



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

Erika Fleury
Program Manager

March 5, 2015

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance has recently learned of an upcoming exotic animal show in Illinois that is advertising the appearance of “Mindy the Monkey” and “some of her friends” courtesy of Chicago-based company Animal Rentals.

As experts in the field of primate care, we respectfully ask the public not to support such appearances by trained primates. While it may seem amusing on the surface, the monkeys used in these spectacles are poorly treated. Although the records of many monkey rental 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 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.

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance was founded in 2010 by the directors of seven of the leading chimpanzee sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for primates that were formerly used in entertainment. We see how monkeys like Mindy are forever damaged by the work forced upon them, and we look forward to the day when such archaic practices are no longer permitted.