

# Orangutan Mothers



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**Mothers and babies have a very close relationship.**

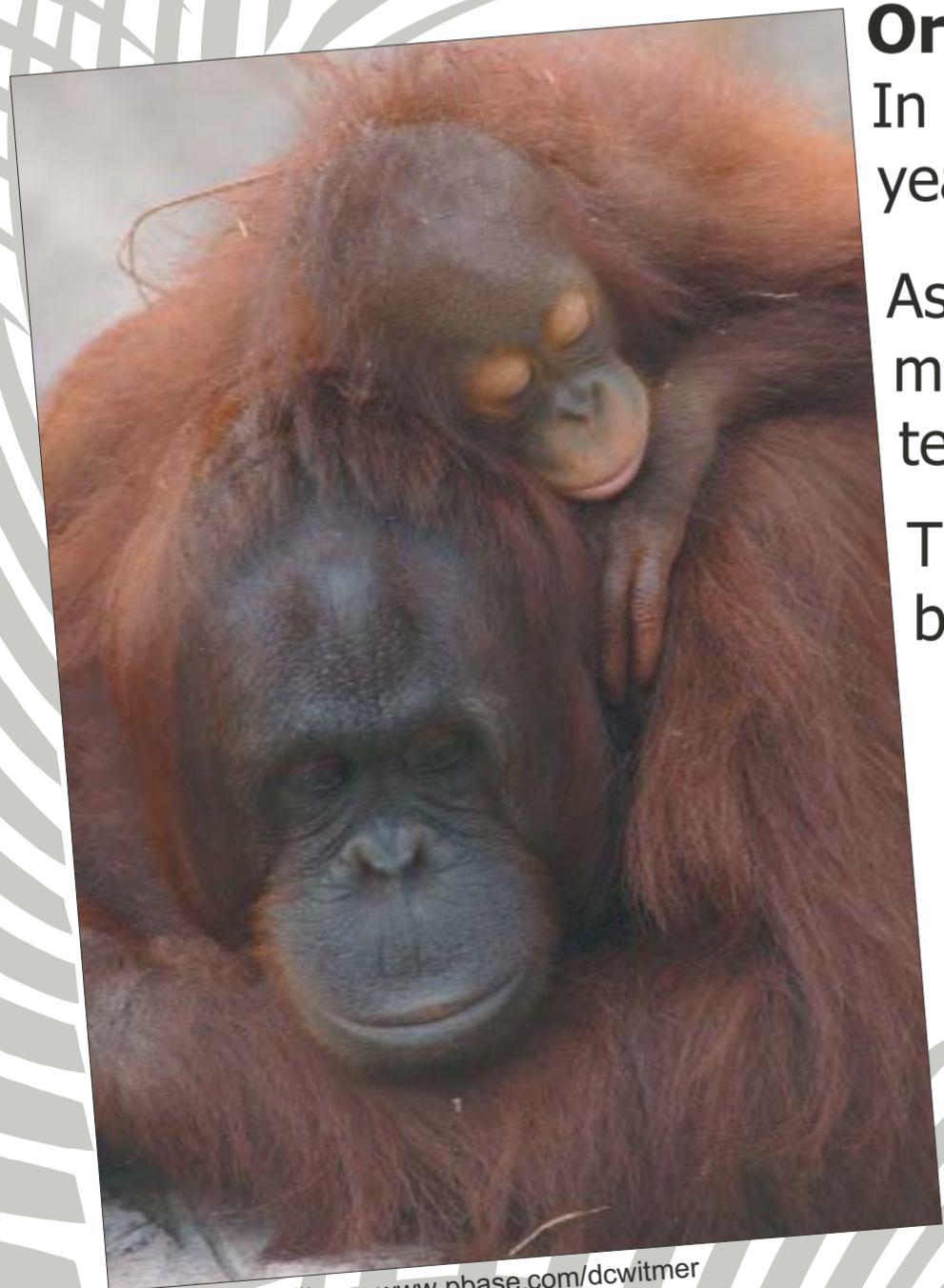


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**Orangutans have the longest childhood of the great apes.** In the wild, orangutans stay with their mothers until they are about 8 years old or older.

As solitary animals, they don't have a troop around to give them the many lessons of finding fruit, building nests and other survival techniques.

The mother teaches them everything about survival in the forest before they set out on their own.

**Females are pregnant the same length of time as humans - nearly 9 months.**

They only give birth about once every 8 years and so have only 4 to 5 babies in a lifetime. This is why orangutan populations are very slow to recover from disturbance.

**Sadly, many orangutan mothers are killed every year in Indonesia so that their babies can be sold illegally as pets. Many mothers are killed as their rainforest homes are destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations leaving hundreds of helpless orphans.**

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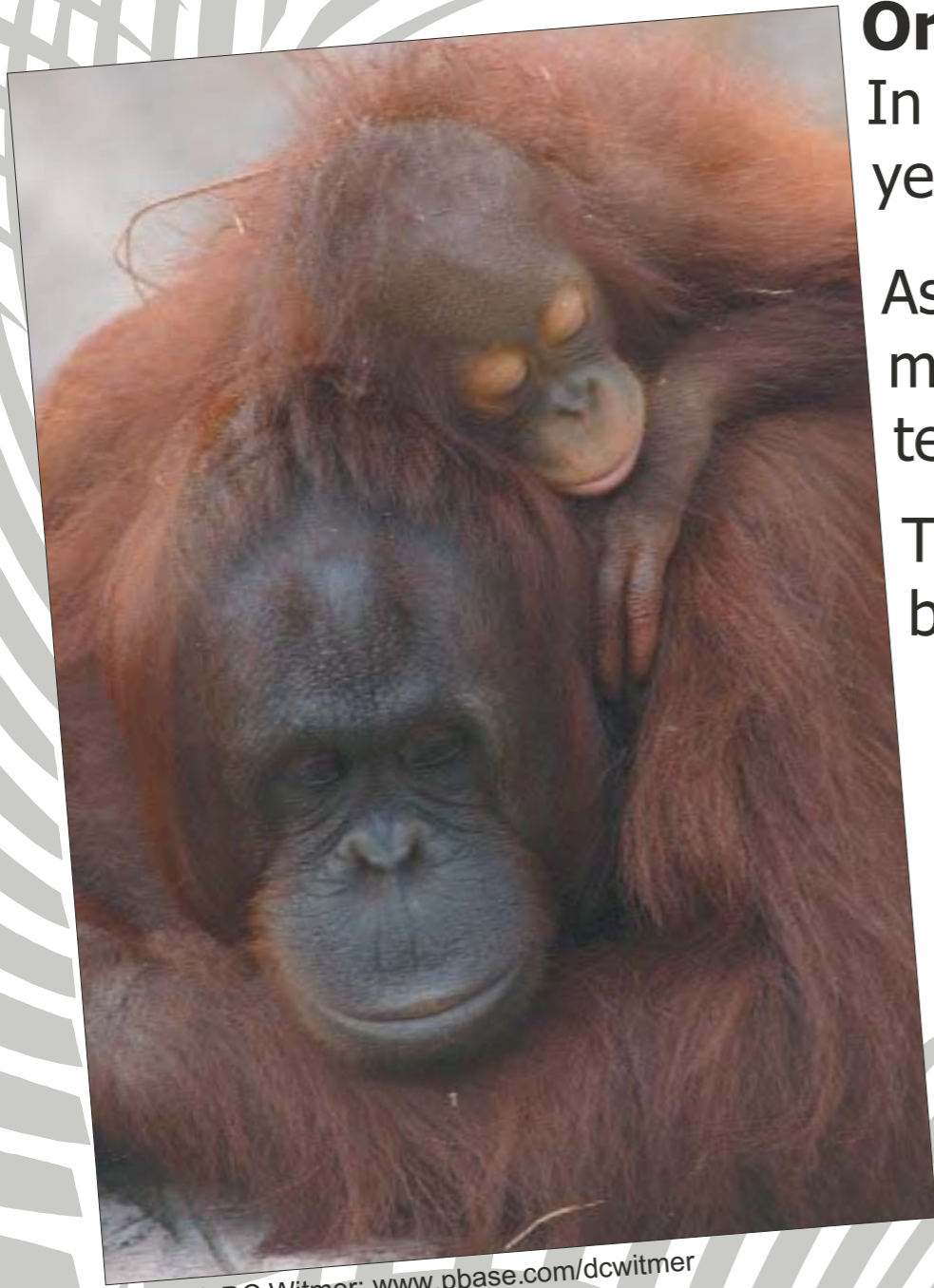


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