



May 30, 2014

Center for Great Apes
Wauchula, FL
Patti Ragan, Founder

Brian Colopy
Kalamazoo Growlers
251 Mills St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49048
via email: brian@growlersbaseball.com

Chimpanzee Sanctuary
Northwest
Cle Elum, WA
JB Mulcahy, Co-Director

Dear Mr. Colopy,

Chimp Haven
Keithville, LA
*Cathy Spraez,
President and CEO*

I'm writing on behalf of the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA), a coalition of professional primate sanctuaries in the United States and Canada. The mission of NAPSA is to advance the welfare of captive primates through exceptional sanctuary care, collaboration and outreach.

Chimps, Inc.
Bend, OR
Lesley Day, Founder

It's come to my attention that the Growlers are hosting an unfortunate "monkey rodeo" event coming up in June. As experts in the field of primate care, we respectfully suggest that you drop this archaic event. While it may seem amusing on the surface, the monkeys used in these spectacles are poorly treated. Although the records of many monkey rodeo operators are generally less than stellar, and training and housing conditions can be incredibly stressful (and often abusive), the simple fact that they are forced to dress up and perform on cue in a terribly unnatural situation is reason enough to cancel the event. They belong in true sanctuaries where they can be free to interact with their own kind and express natural behaviors in a safe and naturalistic environment. I'd be happy to provide you with sample professional standards of care for capuchin monkeys for comparison.

Cleveland Amory Black
Beauty Ranch
Murchison, TX
*Noelle Almrud,
Director of Animal Care*

In addition, there are public safety and liability risks with these sorts of events, not to mention the possibility of negative publicity from fans and the media if you choose to continue with the event. I hope you'll consider taking the high road here.

Fauna Foundation
Quebec, Canada
Gloria Grow, Founder

Jungle Friends
Gainesville, FL
Kari Bagnall, Founder

I'd welcome the opportunity to talk with you in more detail about these events – feel free to reach me at sarah@sanctuary-alliance.org or 509.260.0770.

Primate Rescue Center
Nicholasville, KY
April Truitt, Founder

With thanks,

*Sarah Baeckler Davis
Executive Director*

Sarah Baeckler Davis, JD
Executive Director

cc: Anne Dolan, WWMT Newschannel 3 *via email: adolan@sbgstv.com*
Carrie M. Tishhouse, Tishhouse Electric *via email: carrie@tishhouse.com*