# A Gorilla Sulks in a Mall as His Future Is Debated

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| Vocabulary**Animal rights advocates** (noun): people who fight for animal rights.**Picketing** (verb): to protest a business or building by standing for long periods of time or blocking entrances.**Tedious** (adjective): long, slow, or dull.**Reacclimation** (noun): the act of getting used to an environment or climate again.-- to adapt.  |

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**TACOMA, Wash., Oct. 16—** A 500-pound gorilla named Ivan sat staring at shoppers from a concrete cell at the B & I Shopping Mall. This has been his home for 26 years. He scratched his matted hair and wandered over to a dim corner.

"We used to bang on the window and he'd bang back," said Donna Wetmore, a Tacoma resident. "But now he just sits there and looks sad. He should be in a zoo with a girlfriend."

Nearly everyone has an opinion about what is best for Ivan. His owner had decided to keep him in the mall, but **animal rights advocates\*** disagree with this decision. They want the gorilla moved to a zoo where he can smell grass for the first time in almost three decades and meet other gorillas.

**\*animal rights advocates:** people who believe animals should have rights, just like people do

The shopping center went bankrupt in November. A judge will decide what will happen to the 200,000-square-foot mall on October 26. However, the judge will not decide what will happen to Ivan when the mall closes.

**Summarize the first section in 1-2 sentences:**

Since 1975 the owner of Ivan and of the mall, Ron Irwin, has refused to send the gorilla to a zoo. He stated that the stress of moving from the mall to a zoo could kill him.

"He's probably the healthiest gorilla in America," Mr. Irwin said recently. "Moving him across the country would kill him. Nobody seems to care about that."

But it seems that Mr. Irwin might have changed his mind. He now says that it may be best for Ivan if he goes to a zoo. "It's time," he said. He also stated that he would meet with gorilla experts to discuss Ivan's future.

**Summarize the second section in 1-2 sentences:**

The problem is that the Tacoma zoo and other zoos in the area do not have space for him. Zoos farther away, like the Bronx Zoo and zoos in Dallas, Atlanta and Washington, have expressed interest in Ivan. Ivan is a western lowland gorilla and is a member of an endangered species. Now 29 years old (gorilla mid-life), Ivan is in good physical shape. If he goes to a zoo, he could breed with female lowland gorillas who are also in **captivity**.

"We will never be able to take another gorilla out of the wild," said David Towne, director of the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle. "So his contribution as a wild gorilla is significant to the gene pool." Captured in 1964

Ivan and six other gorillas were captured in the Congo in 1964. They were sold and transported to American businesses. All of the gorillas died except for Ivan. Ivan spent his first couple of years in this country in the home of a mall employee, being treated like a member of the family, Mr. Irwin said. Ivan was transferred to the mall when he began destroying household items and became too **rambunctious** to stay in the house.

In the late 1980's, the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, an animal rights group based in Lynnwood, Wash., began **picketing\*** the mall and calling for Ivan's transfer to a zoo, saying that it would be a humane act that would benefit science.

**\*picketing:** to protest a business or building by standing for long periods of time or blocking entrances.

**Summarize the third section in 1-2 sentences:**

The animal society sued Mr. Irwin in March. They claimed he was using Ivan, an endangered species, to make money and benefit himself. Mr. Irwin argued that the Endangered Species Act should not apply to Ivan because he was captured before the law was passed in 1973.

If Ivan's transfer to a zoo is delayed for any reason, the animal rights group says they will go to Federal District Court and ask that the gorilla be removed from the mall and taken to the zoo.

Mr. Towne of the Woodland Park Zoo said that moving to a zoo would be a challenging transition for Ivan. Ivan's only contact with tropical vegetation has been a mural of a jungle in his cell. While the gorilla appears to be emotionally stable, moving him to a zoo might be traumatic, Mr. Towne said.

But Ron Kagan, director of the Detroit Zoo, has visited Ivan several times. He said the rewards of moving the gorilla outweighed any risks.

"Gorillas are incredibly sophisticated and complex social mammals," Mr. Kagan said. "They're just like humans. They need companionship. Leaving him in a concrete cell is like leaving him in prison."

**Summarize the entire article in 1-2 sentences:**