



A FOND FAREWELL

NO AMOUNT OF FOOD or enrichment ever seemed quite enough for Kitty. The sweet-faced, 51-year-old chimpanzee would load up her hands and feet, trying to carry as many treats and toys as possible back to her favorite spot at the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch. “She would often carry so much that she could barely climb or walk,” remembers primate caretaker Amanda Gray.

Kitty certainly deserved everything she could carry and then some: Captured from the African wild around the age of 10, she was forced to spend her next 25 years in a laboratory breeding program before finally being retired to Black Beauty Ranch in 1997. There, Kitty became a beloved face of The HSUS’s campaign to get chimpanzees out of laboratories while emerging as one of the ranch’s most iconic animals.

Kitty died peacefully Dec. 6, with her beloved

companions Lulu and Midge by her side.

“Kitty’s strength has always been inspiring, but her ability to forgive was astounding,” says lead primate caretaker Rebecca Cisneros. During her years in the lab, Kitty gave birth to 14 babies, all but four of whom were taken from her. “After so many years [at the] research facility, she was still willing to trust her caretakers. Once she gave you her trust, she would open up and reveal her gentle soul and glorious humor.”

Kitty spent her final years making elaborate nests of blankets, boxes, hay, and stuffed toys, using her brilliant mind to disassemble any item given her, or just lounging with her best friend Lulu or playing with Midge. When Lulu was recovering from a stroke, Kitty was by her side, delivering snacks and magazines. “She was a mother, a leader, a best friend, and a role model who touched so many lives,” says Cisneros.

’TIS THE SEASON

Each spring, concerned citizens bring thousands of baby wild animals into HSUS-affiliated care centers, where staff and volunteers work around-the-clock to keep them alive.

But often these animal lovers are actually taking babies away from nonthreatening situations or from parents who are nearby gathering food. Cape Wildlife Center director Deborah Millman says wildlife rehabilitators often call this “kidnap with intent to rescue.” This happens, she says, “when well-meaning, compassionate people believe they are doing the right thing.”

Unless there is imminent danger, such as cars or a predator, care center staff say it’s best to first observe the situation from a distance. A baby’s parents



might soon return, or he might be a fledgling, learning to fly from the ground up. Before taking action, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or animal control officer for assistance. Emailing a photo might help.

Educating the public about baby animals is a top priority at the South Florida Wildlife Center. “Our goal is to admit only those babies truly orphaned,” says executive director Sherry Schlueter, “and to ensure that those with parents are safely reared by their parents in the wild, where they belong.”

FOR MORE tips on keeping wildlife safe in spring, turn to p. 34.

YOUR CARE CENTERS

*Operated by HSUS affiliate The Fund for Animals

*CAPE WILDLIFE CENTER
4011 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02637
fundforanimals.org/cape

*CLEVELAND AMORY
BLACK BEAUTY RANCH
12526 County Road 3806
Murchison, TX 75778
fundforanimals.org/blackbeauty

*DUCHESS SANCTUARY
1515 Shady Oaks Lane
Oakland, OR 97462
fundforanimals.org/duchess

*THE FUND FOR ANIMALS
WILDLIFE CENTER
18740 Highland Valley Road
Ramona, CA 92065
fundforanimals.org/wildlifecenter

SOUTH FLORIDA
WILDLIFE CENTER
3200 SW 4th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
southfloridawildlifecenter.org