
Memorandum of Agreement Iowa State University and Great Ape Trust of Iowa

Purpose

This Memorandum of Agreement sets forth a conceptual framework to establish a long term inter-institutional collaborative relationship between Iowa State University (ISU) and Great Ape Trust (The Trust). This Agreement is based upon the shared scientific and ethical values of primate research and recognizes the multiple benefits to both parties of this Agreement.

Goals of the Agreement

1. To formalize the commitment by The Trust and ISU to create a world-class center for primate studies.
2. To elevate the scientific studies of primates to understanding the origins and future of culture, language, tools, and intelligence through increased collaboration between ISU and The Trust along with other colleges and universities.
3. To apply knowledge acquired through the studies of primates for the improvement of humanity and all animals.
4. To help students and others learn the methods of scientific inquiry into primate behavior and understanding.

This Agreement encompasses three broad missions central to primate studies

1. Discovery of new knowledge
 - Serve as a mechanism to bring scientists from ISU and The Trust together with researchers from other colleges and universities to develop high priority and high-impact research on great apes surrounding the development and processes of culture, language, intelligence, and learning.
2. Outreach to stakeholders and citizens
 - Develop joint educational programs that emphasize the role of humans in the natural environment, including conservation of biodiversity.
 - Emphasize our moral obligation to protect all species, especially the endangered great apes, whether in their natural environment or in captivity.
3. Learning, student development and preparation of future scientists
 - Provide students with valuable laboratory and field experiences by allowing them to participate in research with great apes under the direction of The Trust and ISU faculty.
 - Develop a proposal for an Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Primatology at the Masters and PhD levels.

Benefits of this Agreement to both The Trust and ISU

1. It will immediately elevate the state of Iowa's commitment to great ape research and the quest for new knowledge that is applicable to all animal life.
2. It will explain the ethical and moral imperatives to pursue the profound science inherent in comparative cognition research.
3. It will elevate the importance of our shared mission beyond the customary "endangered species" motivations to include conservation of biodiversity.
4. It will recognize the unique caliber of facilities available only in Iowa to enable this research that has potentially global impacts.
5. Through ISU and The Trust leadership, this Agreement embraces the potential for global collaborations to magnify the multidisciplinary approach requisite for maximum progress in primate research through Iowa colleges and universities, national and international universities, and institutes.
6. This unique arrangement will assist Iowa in becoming the world leader in primate studies that will attract additional students, faculty and extramural funding.
7. This Agreement will facilitate private fund-raising efforts as well as attracting public research funding for primate research and to ensure long term stability of the longitudinal research conducted by The Trust and ISU.

Implementation and management of the Agreement

The Implementation and Management Team of this Agreement includes representatives from The Trust and ISU. This team will be responsible for proposing the platform for development of the research agenda and curriculum to achieve the objectives outlined in this Agreement. The Implementation and Management Team has the authority to appoint ad hoc committees to address specific initiatives and activities, but final approval is retained by the team.

Signatories to this Agreement

Ted Townsend
Founder & Chairman
Great Ape Trust of Iowa

Date

Gregory L. Geoffroy
President
Iowa State University

Date

Elizabeth Hoffman
Executive Vice President & Provost
Iowa State University

Date

Michael B. Whiteford
Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Iowa State University

Date