



# Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary

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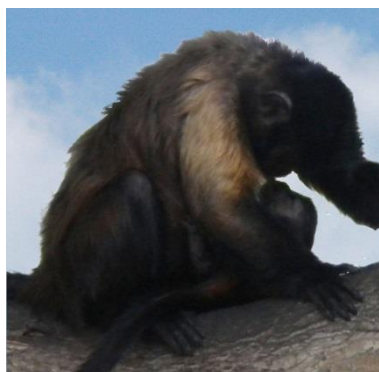
## **eAlert: Urge Your Representative to Support the Captive Primate Safety Act**

*To find your Representative's contact information – and to send an email in support of this bill – please visit:*

<https://awionline.org/action-ealerts/urge-your-representative-support-captive-primate-safety-act>

Dear Humanitarian,

Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA)- co-chairs of the Congressional Animal Protection Congress – introduced the Captive Primate Safety Act (H.R. 2920). This bill would amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.



Conservative estimates suggest there are at least 15,000 primates kept as pets in the United States. The Internet is rife with advertisements for baby primates for sale. Many of these animals are forcibly removed from their mothers when they are only a few days old – a tragic but common occurrence in the pet primate industry. Unfortunately, even the most well-meaning individuals are typically not able to meet the needs of these animals, who quickly mature and increasingly exhibit their natural wild behaviors. Unlike in the wild, where most live in large social groups, almost all pet primates are kept in relative isolation, devoid of contact with others of their species, and in conditions detrimental to their health and well-being. Expectations that nonhuman primates behave like perfectly trained pets or even like “little humans” almost always end in physical and psychological suffering for the primate.

Federal legislation is also needed to protect public safety. Even small primates can inflict serious injuries. Since 1990, approximately 300 people have reported being injured by primates kept by private individuals. (Many more incidents likely go unreported.) In 2009, the case of a Connecticut woman who was blinded and lost most of her face and hands in an attack from her employer's pet chimpanzee gained worldwide attention. Additionally, nonhuman primates pose distinct risks to public health since they can easily transmit a wide range of viral, bacterial, parasitic, and fungal diseases to humans.

### **What You Can Do:**

#### **Contact Your Legislators**

Contact your representative today and urge him or her to support the Captive Primate Safety Act. Send an email via AWI's Compassion Index: <http://www.congressweb.com/awi/legislators>. For more information on the Captive Primate Safety Act, visit AWI's website: <https://awionline.org/content/captive-primate-safety-act-hr-2920>. Please be sure to share our Dear Humanitarian eAlert with family, friends, and co-workers, and encourage them to contact their representatives, too. As always, thank you very much for your help!

Sincerely,

Kari Bagnall, Founder and President

P.S. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on the action above and other important animal protection news.

## **\*Sample Letter to Your Legislator\***

**Re: Co-Sponsor the Captive Primate Safety Act**, Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species. Importantly, the bill is narrowly tailored so that it does not affect zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, or universities.

**[You may include text to personalize your letter here. If you have direct experience relevant to this issue, please include that information in your letter.]**

The total number of pet primates (including apes, monkeys, lemurs, and lorises) is unknown, but conservative estimates suggest there are at least 15,000 in the United States. Unfortunately, even the most well-meaning individuals are not typically capable of meeting the needs of these wild animals, who quickly mature and increasingly exhibit their natural wild behaviors.

Although often perceived as endearing and helpless as infants, even small primates can soon become powerful and potentially aggressive, posing a threat to those around them. Since 1990, approximately 300 people have reported being injured by primates kept by private individuals; an many more incidents likely go unreported. In 2009, the case of a Connecticut woman who was blinded and horribly disfigured by her employer's pet chimpanzee gained worldwide attention.

Previous versions of the Captive Primate Safety Act passed the House during the 110<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Moreover, like the Captive Wildlife Safety Act – which added certain species of big cats to the list of “prohibited wildlife species” under the Lacey Act and which Congress passed unanimously in 2003 – H.R. 2920 would ensure that nonhuman primates cannot be sold, traded, or transported across state lines as pets.

I hope you will support this commonsense bill that would greatly reduce animal suffering while also protecting public safety. Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing back from you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]