

Oliver the Chimp

Oliver the chimpanzee was considered a human-chimp hybrid due to his unusual appearance and his human-like behavior. He would walk upright like human beings, was habitually bipedal, preferred human company rather than chimps, smoked cigars and loved to mix drinks and that instantly gave him celebrity status. Oliver appeared to be more intelligent and acted more human than other chimps. Over 26 million people paid to view Oliver during a tour in the 1970s.



For over two decades, evolutionists speculated that the unusual chimp might possibly be a missing link and proof that man evolved from apes. Was this chimp living proof of a half-ape and half-man as many believed? For years, **rumor circulated that Oliver had 47 chromosomes** and represented a biological amalgam between man and ape. Although many people hoped this was a missing link, genetic testing proved otherwise.

Ending decades of speculation that he represented some kind of missing link, genetic testing has shown that Oliver the chimp is just that—a chimp. It turns out the freak-show attraction is no freak, at least genetically. "He's not a human-chimp hybrid. **His chromosome number is 48**, which is a normal chimp karyotype," said Dr. David Ledbetter, a geneticist at the University of Chicago who analyzed Oliver's chromosomes. Human beings have 46 chromosomes. Ledbetter re-examined the chromosome studies done two decades earlier in Japan. "That data was fairly clear. So **the report of 47 chromosomes was either a misinterpretation or a purposeful misrepresentation.**"