



February 22, 2021

Miranda Klatt, Owner
FunFit LLC
Via website and social media

Dear Ms. Klatt,

We recently learned that FunFit LLC is [advertising](#) “Monkey Yoga” featuring live appearances of Priya, an infant capuchin monkey. The North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) respectfully asks you that you reconsider the inclusion of monkeys in this event due to animal welfare and health and safety 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. There are a number of reasons why monkeys should not be used this way in public events. There is a high risk of disease transfer (including Covid-19) and injury to both the animals and the humans. Primates are not domesticated species. Monkeys typically find public places frightening and stressful, thus there is a risk to the public and the monkey.

NAPSA is a coalition of ten of the leading primate sanctuaries on the continent. In our sanctuaries, we care for over 850 primates, many of whom were privately owned as pets or entertainers before they reached sanctuary. We see daily, lifelong effects of maternal deprivation from infant primates who were bred for private ownership or training as entertainers, including social disorders, self-injurious behavior and depression. Priya’s needs would be met best with her mother and a social group instead of being handled by humans, many of whom are strangers. Like any child or infant, strangers can be a source of stress and Priya’s response to that is not necessarily predictable. It could be a quiet trauma or she could behave with aggression towards humans.

An increasing number of attractions have forsworn events with live monkeys, in response to protests, negative publicity and increased awareness about the harms of primates in entertainment. Recently Yoga Hive Philly cancelled a similar event due to public outcry. Also, various county fairs and sports teams have cancelled the use of monkeys at events.

Your website mentions the importance of overall wellness, but threatening the well-being of an animal and the human class participants is a contradiction of that. Please reconsider Monkey Yoga for the sake of all involved and a respect for all beings.

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

NAPSA is a fiscally sponsored project of Community Initiatives, an Oakland, CA-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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Visit our website at www.PrimateSanctuaries.org