

CHIMPANZEES ARE N-O-T PETS

As if any more evidence on this subject were needed, the recent escape and endangerment of a chimpanzee in Kansas City, Missouri, once again drives home the point that it is both cruel and foolish to keep wild animals as pets.

Seizing a rare chance at freedom from his "owner's" house, a 300-lb. chimpanzee ran around the streets, inciting a bit of unnecessary panic in the police and citizens alike. Actually, the primate was in more potential peril than humans were, as the Police Chief stated that *"Police were ready with patrol rifles in case the animal became a danger to people."*

During his half hour of "liberty," the chimpanzee broke a patrol car window (no mention was made if there was any injury to him). Tranquilizer shots were not effective, but his owner eventually caught him in a cage. The primate was reportedly taken to **Monkey Island**, a rescue facility and sanctuary in Greenwood, Missouri.



We certainly hope that this chimpanzee will be allowed to live freely amongst other primates from now on. One can only imagine the loneliness he must have felt, living with humans and being separated from his own kind. How would we feel, were we suddenly held captive in a strange environment, with only non-humans for company?

Story and photo:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/10/19/mis-souri.chimpanzee/index.html?hpt=T2>.