



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

**Testimony of Wayne Pacelle
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Before the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans
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Bear Protection Act of 2008

Thank you Chairwoman Bordallo and members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to testify in support of both bills being considered today -- H.R. 5534, the Bear Protection Act of 2008, introduced by Representatives Raul Grijalva and John Campbell, and H.R. 2964, the Captive Primate Safety Act, introduced by Representatives Eddie Bernice Johnson and Mark Kirk. I am Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, backed by 10 million Americans -- one out of every 30.

This bear protection testimony is also offered on behalf of the Bear Working Group of the Species Survival Network and Animals Asia, while the full testimony supporting both bills is also offered on behalf of Born Free USA.

Bear Protection Act

Overview

For more than a decade, HSUS has investigated the national and international trade in bear parts, specifically the gallbladders and bile. The demand for bear viscera across America and in other countries drives bear poaching and the illegal trade in bear parts, and ultimately puts endangered bear species at great risk. Bear parts and derivatives are used in traditional medicines and, increasingly, luxury cosmetic items.

The United States has an especially important role to play in bear conservation since it is both a bear range state and a nation with residents who consume bear parts.

Congressmen Grijalva and Campbell have crafted a bill that focuses narrowly on a specific problem in global bear conservation: the highly lucrative trade in bear viscera such as the gallbladders and bile that is principally in demand in the enormously large Asian communities at home and abroad. The legislation does nothing to limit states from managing their resident bear populations, establishing bear hunting seasons, or allowing any method of hunting.

This is not the first time the Congress has considered this legislation. The Senate passed very similar legislation on two occasions, and in the 107th Congress, the House version

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of the bill, then authored by Representative Elton Gallegly, attracted nearly 200 cosponsors.

Legal Loopholes in the United States

The Bear Protection Act creates sound national policy against the trade in bear gallbladders and bile. The absence of federal legislation prohibiting trade in bear parts allows an interstate and international illegal trade to flourish. We should not allow poachers and smugglers to exploit the current inconsistencies in state laws and profit from the sale of bear parts.

Currently, individual states have laws to restrict illegal trade. There are 34 states that prohibit the trade in bear gallbladders, while only five states allow commercialization and the remainder either have no regulations or allow sale if the bear was killed outside the state. This legal discrepancy from state to state creates legal ambiguities that complicate enforcement, and these are the openings that poachers and other bear parts sellers exploit. The Bear Protection Act would close loopholes and establish a national policy discouraging bear poaching and curbing the bear parts trade.

A number of states represented by members of this committee have strong laws concerning commercialization of bear parts. For example:

- Alaska's Administrative Code notes that a "person may not purchase, sell, barter, advertise, or otherwise offer for sale or barter: (1) any part of a bear, except an article of handicraft made from the fur of a bear."
- California's Fish and Game Code includes a provision stating that "it is unlawful to sell or purchase, or possess for sale, the meat, skin, hide, teeth, claws, or other parts of any bear in this state" and that "the possession of more than one bear gall bladder is prima facie evidence that the bear gall bladders are possessed for sale."
- In Virginia it is unlawful to "offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, or purchase, at any time or in any manner, any wild bird or wild animal or the carcass or any part thereof, except as specifically permitted by law."

Despite these strong state laws, poaching of bears and illegal commercialization of bear gallbladders persists, though its precise scale is unknown because of the secretive nature of the trade and of poaching in general.

In one case that illustrates the value of the Bear Protection Act, an individual in Alaska was offered bear parts by a man in Idaho where commerce is legal. She agreed to buy them, sent payment, and was arrested when she went to the airport to collect her purchase. Although all of the Alaska resident's actions related to this unlawful purchase were committed within the state, the case was ultimately dismissed because the "legal site" of the purchase was not clearly defined.

The Alaska Attorney General's office concluded that this decision "will lead to the inevitable result of encouraging individuals to unlawfully take bears in Alaska, take them

outside to places like Idaho where the sale of bear parts is still legal, and sell them to purchasers in Alaska through out-of-state strawmen. This is the very kind of conduct the legislature and Board of Game intended to prevent....This does not further the administration of justice.”

As recently as December 2007, a San Diego man was arrested for commercializing bear gallbladders. California Department of Fish and Game Chief of Enforcement Nancy Foley said in an official statement, “The lucrative profits derived from the illegal trade of bear products, most notably bear gall bladders, entice poachers who risk felony convictions.”

Members of the Subcommittee may also be familiar with Operation SOUP and Operation VIPER in the Shenandoah Mountains and the large number of people involved in a sophisticated multi-state bear gallbladder smuggling operation. These operations uncovered the movement of bear galls from Virginia to the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, West Virginia, and South Korea. At the time, Virginia prohibited trade, while West Virginia allowed the trade (as did the District and New York). After these cases made national headlines, West Virginia prohibited commercialization of bear gallbladders.

Similar cases of bears being poached for their gallbladders have been uncovered throughout the nation, but we believe enforcement personnel have been able to interdict just a small portion of the trade.

The bear parts trade in the United States does not just involve the poaching of American black bears, a species that is clearly not endangered. It may also involve the illegal importation of bear gallbladders or bile from highly endangered bears in Asia.

A 2006 investigation by our colleagues at the World Society for the Protection of Animals found that illegal bear products were on sale in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Seattle. Some of these states ban the commercialization; some allow it; and Illinois has no regulation.

The WSPA investigation found that intact bear gallbladders accounted for 63 percent of the bear products for sale in the U.S. and that one of the gallbladders, allegedly from a wild American black bear, sold for \$2,800. One out of every six shops visited during the survey sold bear products, and 75% of them claimed to have products from China.

While the North American black bear population is healthy, and in most places stable to increasing, there is also clear evidence that bears are poached for their gallbladders and bear parts are being illegally smuggled from state to state and sold for profit.

There is incentive to kill bears illegally in one state because individuals can then sell the parts legally in another state - circumventing prohibitions on sale that exist in a large majority of states and undermining the effectiveness of state laws. State wildlife agencies and district attorneys’ offices are hindered in investigating and prosecuting bear poaching

and gallbladder trade cases by this patchwork of state laws. Passage of the BPA will create a consistent legal framework that will help reduce the number of bears poached globally to supply the trade.

Meeting Our International Responsibilities

All eight extant bear species are listed under the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), giant panda (*Ailuripoda melanoleuca*) and some subspecies of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) are listed on CITES Appendix I, thus prohibiting international commercial trade in their parts and products. Other species, including the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), some brown bear populations, and the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), are listed on Appendix II which means some international trade in their parts and derivatives can occur, under very specific regulations.

At the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Zimbabwe, the United States co-authored a Resolution on “Conservation of and Trade in Bears.” The Resolution, passed unanimously, begins by:

“NOTING that the continued illegal trade in parts and derivatives of bear species undermines the effectiveness of the Convention and that if CITES Parties and States not-party do not take action to eliminate such trade, poaching may cause declines of wild bears that could lead to the extirpation of certain populations or even species.”

The resolution then:

“URGES all Parties, particularly bear range and consuming countries, to take immediate action in order to demonstrably reduce the illegal trade in bear parts and derivatives by the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, by: a) confirming, adopting or improving their national legislation to control the import and export of bear parts and derivatives, ensuring that the penalties for violations are sufficient to deter illegal trade.”

The Bear Protection Act is national legislation that meets this international goal.

Conclusion

The passage of this legislation is not a burden upon the Fish and Wildlife Service and its Division of Law Enforcement, but another tool that special agents can use as they see fit. They have discretion in the cases they choose to pursue, and the enactment of that measure does not change the equation for them.

The states have major responsibilities here, and the enactment of the Bear Protection Act will serve as a complement to their own enforcement efforts. It is similar in concept to

the enactment by Congress of a federal law years ago to restrict the interstate trade in fighting dogs and birds, even though at the time that the Congress passed that original measure, some states still allowed animal fighting.

The world sadly watched for decades as the trade in elephant ivory, rhino horn, and tiger bone contributed to the precipitous decline of these species throughout their range. Now, bears are also targeted, and the threat is tangible, especially given the size of the national and global markets for bear parts. Trading in bears parts is not part of the hunting industry, and frankly it's not a legitimate industry. The Congress should give it no leniency.

Captive Primate Safety Act

I'd like now to turn my attention to the Captive Primate Safety Act, which seeks to promote animal welfare and protect public health and safety by prohibiting interstate commerce in monkeys, chimpanzees, and other primates as pets. A companion bill in the Senate (S. 1498) was approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works in July 2007.

Simply put, primates are wild animals and should not be pets. They can inflict serious injuries and spread life-threatening disease, and the average pet owner cannot provide the care they need in captivity.

About 20 states prohibit keeping primates as pets, and many of the rest require a permit. In addition, importing primates into the United States for the pet trade is prohibited because of the health risks. Still, an estimated 15,000 primates are in private hands, and they are readily available for purchase from exotic animal breeders and dealers and even over the Internet. Because many of these animals move in interstate commerce, federal legislation is needed to complement state laws.

The Captive Primate Safety Act will amend the Lacey Act by adding nonhuman primates to the list of animals who cannot be transported across state lines as pets. It does for primates what the Captive Wildlife Safety Act – which Congress passed unanimously in late 2003 – did for lions, tigers, and other big cats. It also includes technical corrections to facilitate enforcement of the big cat and primate measures.

The legislation has been narrowly targeted to the pet trade. It has no impact on zoos, research, or responsible wildlife sanctuaries. The bill addresses the trade and transportation of these animals by untrained individuals. With the passage of this legislation, it will no longer be legal to attend an exotic animal auction in another state and bring home a pet monkey, or order one across state lines over the Internet.

Threat to Animal Welfare

Nonhuman primates kept in captivity need housing in large enclosures, the companionship of other nonhuman primates, and a stimulating environment – in short,

the kind of environment provided by their natural habitat. The average pet owner cannot meet these needs.

The images in the media of monkeys and chimpanzees, sometimes dressed in human clothing and living as members of human families, present an entirely unrealistic picture of what keeping a primate requires. Primates isolated from their own kind and out of their native environments suffer physical and behavioral problems. Squirrel monkeys in the wild spend most of their time in treetops, rarely coming to the ground, in sharp contrast to life in a human home.

In the wild, female primates share a very strong bond with their young. Newborn tufted capuchins may cling to their mothers for weeks, remain in constant contact for months, and live in family groups for years.¹ Primates in the pet trade may be taken from their mothers when they are just weeks or even days old. In the hands of primate breeders, breeding females are subjected to this loss again and again.

When they fail to meet their owner's expectations, pet primates are often subjected isolation and neglect, and owners may turn to brutal means to try to control them. Some owners resort to removing the animal's canine teeth -- a practice the United States Department of Agriculture considers a violation of the Animal Welfare Act for animals kept in zoos² -- but even that doesn't prevent injury.

Primates are long-lived. A chimpanzee who becomes too difficult to handle at age eight might live another 50 years. There are few options for placing these animals. Primates who are hand-raised by humans are deprived of appropriate models for their natural behaviors; it can be impossible to rehabilitate them to live with others of their kind. Reputable sanctuaries that can provide the requisite care are at or near capacity. Pet primates may end up confined to small cages, sold to substandard menageries, or back in the cycle of breeding and adding to the exotic animal trade.

Threat to Public Safety

While infant primates may seem easy to manage, they inevitably grow stronger and more aggressive. Chimpanzees become many times stronger than humans and extremely difficult to handle. Even small monkeys can inflict serious harm by biting and scratching.

At least 100 people – including 29 children – were injured by captive primates over the past ten years; many more incidents likely occurred but went unreported. From 1990 to

¹ Gron, Kurt, "Primate Factsheets: Tufted capuchin (*Cebus apella*) Behavior," April 10, 2007. http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/factsheets/entry/tufted_capuchin/behav accessed March 4, 2008.

² USDA Animal Care, "Information Sheet on Declawing and Tooth Removal," August 2006. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/big_cat/declaw_tooth.pdf accessed March 4, 2008.

1992 alone, 28 people reported non-occupational macaque bites to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.³ A list of recent incidents is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Children are particularly vulnerable to attack because primates view them as lower in social hierarchy, but adults are also at risk. Primates can move with great speed and agility – patas monkeys are said to reach speeds of 30 miles an hour. A 20-pound monkey can quickly overwhelm a 200-pound man, according to a 2006 Health Advisory issued by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.⁴ The advisory is attached as **Appendix 2**.

Chimpanzees used in television and film are routinely retired from show business around eight years of age. Once they are past adolescence, even experienced trainers are unable to control them. In 2005, a California man was severely mauled by two chimpanzees formerly used in entertainment who escaped their enclosure at an exotic animal facility. After months in a medically induced coma and a dozen surgeries, he still faced a long road to recovery.

Primates are renowned escape artists. In this case, the caretaker left two of the three doors holding the animals in their enclosure open, but claimed she locked the third barrier – a wire mesh trapdoor held in place by a 4-inch pin about an arm’s length from the chimps – which the chimpanzees were able to open.

In just the past few weeks, in Washington state a monkey reportedly figured out how to open the door to his new home when the owners weren’t there. The monkey bit three people before being recaptured. In Arizona, a three-year-old boy was bitten on his wrist, possibly down to the bone, by a lemur his family had gotten only two weeks before.

Threat to Public Health

Primates can harbor diseases and parasites that can be transmitted to humans. These include viral diseases (such as herpes B, hepatitis, and monkeypox), bacterial diseases (such as tuberculosis, salmonella, and shigella), fungal diseases (such as ringworm), intestinal protozoans and worms, and external parasites.⁵

³ Ostrowski, Stephanie R. et al., “B-virus from Pet Macaque Monkeys: An Emerging Threat in the United States?” *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 4, No. 1, January - March 1998. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol4no1/ostrowsk.htm> accessed March 4, 2008.

⁴ “Health Advisory: Dangers Associated With Keeping Primates as Pets,” Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, October 6, 2006. www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/HAdPrimates10-6-06.pdf accessed March 4, 2008.

⁵ Renquist, David M. and Robert A. Whitney, Jr., “Zoonoses Acquired From Pet Primates,” *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice* 17 (1) 219-240, 1987. <http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/aboutp/pets/zoonoses.html> accessed March 4, 2008.

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) recommends prohibiting primates in exhibit settings where there is a reasonable possibility of contact with the animals in its Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2007.⁶ Public contact is especially likely when primates are kept as pets and transported into public settings.

Due to the many health risks nonhuman primates pose, both known and unknown, the importation of primates into the United States for the pet trade has been prohibited since 1975. Primates may be imported for research purposes and must undergo a quarantine period in order to detect evidence of disease.

Despite these laws, nonhuman primates may be smuggled into the country illegally. In August 2007, a man flew from Peru to Florida, where he waited several hours for a connecting flight to New York. It wasn't until he was aboard the flight to New York that passengers noticed the man had a live marmoset under his hat. The legal trade provides cover the illegal movement of these animals.

The staffs of research facilities and accredited zoos are trained to avoid contact with nonhuman primates. Pet owners take these animals to the park and the grocery store. Two children were bitten by a pet macaque at a Missouri park in September 2007, and a clerk at a North Carolina convenience store was bitten by a pet monkey brought in by a customer in December 2007. In both cases, the owners ran off with the animals before they could be tested for disease.

“Nonhuman primates, by virtue of their genetic, physiologic, and sometimes social similarities to humans, are particularly likely sources of infectious agents that pose a threat to humans,” according to research published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).⁷

The following zoonotic disease threats can originate in primates.

Herpes B Virus

Herpes B virus is present in most adult macaques, though they may not display any symptoms. Transmission to humans has been rare, but humans who develop clinical signs of Herpes B virus have a very high mortality rate without immediate treatment. CDC research concludes: “The extremely high prevalence of B-virus along with their

⁶ “Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2007,” National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., published in the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, July 4, 2007. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwrR/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5605a1.htm> accessed March 4, 2008.

⁷ Jones-Engel, Lisa et al., “Primate-to-human retroviral transmission in Asia” *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 11, No. 7, July 2005. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/Eid/vol11no07/04-0957.htm> accessed March 4, 2008.

behavioral characteristics make the macaque species unsuitable as pets.”⁸ Herpes B virus also has been found in capuchins,⁹ patas monkeys,¹⁰ and a colobus monkey¹¹ who were housed near macaques.

The risk from Herpes B is evident from the experience in biomedical research. A worker at Yerkes National Primate Research Center in Georgia died from a Herpes B infection after body fluid from a macaque splashed into her eye in 1997. In December 2005, a five-year-old girl in the Philippines reportedly was bitten by a neighbor’s pet macaque, contracted an infection, and died within days.

Even if primates test negative for disease, professional animal facilities handle them as though they are a disease threat. Macaques at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore tested negative for Herpes B year after year, until one tested positive.

Pet buyers and public health officials may be unaware of the danger. In 2006, an Ohio man purchased a pet macaque from a woman in Idaho who had advertised the monkey for sale on the Internet. On the first day, the man was bitten while trying to feed the monkey. It was only after the bite that he and local health authorities learned about the risk of Herpes B.

Simian Foamy Virus

Simian foamy virus is a retrovirus that infects a range of nonhuman primates. According to Canadian health authorities, about 70 to 90 percent of nonhuman primates born in captivity have SFV.¹² In 2006, in light of the potential risk of SFV and as yet

⁸ Ostrowski, Stephanie R. et al., “B-virus from Pet Macaque Monkeys: An Emerging Threat in the United States?” *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 4, No. 1, January - March 1998. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol4no1/ostrowsk.htm> accessed March 4, 2008.

⁹ Coulibaly, C. et al., “A natural asymptomatic herpes B virus infection in a colony of laboratory brown capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*),” *Laboratory Animals*, Vol. 38, No. 4, October 2004 , 432-438(7). <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/rsm/lab/2004/00000038/00000004/art00011> accessed March 4, 2008.

¹⁰ Wilson, Ronald B. et al., “Fatal Herpesvirus simiae (B virus) infection in a patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas*),” *J Vet Diagn Invest* 2:242-244 (1990) <http://jvdi.org/cgi/reprint/2/3/242.pdf> accessed March 4, 2008.

¹¹ Loomis, M.R. et al., “Fatal herpesvirus infection in patas monkeys and a black and white colobus monkey” (abstract), *J Am Vet Med Assoc.*, 1981 Dec 1;179(11):1236-9. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed&uid=6276349&cmd=showdetailview> accessed March 4, 2008.

¹² Health Canada, “Fact Sheet - Simian Foamy Virus,” July 26, 2006. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mpps/brgtherap/activit/fs-fi/fact_simian_foamy_virus_spumeux_simien_feuillet_e.html accessed March 4, 2008.

unidentified simian viruses, Canada prohibited blood donations by people who ever took care of or handled monkeys or their body fluids on a regular basis in their jobs.

A case has been documented in Asia of SFV transmission from free-roaming macaques to a person. To date SFV has not resulted in illness in humans, but researchers conclude that further study is needed into SFV transmission in other contexts, including pet ownership. “The demonstration of SFV transmission in the context of a monkey temple in Bali points to a broad public health concern: other enzootic primate infectious agents may cross the species barrier and cause significant morbidity and mortality in human populations,” they say.¹³

Tuberculosis

Human and nonhuman primates share susceptibility to wide array of bacterial agents including bacteria that causes tuberculosis. Monkeys imported for research, particularly from countries with a high incidence of the disease, have been found to be carrying tuberculosis.¹⁴ Tuberculosis also can be transmitted from humans to nonhuman primates, and it can be fatal to them.

Wild Animals Belong in the Wild

Because of the serious risk of disease transmission combined with the likelihood of escapes and attacks, keeping primates as pets threatens public health and safety. It also threatens the welfare of the animals. These social, intelligent animals should not be separated from others of their kind, forced to live in unsuitable environments, and confined in small cages to sequester these dangerous animals from people.

We understand people’s fascination with primates because they seem so much like us. But unlike cats and dogs -- domesticated over thousands of years and dependent upon us for shelter and care -- primates are wild animals. No amount of training or human affection will change their basic instincts. Because of their genetic similarity to us, they are ideal hosts for passing zoonotic diseases to people. For all of these reasons, they belong in the wild, not in our backyards and basements.

This legislation will not prohibit keeping primates as pets, but by prohibiting interstate movement it will discourage the trade and help protect the animals and the community. This measure, like the Bear Protection Act, is a complement to state laws on the topic and

¹³ Jones-Engel, Lisa et al., “Primate-to-human retroviral transmission in Asia” *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 11, No. 7, July 2005. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/Eid/vol11no07/04-0957.htm> accessed March 4, 2008.

¹⁴ “Tuberculosis in Imported Nonhuman Primates -- United States, June 1990-May 1993” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 42(29):572-576, July 30, 1993. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00021299.htm> accessed March 4, 2008.

sets a bright-line national policy that keeping primates as pets is unacceptable. We urge support for both measures.

Appendix 1

Recent Primate Incidents Demonstrate Risks To Public Health and Safety, Animal Welfare

February 2008 (Arizona): A 3-year-old was bitten by a lemur his family got two weeks before.

February 2008 (Washington): A pet monkey escaped from a home and bit three people before being recaptured.

December 2007 (North Carolina): A woman working at a convenience store was bitten by a pet monkey brought in by a customer; the customer then ran out of the store with the monkey.

September 2007 (Missouri): Two children were bitten by a pet macaque monkey at a park. The woman who owned the monkey ran off with the animal. Macaques often carry Herpes B virus, and research published by the CDC concludes the health risk makes them unsuitable as pets.

August 2007 (Wisconsin): A woman was bitten by a monkey a man had on a leash; the monkey later escaped and was on the loose for several hours before being recaptured and quarantined.

June 2007 (Vermont): State game wardens seized two monkeys and charged a man with having them illegally. Officials said the animals were moved from place to place and kept in small cages.

April 2007 (Mississippi): A federal agent approached a home and was attacked by a macaque.

February 2007 (Michigan): A 3-year-old was scratched by a macaque being housed at a pet shop.

January 2007 (Louisiana): An 8-year-old boy got rabies shots after being bitten by a pet lemur.

October 2006 (Ohio): A man was bitten by a pet macaque monkey he received that day from an Idaho woman who had advertised the animal for sale on the Internet.

August 2006 (Tennessee): A woman was buckling her 3-year-old granddaughter into a car seat when a neighbor's monkey jumped into the car and attacked the girl, who needed stitches.

August 2006 (Illinois): A pet monkey escaped from a cage and severely bit a teenager.

March 2006 (Louisiana): A pet bonnet macaque escaped from a cage and attacked a 2-year-old boy across the street. The boy received rabies prevention treatments.

March 2006 (Texas): A pet monkey bit a person and was euthanized to test for disease.

November 2005 (Arizona): A pet monkey escaped from a cage and tore through a neighbor's birthday party, biting two children.

August 2005 (Tennessee): A pet monkey escaped or was stolen; anyone spotting the monkey was warned not to make eye contact because the owner said the animal would bite.

July 2005 (Ohio): A pet macaque escaped from an enclosure, jumped into a truck, bit a man, and fled.

May 2005 (West Virginia): A 13-year-old girl was bitten by a pet monkey a woman had on a leash at a shopping center.

March 2005 (California): A man was brutally mauled by two chimpanzees who escaped their enclosure at an exotic animal facility.

Appendix 2

“Health Advisory: Dangers Associated With Keeping Primates as Pets,”
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, October 6, 2006