



October 17, 2017

Chip Holloway, Executive Director
Desert Empire Fair
Via email: chip@desertempirefair.com

Dear Mr. Holloway,

I write to you regarding Monkey Business Productions, a traveling animal act scheduled to perform at the Desert Empire Fair this year. Although the act's performing monkeys may appear cute and harmless, there are severe public safety and animal welfare concerns involved in this type of archaic "entertainment."

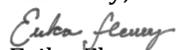
Forcing monkeys to perform and interact with humans gives the world a very inaccurate message about these complex and intelligent animals – and it has harmful repercussions. While it may seem amusing on the surface, the monkeys used in these spectacles are poorly treated. The records of monkey rental operators are generally less than stellar, and training and housing conditions can be incredibly stressful (and often abusive.) Specifically, Monkey Business Productions' Kevin Keith has been cited for failure to comply with ordinances regarding record keeping, sanitation, and – most worrisome – the safe handling of animals. **As recently as 2016, USDA inspections reveal that Keith has repeatedly been cited for permitting the public to have physical contact with his monkeys and for using insufficient barriers to protect the public should his animals act aggressively.**

Primates can never be domesticated. Trained primates are torn from their mothers *years* before they would naturally separate, and their life of training and handling denies them opportunities to lead a healthy species-typical life, and instead leads to social disorders, self-injurious behavior, depression, and aggression. Primate bites are not a question of "if", but of "when," and allowing a vendor who permits public contact with monkeys at your fair seems like a disaster waiting to happen. Do you want the Desert Empire Fair to be where a child is attacked by a monkey?

Monkeys belong in the wild, and if that's not possible, in the care of trained experts at a nonprofit primate sanctuary. The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance is a coalition of ten of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for over 700 primates, many of whom were formerly used in entertainment. So that you may learn more about the harms of performing primates, our advocacy position statement on this topic is attached. Also attached are USDA inspection forms revealing dangerous and inhumane handling practices of Monkey Business Productions.

You have the ability to do the right thing. For the safety and well-being of your attendees, we urge you to cancel performances by Monkey Business Productions.

Sincerely,


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 is a coalition of ten of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our member sanctuaries, we care for over 700 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.](#)



Inspection Report

KEVIN KEITH

Customer ID: **8494**

Certificate: **93-C-0601**

Site: 002

KEVIN KEITH

136 ADOBE LANE

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

NAPA, CA 94559

Date: Feb-03-2010

3.11 (c)

CLEANING, SANITIZATION, HOUSEKEEPING, AND PEST CONTROL.

Sec. 3.11 Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control. (c) Housekeeping for premises. Premises where housing facilities are located, including buildings and surrounding grounds, must be kept clean and in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to facilitate the husbandry practices required in this subpart, and to reduce or eliminate breeding and living areas for rodents and other pests and vermin. Premises must be kept free of accumulations of trash, junk, waste products, and discarded matter. Weeds, grasses, and bushes must be controlled so as to facilitate cleaning of the premises and pest control, and to protect the health and well-being of the animals.

Perimeter Fence Area: Outside the West Perimeter Fence area has an accumulation of old equipment, temporary structures, bags of shavings, bags of waste material pallets, pipes, play structures, etc. Premises must be kept free of accumulations of trash, junk, waste products, and discarded matter. The areas need to be cleaned up and organized as necessary to facilitate the husbandry practices required in this subpart. This is to protect the health and well-being of the animals.

To be corrected by April 15, 2010

3.84 (c)

CLEANING, SANITIZATION, HOUSEKEEPING, AND PEST CONTROL.

Sec. 3.84 Cleaning, sanitization, housekeeping, and pest control. (c) Housekeeping for premises. Premises where housing facilities are located, including buildings and surrounding grounds, must be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the nonhuman primates from injury, to facilitate the husbandry practices required in this subpart, and to reduce or eliminate breeding and living areas for rodents, pests, and vermin. Premises must be kept free of accumulations of trash, junk, waste, and discarded matter. Weeds, grass, and bushes must be controlled so as to facilitate cleaning of the premises and pest control.

Perimeter Fence Area: Outside the West Perimeter Fence area has an accumulation of old equipment, temporary structures, bags of shavings, bags of waste material pallets, pipes, play structures, etc. Premises must be kept free of accumulations of trash, junk, waste products, and discarded matter. The

Prepared By:

STEVE P DR/LICA, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5004

Feb-03-2010

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Date:

Title:

Feb-03-2010



Inspection Report

Kevin Keith
136 Adobe Lane
Napa, CA 94559

Customer ID: **8494**
Certificate: **93-C-0601**
Site: TRA
KEVIN KEITH

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: Feb-19-2014

2.131 (c) (1)

HANDLING OF ANIMALS.

The public barrier around the stage is a single rope. Signs on the rope state Do not touch the rope . Children were observed standing next to and holding the rope during the performance. A single rope barrier will not prevent a child from climbing under the rope and reaching the animals. A barrier that can prevent a child from going under it is needed to assure the safety of the animals and the public.

CORRECT BY 3-20-14

3.79 (d)

MOBILE OR TRAVELING HOUSING FACILITIES.

Public Barriers,

An adult male baboon is used for photos with the public. The baboon is tethered around the waist with a long leash that is clipped to the back of a platform. The public stands in front of the baboon and the baboon places his hands on the shoulders of the public. The licensee /handler was witnessed by the inspector standing at least 6 feet from the baboon and the public during the photo shoot. He is next to the camera when the photo is taken and not in direct control of the animal or the leash. Trained non human primates may be allowed physical contact with the public only if they are under direct control and supervision of the experienced handler at all times during the contact. Direct control of the animal must be maintained at all times during public contact.

CORRECT BY : 3-20-14

The inspection and exit briefing was conducted with the licensee at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Prepared By:

ELIZABETH PANNILL, D.V.M.

ELIZABETH PANNILL, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title:

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 4018

Feb-20-2014

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Date:

Title:

Feb-20-2014



Inspection Report

Kevin Keith
101 W. American Canyon Rd., Ste. 508-395
American Canyon, CA 94503

Customer ID: **8494**
Certificate: **93-C-0601**
Site: TRA
KEVIN KEITH

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 06-OCT-2016

3.79(d) REPEAT

MOBILE OR TRAVELING HOUSING FACILITIES.

- An adult male baboon is being used for photo shoots with members of the public. The baboon is tethered around the waist with a long leash that is clipped to the back of a platform. Members of the public are seated in front of the baboon and the baboon places his hands on the shoulders of the people. The licensee steps away from the baboon and the public during the photo shoot. He is next to the camera when the photo is taken and not in direct control of the animal, nor is he touching or holding the leash. Trained non human primates may be allowed physical contact with the public only if they are under the direct control and supervision of an experienced handler at all times during the contact. Direct physical control of the primate is critical to help ensure the safety of the public.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the licensee at the Tulsa State Fair.

Additional Inspectors

Robert Whiteley, Animal Care Inspector

Prepared By:

MICHAEL TYGART, D V M

MICHAEL TYGART USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER, 6009

Date:
06-OCT-2016

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Title: OWNER

Date:
07-OCT-2016



Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
8494	93-C-0601	TRA	KEVIN KEITH	06-OCT-16

Count	Species
000001	Dog Adult
000001	Brown capuchin
000002	Hamadryas baboon
000004	Total



Inspection Report

areas need to be cleaned up and organized as necessary to facilitate the husbandry practices required in this subpart. This is to protect the health and well-being of the animals.

To be corrected by April 15, 2010

3.131 (c)

SANITATION.

§ 3.131 Sanitation.(c) Housekeeping. Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this subpart. Accumulations of trash shall be placed in designated areas and cleared as necessary to protect the health of the animals.

Perimeter Fence Area: Outside the West Perimeter Fence area has an accumulation of old equipment, temporary structures, bags of shavings, bags of waste material pallets, pipes, play structures, etc. Premises must be kept free of accumulations of trash, junk, waste products, and discarded matter. The areas need to be cleaned up and organized as necessary to facilitate the husbandry practices required in this subpart. This is to protect the health and well-being of the animals.

To be corrected by April 15, 2010

Prepared By:

STEVE P DRLICA, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5004

Feb-03-2010

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Date:

Title:

Feb-03-2010



Inspection Report

KEVIN KEITH

Customer ID: **8494**

Certificate: **93-C-0601**

Site: 002

KEVIN KEITH

136 ADOBE LANE

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION

NAPA, CA 94559

Date: Feb-14-2012

2.126 (a) (2)

ACCESS AND INSPECTION OF RECORDS AND PROPERTY.

Sec. 2.126 Access and inspection of records and property. (a) Each dealer, exhibitor, intermediate handler, or carrier, shall, during business hours, allow APHIS officials: (2) To examine records required to be kept by the Act and the regulations in this part;

No records were at the facility. Facility needs to create a system where the records are accessible to the inspector during the inspection. This is necessary to insure the health and well being of the animals. This would include the Program of Veterinary Care, dog Exercise Program, Primate Well Being Program, the Acquisition and Disposition of the animals, and any health records for the animals who are under medical treatment.

To be corrected by: 3/14/2012

An exit briefing was conducted with the facility representative

Prepared By:

STEVE P DRLICA, D.V.M. USDA, APHIS, Animal Care

Date:

Title: VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER Inspector 5004

Feb-29-2012

Received By:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)

Date:

Title:

Feb-29-2012