

GAIN: GREAT APE INFORMATION NETWORK FOR BEST CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPTIVE APES IN JAPAN

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Introduction

The Great Ape Information Network (GAIN) is part of the National Bio Resource Project (NBRP) administered by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan. It started in 2002 and had been run by the Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University. GAIN is collecting individual data on all captive apes in Japan for the purpose of promoting non-invasive scientific research, animal welfare and population management. (GAIN; <http://www.shigen.nig.ac.jp/gain>)

Materials and Methods

GAIN has collected historical and current individual data on all apes; chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas, orangutans and gibbons housed in Japan and made this information available on an open-access database. For collecting such information, we have visited zoos and research institutions keeping apes to make personal networks. When an individual dies and the dead body is available for research, GAIN can inform researchers about the samples for use in non-invasive research.

Results and Discussion

According to current data by GAIN, there are 317 chimpanzees, 6 bonobos, 21 gorillas, 46 orangutans and 180 gibbons in Japan, as of April 23rd, 2018. Including historical individuals, data for around 2000 individuals is stored in the GAIN database. Owing to our real-time database and zoos-researchers network, GAIN can provide a variety of information on best care and breeding of apes. Morphological, genetic, reproductive and physiological specialists are included among our collaborative researchers. In this presentation we will also introduce a rare case of a captive chimpanzee's genital swelling during her lactation period.