

M.C. Randolph and W.A. Mason. Effects of Rearing Conditions on Distress Vocalizations in Chimpanzees.

Q 54

These results clearly demonstrate that wild-born chimpanzees produced a higher level of distress vocalizations than socially-deprived animals tested in the same situations, thus confirming the earlier findings of Menzel, Davenport and Rogers. It was also shown that the level of distress vocalizations among wild-born animals was influenced by pain, by the presence or absence of a stimulus-person, and by its proximity and familiarity. These findings indicate that for the wild-born chimpanzees the particular test situations were relevant to vocal activity and were differentially effective. The same conclusion does not apply to the deprived animals, of course, since they seldom vocalized and when they did their vocalizations were not clearly related to the specific test conditions.

1. Menzel, E.W. Jr; Davenport, R.K. Jr. and Rogers, C.M: Effects of environmental restriction upon the chimpanzee's responsiveness in novel situations, J. comp. physiol. Psychol. 56: 329-334 (1963)

Ref. Chimpanzees

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From earliest infancy, throughout childhood, and probably beyond, vocalization is an important channel through which the young chimpanzee communicates with its mother. Two sounds, whimpering and creaming, have a special significance. These responses characteristically occur when the infant is frightened, injured, or otherwise distressed, and they usually have an immediate and compelling effect on the mother, causing her to approach her child, to retrieve it, and to render whatever aid or comfort is appropriate and within her capabilities. Many examples of the 'emergency' character of the whimpering and screaming can be found in a recent account of mother-infant relations by Jane Goodall.¹

1. van Lawick-Goodall, J. Mother-offspring relationships in free-ranging chimpanzees. In:

Morris, D, (Ed.), Primate ethology, p. 287-346 (Aldine Publishing Company, Chicago 1967).



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