre. Guided tours, gift shops, exhibitions, video theatre, licensed restaurant, picnic areas, bureau de change.

Open from 9am daily. See the "Victorian Experience" — a recreation of Chester in 1897. Tel. (0244) 351609 / 318916.



Cheshire Tourism



Advice on accommodation, attractions, conferences and festivals. Maps and literature available.

Tel. (0244) 603131. Cheshire Tourism, Commerce House, Hunter Street, Chester CH1 1SN. Chester City Tourist Office, Town Hall, Northgate Street, Chester. Tel. (0244) 318356.

The Boat Museum ELLESMERE PORT

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Tatton Park

Complete country estate, alive with history. Georgian mansion, medieval Old Hall, 1930s Home Farm, all set in over 1,000 acres of glorious deer park. Walking, sailing and riding.

Park and gardens open daily. Mansion, Home Farm and Old Hall to October. Admission charge. Gift shop, garden shop, restaurant. Ample parking. Tel. (0565) 54822.



Cheshire Workshops

Candlemakers Burwalsley, nr Chester

Nestling in the Peckforton Hills. Open every day, with free admission and free parking. We are one of Europe's largest makers of sculptured candles.

Children's play area, craft shops and Hayloft restaurant converted from the old granary. A treat for all the family. Tel. (0829) 70401.



An early Victorian "Jacobean" classic, with fine furniture, portraits and panelling. 12 acres of gardens. Refreshments in converted Tudor barn. Gift and plant shops. Open to early October (except Mondays) from 2 - 6pm. June - August, gardens from 12 noon. Tel. (056 585) 353.



Bridgemere Garden World

Twenty-five acres of fascinating plants and gardens with more plants and more varieties than anywhere in Europe. Huge selection of houseplants, garden bookshop, coffee house — recommended by Egon Ronay. Open daily. Admission free but charge for Garden Kingdom. On A51 between Woor and Nantwich, 25 miles from Chester. Tel. (09365) 381/2. Also visit our Wildlife Park — from 10.30am (09365 223).



Jodrell Bank

250ft Lovell Radio Telescope. Shops and restaurant. 35 acre tree park. Open every weekend 2 - 5pm, and daily 10.30 - 5.30 to end October. Five miles from Holmes Chapel on A535. Tel. (0477) 71571. Information only (0477) 71339. Admission charges.

CHESTER ZOO NEWS



Chang drops in

Chang — a bull Indian elephant from Denmark joined the collection last autumn and after crossing the North Sea was hoisted — in his container — over the ditch onto the elephant island. Accepted by Judy, he's now well settled in and becoming a firm favourite.

The Otters at the fountain



Blooming Great

Whatever is happening with the animal collection, and almost whatever the weather, you can always rely on Eric Rudman and his team of gardening staff to provide a magnificent display all the year round. Winners — again — of a Chester-in-Bloom award in 1988, it is the Britain-in-Bloom that's their target this year. All strength to their elbows.

SEVEN WAYS TO HELP US

- 1. Membership** of the North of England Zoological Society. £15 single, £27 husband and wife. Prices guaranteed until end of 1989. Bargain of the year. Ask for leaflet.
- 2. Junior Membership.** An even better bargain if that is possible. Up to age 18. Special activity programme run by Penny Rudd. Ask for leaflet or telephone for details. £5.
- 3. Friends of Education Department Services (FEDS).** Dedicated volunteers who add so much to our zoo enjoyment. Contact Education Dept at the Zoo for more information.
- 4. Adoption.** Add an extra dimension to your love of animals by helping feed and warm them all year round. Shares from £25 - £2,000. Details from Maureen Allsopp. Makes a great gift!
- 5. Sponsorship.** Similar idea — but for companies with an interest in the Zoo. Again — details on request.
- 6. Donations and Legacies.** The Society can match your wishes to a finite project — and since we are a charity, full value is achieved from your gift.
- 7. Just visit us** — and keep on telling your friends and relatives to do so — that's how we can keep the good work rolling onward.



CROESO I SW CAER

And information sheets in French, German, Chinese, Swedish & Finnish too.



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FILMS AND BATTERIES IN ALL OUR SHOPS. PHOTOPOINTS ALL ROUND THE ZOO



WE HAVE THE ZOO CLICKNOLOGY



MAGNIFICO FEAST

AND ALL OTHER FAVOURITES
From every Kiosk, Cafe & Restaurant in the Zoo



Christmas Journey in the Camel House. Watch for 1989 details.

LITTER FREE ZOOS ARE GREAT NEWS

Please help us keep the gardens free of unsightly and dangerous litter — just put it in the litter bins provided everywhere



KEEPERS CORNER

CHIMPANZEE

Chimpanzees are among the top favourites with zoo visitors. Their Latin name is Pan troglodytes, literally a Greek god cave dweller! This name was given to them by an explorer called Blumenbach in 1773, who probably mistook them for cavemen!

FACT: Chimps are very intelligent and have well-developed brains, enabling them to communicate with facial expressions and signals. They can also learn to use improvised tools.

Chimps live in a large social community, similar to our group at Chester Zoo. There's a dominant leader and the rest have their place in the pecking order — depending on intelligence and strength.

FACT: Babies are born after approximately 230 days' gestation. The baby stays close to its mother for two years and is dependent on her until three or four years old.

Chester's oldest chimp is 40-year-old Meg and her first great-grandchild was born on the island in 1986. She has had 17 babies in the zoo! The status of the chimpanzee in the wild is considered vulnerable.

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