



July 19, 2019

Hillside Cinema
7321 John Clayton Memorial Hwy, Gloucester Courthouse, Virginia, 23061
Via email: hillside_cinema2@yahoo.com and social media

Dear Hillside Cinema,

We recently learned about [tomorrow's scheduled appearance](#) of Zoology's "African Safari animals" at your Lion King film showing, including reports that a capuchin monkey (a Central and South American primate, in fact) will be there. Though the use of any animal for this purpose is troubling, the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) respectfully asks you that you reconsider the inclusion of monkeys in this event due to animal welfare concerns.

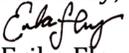
While it may seem amusing on the surface, encouraging the use of primates at public events is harmful and dangerous to all involved, and very frowned upon by authorities. You are incurring a serious liability by hosting this event. Primates can never be domesticated. Monkeys will bite, scratch, pull hair and injure humans without provocation, and they typically find public places frightening and stressful. There are good reason why reputable sanctuaries never loan out their animals - because of the high risks of disease transfer and injury to both the animals and the humans. Why encourage children to pose for photos under such unpredictable and unsafe circumstances?

Zoology may have a license to own these animals, but do they have the proper permit to bring these animals to your facility? The very fact that a monkey will be forced to attend this event is concerning, but it may also be illegal.

Research has proven this type of exploitive "education" is not only ineffective but actually has negative consequences for conservation and animal welfare. The only benefit to having Zoology's animals at your theater is a financial one, and the harms are numerous. As a result, an increasing number of public events have forsworn attractions with live monkeys, in response to protests, negative publicity and increased awareness about the harms of primates in entertainment.

NAPSA is a coalition of eight of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for close to 800 primates, many of whom were formerly privately owned as pets or entertainers. We see daily, lifelong effects of maternal deprivation from infant primates who were bred for training as entertainers, including social disorders, self-injurious behavior and depression. The monkey you are planning to host at your event should be with a social group instead of being forced to perform and pose for a crowd.

We encourage Hillside Cinema to collect donations to support true conservation of African wildlife through accredited sanctuaries, instead of encouraging further animal exploitation.

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 eight of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our member sanctuaries, we care for close to 800 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:

["The Use of Primate "Actors" in Feature Films 1990–2013," Brooke Catherine Aldrich](#)

["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](#)

["Apes in Entertainment," Jane Goodall Institute Australia](#)

["Opposition to the Use of Nonhuman Primates in the Media," International Primatological Society](#)

["Atypical Experiences of Captive Chimpanzees \(Pan Troglodytes\) Are Associated with Higher Hair Cortisol Concentrations as Adults," S.L. Jacobson et al.](#)

["Impact of Visual Context on Public Perceptions of Non-Human Primate Performers," K. A. Leighty et al.](#)



Position Statement

True Sanctuaries vs. Pseudo-Sanctuaries

The mission of the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) is to advance and advocate for the welfare of captive primates. NAPSA member sanctuaries care for over 800 nonhuman primates retired from the entertainment, biomedical research, and exotic pet industries, and are experts in providing enriched lifetime care to captive animals. As there are no regulations in the United States that manage who may refer to themselves as a sanctuary, it is important for NAPSA members to distinguish themselves from other facilities who house captive animals but who do not operate with the same high standards, and may even exploit and harm the animals in their care.

It can be difficult to distinguish pseudo-sanctuaries from reputable sanctuaries. There are a number of key characteristics the public may look for when trying to make this determination.

True sanctuaries:

- Operate with the best interests of the animals in their care as their first priority.
- Are non-profit organizations.
- Do not breed, sell or trade the animals in their care.
- Do not allow public contact with captive wildlife.
- Do not remove animals from their enclosures or sanctuary property for exhibition, education, research, or commercial purposes.
- Have limited public visitation.
- Do not exploit the animals in their care. Examples include: photo opportunities with animals, hands-on interactions, or training animals to perform.
- Are fiscally responsible and able to provide lifetime care for all animals at the sanctuary.
- Advocate on behalf of the species in their care.
- Are licensed, accredited and/or overseen by outside organizations. This may include the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, the United States Department of Agriculture, and/or NAPSA.

For more information:

"Roadside Zoos and Pseudo-Sanctuaries," Eyes on Apes