



Center for Great Apes
Wauchula, FL
Patti Ragan, Founder

February 23, 2016

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

Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
via social media and online forum

Dear Mr. Oliver and staff,

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

We write to you in response to your February 22nd segment, "Supreme Court & Judicial Crisis Network," that featured video footage of a trained baboon holding a cell phone. When you use a baboon in advertising, you are giving the world a very skewed and inaccurate message about these complex and intelligent animals.

Chimps, Inc.
Bend, OR
Lesley Day, Founder

The entire lifetime of a primate is negatively affected when they are used in 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 strength and unpredictable nature of these wild animals means that they can only be used for a short time as actors before they become too independent, unmanageable, and dangerous. Apes and monkeys 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 50 years of their life in a primate sanctuary.

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

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) was founded in 2010 by the directors of seven of the leading chimpanzee sanctuaries on the continent. We care for over 640 nonhuman primates in our member sanctuaries, many of whom are former actors, and we see how their lives have been damaged by their involvement in television and film.

Fauna Foundation
Quebec, Canada
Gloria Grow, Founder

Attached is NAPSA's Position Statement on the use of primates in entertainment so you may learn why this practice should be avoided.

Jungle Friends
Gainesville, FL
Kari Bagnall, Founder

We hope you will reconsider the message you spread with your videos. Do not use footage of performing primates. Your show is witty, but the usage of nonhuman primate actors is archaic and unappealing to your viewers.

Primate Rescue Center
Nicholasville, KY
April Truitt, Founder

Sincerely,

Erika Fleury
Program Manager

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*Erika Fleury
Program Manager*

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.](#)