



Center for Great Apes  
Wauchula, FL  
*Patti Ragan, Founder*

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

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

Chimps, Inc.  
Bend, OR  
*Lesley Day, Founder*

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

Fauna Foundation  
Quebec, Canada  
*Gloria Grow, Founder*

Jungle Friends  
Gainesville, FL  
*Kari Bagnall, Founder*

Primate Rescue Center  
Nicholasville, KY  
*April Truitt, Founder*

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*Erika Fleury*  
*Program Manager*

October 20, 2015

Alachua County Fair  
PO Box 35  
Dade City, FL 33526  
*(Emailed; AlachuaFair@gmail.com)*

Dear Alachua County Fair Directors,

We write to you in response to the Alachua County Fair's plans to include The Amazing Rainforest Experience, which involves performing monkeys (and other exotic animals.) As experts in the field of primate care, we respectfully ask that you reconsider this event – for the good of both the monkeys and public perception of the Alachua County Fair.

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is a coalition of eight of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for over 600 primates, many of whom were formerly used in entertainment. We see how monkeys raised to entertain are forever damaged by the work forced upon them, and we look forward to the day when such archaic practices are no longer permitted.

Attached is NAPSA's Position Statement on performing primates so you may learn why performing monkey shows are such harmful and cruel events.

The Lake County Fair in Indiana recently experienced the negative publicity that performing monkey shows can bring to an otherwise successful event. Increasingly, corporations and other organizations are forswearing the usage of primates to entertain. The Alachua State Fair would be wise to update its programs to account for this shift in public interest.

Sincerely,

Erika Fleury  
Program Manager



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## **Advocacy Position Statement Performing Primates**

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is opposed to the use of trained primates for entertainment. As experts in the field of primate care, we respectfully ask the public not to support public events featuring trained monkeys and apes.

While such performances may seem amusing on the surface, the primates used in these spectacles are poorly treated. Although the records of many animal rental operators are generally less than stellar, and training and housing conditions can be incredibly stressful (and often abusive), the simple fact that primates are forced to dress up and perform on cue in a terribly unnatural situation is reason enough to avoid such events.

The entire lifetime of a primate is negatively affected when they are exploited for entertainment. As infants, they are removed from their mothers at a very early age – years before they would naturally separate. They are trained using methods that intimidate and inhibit their innate behaviors. Even then, the intelligence and unpredictable nature of these wild animals means that they often can only be used for a short time as actors before they become too independent, unmanageable, and dangerous. Primates are then deemed useless to the entertainment industry, and sold into situations that range from uncomfortable to downright harmful. The lucky ones are able to spend the remaining years of their life in a primate sanctuary.

NAPSA was founded in 2010 by the directors of seven of the leading chimpanzee sanctuaries on the continent. In our member sanctuaries, we care for over 600 primates, many of whom were formerly used in entertainment. We see how primates are forever damaged by the work forced upon them, and we look forward to the day when such archaic practices are no longer permitted.

For more information:

["Apes in Media and Commercial Performances," Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#)

["Bengals Shocking Half-Time 'Cowboy Monkey' Has a Cruel History," The Dodo](#)

["Chimpanzees in Entertainment," ChimpCARE](#)

["Great Apes in Entertainment," Jane Goodall Institute Australia](#)

["Impact of Visual Context on Public Perceptions of Non-Human Primate Performers," K. A. Leighty et al.](#)