



June 12, 2017

Jerry Bruckheimer
c/o Paul Bloch, Rogers & Cowan
via email: PB@rogersandcowan.com

Dear Mr. Bruckheimer,

We write to you in response to your continued usage of live monkey actors in the Pirates of the Caribbean films. Although our organization and others have previously pointed out the animal welfare concerns involved in the use of primates in entertainment, recent [comments](#) by actress Kaya Scodelario reveal that the monkey was visibly ill while shooting Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

Hiring even the healthiest of monkeys to act in films is not only a poor choice morally and more difficult to manage on-set, but condones their continued exploitation and draws negative attention to your work. When you use primates in entertainment, you are giving the world a very skewed and inaccurate message about these complex and intelligent animals.

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. Once they are deemed too independent, unmanageable, and dangerous to train, they become 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. Attached is NAPSA's Position Statement on the use of primates in entertainment so you may learn more.

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is a coalition of eleven of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for over 700 primates, many of whom were formerly privately owned as pets or entertainers, and we see how their lives have been damaged by their involvement in television and film.

The hugely popular Planet of the Apes franchise, which relies entirely on CGI animal actors, is evidence of a more compassionate future for Hollywood. In an exciting collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute, 20th Century Fox is even [donating profits](#) from the film to a primate sanctuary, proving that morally responsible corporations will attract more positive attention than those that rely on animal exploitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Erika Fleury'.

Erika Fleury
Program Director



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 640 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.](#)