

Center for Great Apes Wauchula, FL Patti Ragan, Founder

February 17, 2016

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

Chimp Haven Keithville, LA Cathy Spraetz, 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

Erika Fleury Program Manager

Justin Bieber c/o Scooter Braun, Island Deaf Jam Group Worldwide Plaza 825 8th Avenue, 28th Floor New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Bieber,

We write to you in response to your desire to get another pet monkey, as reported in the March 2016 issue of GO. As experts in the field of primate care, we are concerned that this choice will prove to be dangerous to both you and your monkey, as well as irresponsible when it comes to your public following.

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 640 primates, many of whom were formerly privately owned as pets. We are contacted daily by people who – just like you – purchased a baby monkey and then lived to regret it. Monkeys quickly grow to be strong, cunning and difficult to manage. They can transfer disease and destroy your home. It is simply not possible to fulfill the unique needs of your monkey within a private home. Once you have decided that you no longer wish to keep your pet, it can be problematic to find an accredited sanctuary who has space to take him. Most primate sanctuaries have lengthy waiting lists.

Attached is NAPSA's Position Statement on the private ownership of primates so you may learn why keeping a monkey as a pet is so harmful.

As a public figure, we urge you to use this opportunity to show your fans that the decision to keep a wild animal as a pet was unwise. Please do not repeat this foolish endeavor. Your actions should serve as an example to educate your followers on the responsible way to admire and respect exotic animals from afar.

Sincerely,

Erika Fleury

Program Manager



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Advocacy Position Statement Private Ownership of Primates

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Primate Rescue Center Nicholasville, KY April Truitt, Founder The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is opposed to the private ownership of primates.

Unlike dogs and cats, apes and monkeys are not domesticated animals. Non-human primates are extremely social animals whose normal development requires the company of others of their own kind. Ideally, primates should live in the wild. Their natural habitats include species-typical social groups that allow them to learn from their families and have a rich emotional life. In reality, however, there is an active industry that breeds primates to sell as pets in human homes.

As infants, primates in the pet trade are removed from their mothers years before they would naturally separate, which causes psychological suffering that manifests throughout their entire life. Teeth are often removed for ease of handling, which can limit the foods they can eat. Qualified veterinary care for pet primates can be difficult, if not impossible, to find.

Primates are inquisitive animals whose proper care requires daily mental stimulation and extensive physical activity, which is often impossible for the average household to provide. Primates kept in human homes are rarely, if ever, monitored by animal welfare officials, which means they are often kept in unsuitable living conditions resulting in neglect, mistreatment, and myriad psychological and physical ailments that can lead to death. There are a range of zoonotic diseases that are transmitted by primates and can be harmful, even fatal, to humans.

Once primates reach adolescence, which can be just a few years into a 40+ year lifespan, they inevitably become too unmanageable to handle. Primates can and will bite. They have strong jaws and sharp teeth, and bites can result in significant and potentially fatal injuries to humans. Realizing that living with an adult primate is not sustainable, owners often seek to surrender their pets or are forced to surrender them due to a threat to public safety.

Many primates that were privately owned end up living in roadside zoos, recycled as breeders to produce the next generation of ill-fated pets, or in other abusive situations. In the best cases, former pets may end up in a NAPSA member sanctuary, where they live their remaining years in an enriched environment more typical to their species. Even in sanctuary, former pets often struggle with learning how to socialize with other primates and many exhibit abnormal behaviors for the rest of their lives.

The private ownership of primates is never in the best interest of the animal or the owner.

Erika Fleury Program Manager For more information:

"Resolution and Policy Recommendation Addressing the Private Possession of Dangerous Wild Animals," American Bar Association

"White Paper: Personal Possession of Non-Human Primates," Association of Zoos and Aquariums

"The Phenomenon of Monkeys as 'Surrogate Children'," Linda J. Howard

"Chimpanzees Don't Make Good Pets," The Jane Goodall Institute

"My Child is a Monkey," and "The Perils of Keeping Monkeys as Pets," National Geographic

"The Science Behind Why Chimps Are Not Pets," PBS

"Nonhuman Primates, Zoonotic Diseases," Virginia Department of Health

NAPSA is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, a San Francisco-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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