

NOT SO FUN FACTS



Every minute, every day an area equal to six football fields of Indonesian forest disappears.

Orangutans in the entertainment industry do not have social security or pensions to fall back on when they have to retire. Their former trainers and owners do not provide for their needs once they are too old to bring in money.

Since small orangutans are easier to handle in the entertainment industry they keep breeding orangutans in captivity in order to keep the supply of babies available. After taking them from their mother and using them for our entertainment the orangutans are then set aside when they become too large to handle usually kept in cages too small for them.

Orangutans used in the entertainment industry are torn from their mothers when born, kept in small cages on the set with nothing to entertain them for enrichment of their lives but forced to perform and "entertain" people many times a day. Their former owners regrettably do not provide them retirement income when they become too large to handle and are turned over to the Center for Great Apes sanctuary in Florida.

Approximately 1 out of 6 orphaned orangutans are fortunate enough to be rescued.

Nearly 1,000 orphaned orangutans are in rescue and rehabilitation centers.

Just like humans, orangutans can catch malaria from mosquitoes and even die from the disease.

Orangutans have lost approximately 80% of their habitat in the last 20 years.

Approximately 1/3 of the wild population of orangutans died during the fires of 1997 and 1998.

There were about 20,000 orangutans in Borneo in 1996 and there are approximately 12,000 to 15,000 orangutans in Borneo now with approximately 4,000 to 6,000 in Sumatra at this time.



If this rate of decline continues, orangutans in the wild will be extinct in approximately 10 years.

The human population of Indonesia has grown from 10 million people at the beginning of the century to over 200 million people at this time.

When creating plantations it is common to first burn the land. These fires often spread uncontrollably and orangutans are burned to death having no chance to escape.

Poachers sell infant orangutans as exotic pets.

These baby orangutans are often placed outdoors in small wooden cages or chained to poles where they are exposed to the elements such as wind, rain and sun.

Poachers eat and sell the flesh of adult orangutans.

Illegal logging and fires are making the native habitat rainforests of the orangutans disappear at an unsustainable rate.

When the rainforest is cut down or burned, orangutans are often forced to enter plantations in order to find food where humans kill or capture them.

In Asia there is a big market for orangutan babies as pets.

In both Indonesia and Malaysia there is great prestige to be able to afford to have a captured wild animal in your home.

Many of the people who keep orangutans as pets are the very people who should be enforcing the law.

Orangutans are often smuggled to other countries in the large freighters loaded with the very timber that was once their home and many die en-route.

Illnesses, stress, depression and death are typical of captive orangutans.

