



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

August 25, 2015

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

Shannon Elizabeth  
(sent via website submission form and social media)

Dear Ms. Elizabeth,

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

We write to you in response to your upcoming film *Gibby*, which was filmed with a capuchin monkey. You have a strong online presence as someone concerned with animal welfare and conservation, and your organization Animal Avengers states very clearly that you are “dedicated to the welfare of all animals and giving a voice to those who have none.” However, when you work with primates in entertainment, you are giving the world a very skewed and inaccurate message about these complex and intelligent animals – whose voice needs to be heard just as much as that of the other domestic and wild animals you aim to help.

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

A recent New York Daily News article quotes you as admitting that Crystal, the capuchin hired to act in *Gibby*, “didn’t want to be around [you],” and yet she had no choice in the matter. The day-to-day conditions of her employment in *Gibby* are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to just why the usage of primates in entertainment is so cruel.

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

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. Monkeys and apes 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.

Fauna Foundation  
Quebec, Canada  
*Gloria Grow, Founder*

Jungle Friends  
Gainesville, FL  
*Kari Bagnall, Founder*

The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) was founded in 2010 by the directors of seven of the leading chimpanzee sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for primates who formerly acted and performed, and we see how their lives have been damaged by their involvement in television and film.

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

We hope you will consider the message you spread when you appear alongside primate actors. You cannot be a voice for all animals when you support archaic and harmful practices like the usage of primates in entertainment.

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*Erika Fleury*  
*Program Manager*

Sincerely,

Erika Fleury  
Program Manager