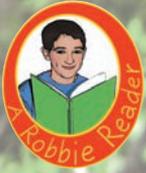


**How To Convince Your Parents You Can...**



# **Care For A Pet Chimpanzee**

Amie Jane Leavitt





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**Care for a Pet Chimpanzee**  
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Care for a Pet Tarantula

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Amie Jane Leavitt, an accomplished author and photographer, particularly enjoyed learning about chimps as she researched this book. She has a great respect for Jane Goodall and hopes that more people will work toward protecting these animals in the wild. Amie graduated from Brigham Young University as an education major and since then has taught all subjects and grade levels in both private and public schools. She is an adventurer who loves to travel the globe in search of interesting story ideas and beautiful places to capture on film. She has written dozens of books for kids, has contributed to online and print media, and has worked as a consultant, writer, and editor for numerous educational publishing and assessment companies.

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**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** The facts on which this story is based have been thoroughly researched. While every possible effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher will not assume liability for damages caused by inaccuracies in the data, and makes no warranty on the accuracy of the information contained herein.

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Words in **bold** type can be found in the glossary.





## Chapter One

# 1



## SO, YOU WANT A PET CHIMPANZEE?

Chimps. You've seen them in movies. You've read about them in books. You've visited them at the zoo. You've learned about them in school.

I'm sure you've thought at least once about getting a chimpanzee as your very own pet. Haven't you? If you're like most kids, and adults too for that matter, the answer is most definitely yes! Who wouldn't want a pet chimp, anyway?

Chimpanzees are cute animals. They look almost like humans, except they are covered with long, black hair. Chimps sometimes walk on their back legs. Most animals have to use all four of their legs to move from place to place. Chimps also have hands and feet and can use them just like people do. Another thing that makes chimps look a lot like humans is their faces. They have big brown eyes. They have ears that look just like ours, except

bigger. Chimps can even let you know when they are happy or sad by the look on their faces.

Chimps also seem to be a lot of fun to play with. They can climb trees and jump. They can hold your hand and walk down the street. They can build stuff with their hands. Not many animals can do this. Some chimps even like to play tricks on people, dress up in funny costumes, and laugh. At least that's what they show in the movies.

Chimps have hands that look just like human hands. They have **opposable** (uh-POH-zuh-buhl) **thumbs**. This means that they have thumbs that can move in toward the fingers. This kind of thumb helps chimps, and people, grab and hold things. Most animals do not have opposable thumbs.

Since chimps have hands similar to ours, it would probably be easy to feed a chimp. You could sit right next to your pet chimp and eat a sandwich together for lunch. This would be a lot of fun. How many pets can you do this with? Other than chimps, I don't think there are any.

So, you think you're ready for a pet chimpanzee? Well, the first thing you need to do is learn more about this animal. You can't bring an animal into your house until you know all about it. What will your pet chimp like to eat? How much

sleep will it need to get?  
Will you be able to teach  
it any tricks?

Another thing  
you have to do before  
you get a pet is  
convince your parents  
that it's a good idea.  
They may not think  
a chimp would make  
the best pet for their  
family. You need to  
learn all about the  
animal so that you can  
help your parents with  
their decision.

By the end of this  
book, you'll be able  
to decide for yourself whether or not a chimp is the  
best pet for you and your family. So, let's get started.  
Turn the page and follow me into the wonderful  
world of chimpanzees.



## *fun* **FACTS**

**Did you know that a chimpanzee went into space before a human did? Ham, a chimp from West Africa, was the first chimpanzee to orbit the earth. He launched into space in the Mercury Redstone Rocket on January 31, 1961.**

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