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Welcome back for lesson nine of our home education course! This is our penultimate lesson before we finish the course next week, so for our last two sessions we will be focusing on primate rescue and rehabilitation. Today's lesson will explore:

- The threats primates face in the wild
- Why primates are removed from their habitats by humans
- How Monkey World rescues primates in need

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Throughout the first eight lessons of this course you have developed an understanding of why primates are such complex, intelligent animals. For the last two lessons we are going to be focusing on why rescue centres like Monkey World exist and how we work to protect the lives of primates, both in the wild and at the park. As we discuss some of our primates' rescue stories, you might have an emotional response, so make sure to talk to an adult if you want to discuss your feelings.

The term **endangered species** is recognisable to most of us. It means that a species is at risk of going extinct, often as a result of human impact – but who decides which species are endangered? There are two organisations who people rely on to research and survey numbers of wild animals in the world. They are the International Union for the Conservation of



Nature & Natural Resources (**IUCN**), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (**CITES**).

The **IUCN** is a group of governments, conservation agencies and research officials who aim to promote the protection of living things through sustainable action. It uses a **Red List** that shows the threatened species in the world and how at risk they are. The categories are: Least Concern, Near Threatened, Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, Extinct in the Wild, Extinct. When a species reaches endangered status, it has a 20% chance of becoming extinct in the next 20 years. At critically endangered, the chances of extinction are raised to a 50% chance of extinction in the next 10 years. Before a species is completely extinct, it will become extinct in the wild where the last individuals will be in captivity.

**CITES** is an agreement between over 100 countries to follow the guidelines they have set out to regulate the international trade in endangered species. As we will discuss today, there are many illegal reasons why someone may want to move an endangered species between countries, which CITES aims to stop. The species protected by CITES fall into one of three categories:

Appendix I: Species threatened with extinction, that are or may be affected by trade

Appendix II: Species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction now, but may be unless trade is strictly controlled

Appendix III: Species that a country feels need protecting, regulating, and controlling trade to prevent extinction.

Let's have a look at some of the reasons why primates are endangered and why organisations like Monkey World are called to rescue them.

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Habitat loss is one of the leading causes of wild primate species becoming endangered. As we discussed in our Primate Habitats lesson, primates around the world are losing their homes, food sources and lives, as humans encroach upon their habitats. The increase in the human population over time, has led to a demand for more housing, agriculture, infrastructure and industry. To make way for human expansion, rainforests around the world are being destroyed. Humans use a range of methods to clear the trees from a section of forest: they might cut the trees down, bulldoze the area, or even set fire to it. The land is repurposed for palm oil plantations, farms, buildings, roads and manufacturing. Many animals are killed in the process of the trees being removed, and others will not survive for long once their home has been destroyed. Some of the most endangered primates in the world are various species of lemurs; they are

only found on the island of Madagascar which has lost 90% of its original forest due to human impact. Without serious change, there are many critically endangered species of primate who are likely to go extinct in our life time.

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Monkey World was founded by Jim Cronin to provide a safe and permanent home for chimpanzees who were victims of the Spanish beach photography trade. During the 1970-80s it was common to see young chimpanzees paraded up and down Spanish beaches by photographers, encouraging tourists to pay for a photograph with the “cute” animal. Unfortunately, most tourists did not realise that these young chimpanzees had been stolen from their natural habitat and their family slaughtered so the baby could be sold into the entertainment industry. Young chimps are energetic and playful, but they would be beaten, drugged, and have their teeth knocked out so that they would stay quiet, still and not bite tourists. They were forced to wear human clothes, including shoes that painfully restricted their opposable big toe. They would be worked for around 16 hours a day under the hot sun, often being worked in circuses, nightclubs and other tourist attractions in the evenings.

Many of the chimpanzees rescued by Monkey World were victims of this trade, and arrived with a range of physical and psychological trauma as a result. Cindy and Kyko had misshapen feet from wearing shoes and rollerskates designed for humans. Charlie had a broken jaw and premature cataracts from being frequently hit on the head, and Sammy's body was covered in cigarette burns. Peppa was made to work in nightclubs where she would smoke cigarettes and drink alcohol to entice tourists into the bar. This psychological scar is still present, as she will still sometimes pick up a piece of straw and pretend to light and smoke it.

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Although it is mostly stopped in Europe, primates are still being stolen from the wild to fuel the beach photography trade. Even though the public are more aware of the issues facing chimpanzees flaunted by photographers, other primates such as slow loris, gibbons and a variety of New World Monkeys are exploited for their image in Central and South America, parts of Europe, and Southeast Asia.

If you see a beach photographer with **any** wild animal, you should never have your photo taken with it as your money will help to continue the suffering of wild animals in the trade. If you see a primate being worked by a photographer, you can report your sighting to Monkey World using the 'Report a Primate in Need' form on our website. We will follow up

on as many reports as possible, but we require evidence and the support of relevant authorities before we are able to act. You must never put yourself in danger to try and gather information for Monkey World; your safety is of the utmost importance to us.

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If you live in the UK it's likely that you have never visited a circus where live animals perform, but the use of wild animals in circuses was actually only banned in the UK in January 2020. Sadly, wild primates are still stolen from their natural habitats and forced to perform in circuses elsewhere in the world. These highly social animals are kept in solitary confinement and deprived of any opportunity to express their natural behaviours. Behaving or performing like a human does not come naturally to a chimpanzee or other primate, so they are often "trained" through violence, intimidation and fear.

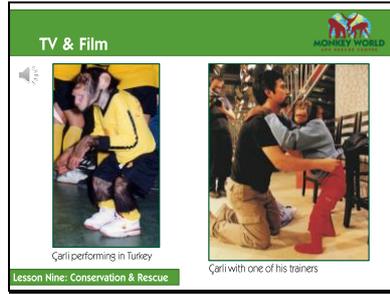
Monkey World has rescued and rehabilitated several apes from the circus trade: Trudy in 1998, a young female chimp rescued from a life of a abuse at the hands of circus trainer, Mary Chipperfield. When she arrived at the park she was so traumatized that she was terrified of the other chimpanzees. Lulu, another female chimp, was born in a circus and, whilst it was travelling through Cyprus her mother bit and



badly injured her arm. A family visiting the circus bought Lulu to tend to her injury, and had her gangrenous limb amputated, saving her life. Gibbons Ella (lar gibbon) and Vietta (golden-cheeked gibbon) were confiscated from a Vietnamese circus by the Russian Federation. Ella's canine teeth had been cut flat so that she couldn't bite people, and required extensive dental surgery when rescued by Monkey World.

Naree (pictured) was first sighted by Jim & Alison Cronin in a Thai circus in 2003. She had had her teeth knocked out, and it had caused infection in her nasal cavity and deformed her face. Jim and Alison started a campaign to rescue Naree and bring her to Monkey World, but before they could get her to safety, she vanished. Despite every effort, we could not locate Naree and, as time went on, we started to presume that she was gone for good. Incredibly, in 2018 Alison was contacted by a colleague working with animal rescue centres in Thailand; they had found a lone female chimp with a facial deformity and wondered if we could give her a home. It was Naree, 15 years later! Alison and Jeremy flew to Thailand to bring Naree home, and she excitedly remembered Alison from years ago. Naree arrived at Monkey World in September 2018 and is now fully-integrated into Bryan's Group, has made firm friends and is able to enjoy chimpanzee life.

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The use of primates in television and film encourages the same practice of removing babies from their mothers so they can be trained for human entertainment. It also sends the wrong messages to the public, as it suggests that primates are cute, cuddly, trainable animals which encourages people to keep them as pets. Images of smiling chimpanzees are regularly used in advertising, on greetings cards and clothing, misrepresenting the meaning of a chimpanzee's **fear grin** which actually indicates fear, distress or discomfort.

Çarli (pronounced Charlie) was rescued by Monkey World in 2003. He began life in Hollywood but was sold to a Turkish production company, who made him the star of a Turkish TV show. The show's popularity led to a rise in the pet trade, and more and more baby chimpanzees were smuggled into Turkey. After Jim and Alison acquired an "interview" with Çarli and his trainers, they explained that Monkey World was a rescue centre and there was a home there for Çarli. The company were finding Çarli increasingly harder to work with as he matured, so they agreed that he would move to Monkey World when he could not work any longer. Çarli was very humanised when he arrived at the park, but is now a well-integrated member of the Bachelor Group who enjoys the easy life.

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Very few people have the knowledge and resources to properly care for a pet primate, but people across the world continue to desire and keep primates as pets. Since 1987 Monkey World has been asked to rehome pet apes, monkeys and prosimians from over 25 countries. No matter the species, no non-human primate is domesticated or can be tamed. Their complex social structures and advanced intelligence make them ill-suited to be kept without others of their kind, and restricted to the rules of human society. Just like when primates are used in entertainment, they become unmanageable as they reach adulthood, and owners often look for an alternative arrangement.

The luckiest individuals from the trade will be rehomed to a rescue centre such as Monkey World, whereas others may be sold on to a new owner or into the entertainment industry. Most of our apes that have rescued from the pet trade have arrived from other countries, such as Oshine whose owners felt that life at a South African ranch was no longer the place for her. As a baby, Oshine had been given sweets and other treats, and walked around on two feet holding hands with her owners. As an adult, approximately 6x stronger than the average human, Oshine could not be stopped when she raided the fridge and helped herself to unhealthy snacks. She was around 13 years old when she arrived at Monkey World. She weighed 100kg, which is double what she



should have weighed. Although she has since lost her extra weight, Oshine continues to walk bipedally when walking on the ground.

Pung-yo was only a baby golden-cheeked gibbon when he was stolen from the forests of Vietnam. He and other Vietnamese wildlife, were smuggled to Taiwan where they were met at the docks by the authorities and confiscated. Pung-yo and the other baby gibbons were filthy, malnourished and terrified, but were put into the care of the Pingtung Rescue Centre. When Pung-yo was well enough, he moved to Monkey World where he was paired with Peanut, who was rescued from the pet trade in the UK. Toprish is a female chimpanzee rescued by Monkey World in 2018. She was purchased as from the illegal wildlife trade to be kept as a pet in Turkey. When she became too difficult to keep her owners rehomed her at a Turkish zoo, but they were unable to integrate her with the other chimps due to her strange, humanised behaviours. This is something we are used to at Monkey World, so she is now a popular member of Bart's Community.

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Unbelievably it is still legal to own primates as pets in the UK, although for most species you would require a Dangerous Wild Animal Licence that is granted by your local authority.

Unfortunately there are still over 85 species of monkey that can be kept as a pet in the UK with no licensing, regulation or welfare checks. Marmosets, tamarins and squirrel monkeys are regularly purchased by well-meaning owners who are misled by unscrupulous breeders who provide inaccurate information regarding their care. Prospective owners are often told that the small monkeys are tame, will live happily without other monkeys, require no special diet, and can be kept in bird cages. The general public will spend between £1000 - £1500 to buy their monkey, but will soon realise that they are not an easy pet to keep.

The babies are often sold at only a few months old, when they should be with both parents until they are at least a year old. They are dependent on their new owners to begin with, but as they mature they can become jealous and possessive, even being aggressive to visitors who they feel are a threat. Marmosets are gummivores (remember from our Primate Diets session?), but are often fed huge quantities of fruit in the pet trade, as well as being given human treats like sweets and fizzy drinks. They are kept in tiny, inappropriate cages with little room to climb or express natural behaviours. Most of the monkeys that we rescue from the UK pet trade arrive with a

range of physical and psychological problems, including hyper-aggression, dental problems and rickets from a lack of sunlight.

Monkey World has been trying to change the law for the last 20 years and introduce regulation (or a ban) to people keeping primates as pets. We have previously campaigned for new licensing regulations to be introduced in the UK, most recently through our STAMPitout campaign (more details on our website). The government have been listening and are currently gathering information on the pet trade, so we hope for change soon.

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Animals are used in biomedical research in various countries across the world. They are used in experiments to produce new medicines and treatments for human illnesses. In the UK, primates can only be kept in laboratories and used in research for particular conditions if there is no other option available. The great apes cannot be used in medical research in the UK, as they have been deemed to similar to humans. Often when primates are kept in laboratory facilities, they are kept in inappropriate accommodation, regularly on their own, and have little to no ability to express their natural behaviours.

Monkey World has rescued capuchins, chimpanzees, squirrel monkeys and stump-tailed macaques from laboratories. When rescuing primates from labs Monkey World will

ensure that the rescued primates will not be replaced by any more, and that the lab will pay for any additional housing that needs to be built. Our largest ever rescue occurred in 2008, when we rescued 88 capuchin monkeys from a laboratory in Chile. Some of the monkeys had lived in the tiny, solitary cages for over 20 years since they were stolen from the wild. Others had been born in the laboratory and had never seen a tree or any of the outside world. As we don't usually rescue such a large number of primates in one go, we were very grateful for assistance from the Chilean Air Force who flew Alison, Jeremy and all 88 capuchins to the UK. The psychological trauma from the capuchins' past lives is still apparent. It is common to see the capuchins twisting their bodies, necks and heads as they express stereotypical behaviours from being confined to small, cramped cages. Now having been at Monkey World for over 10 years, the capuchins have learnt to climb trees, forage for food and live as a happy community.

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**Primate Rescue**

- Initial report
- Investigation
- Final decision
- Preparation
- The rescue
- Arrival & introduction
- Rehabilitation

Lesson Nine: Conservation & Rescue

Rescuing primates is not as simple as it may seem. Although Monkey World is run by Dr. Alison Cronin and her team of experts, we do not have the power or authority to confiscate primates without the expressed permission of the relevant government and authorities. For example, Monkey World cannot remove a pet marmoset from a UK owner without cooperation from the police and, often, the RSPCA.



A rescue will begin with a first report or sighting of a primate in need, which may come to us from a member of the public or a colleague working overseas. Before we can attempt to rescue the primate, we must investigate and gather evidence that a crime is being committed. This may involve an undercover mission to visit the location where the primate was seen, and gathering photo and video evidence of the primate being mistreated. We will make our final decision as to whether we can rescue the primate when we have more information: what species is it? How old is it? Is it male or female? Does it have any serious health problems? The answers to these questions will help us to decide if we can give the primate a safe, welcoming home with others of their own kind. The rescue itself can often spread across several days if the primate is coming from another country, and they require a support team of Monkey World staff, local police, vets and government officials. When the primate arrives at the park for the first time, their new life begins. They will slowly be introduced to their new family group – this can take a long time if they haven't got many social skills! – and the process of rehabilitation begins. For many of our primates rehabilitation continues for years, and is often led by the other primates around them. For example, chimpanzee Charlie who was a beach photographer's prop was integral in encouraging a newly rescued Pacito to explore the outside enclosure. He had been kept

indoors for years and was afraid of the outside world, but Charlie tempted him outside with games and play.

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Conservation is the prevention of wasting natural resources, such as habitats and animal species. The biggest conservation project that Monkey World is involved in is the work of the Endangered Asian Species Trust (EAST). EAST operates on an island called Dao Tien, situated in the Cat Tien National Park in Vietnam. At the centre the team rescue, rehabilitate and release into the wild golden-cheeked gibbons, pygmy slow loris and black-shanked doucs. All of the primates rescued by EAST have been victim to the black market trade, having been stolen from the wild and sold into the pet trade or entertainment industry. In addition to readying the rescued primates for release, EAST works with local communities, schools and governments to increase people's knowledge and awareness of these endangered species.

Not all of the primates rescued by EAST can be released to the wild; some have contracted human diseases that could be passed on to other wild gibbons, or may be too badly injured or humanised to return to the forest. When a

primate has gone through rehabilitation and is ready for release, the team will do a final health check and fit the primate with a tracking collar, so they can check on their progress once released. The collars are set to drop off after a period of 6 months to a year, depending on the species. To date over 80 primates have been released back to the forest in Vietnam, and EAST continue to work with local authorities to improve the lives and welfare of their native primates.

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**How Can I Help?**

**DON'T:**

- Have your photograph taken with a primate
- Visit a circus or show that features performing primates
- Keep a primate as a pet
- Share or like images/videos of primates in unnatural situations

**DO:**

- Report primates in need to Monkey World
- Use our infographic on social media to help educate others
- Research foreign wildlife centres and animal attractions before you visit

Lesson Nine: Conservation & Rescue

So, how can you help?

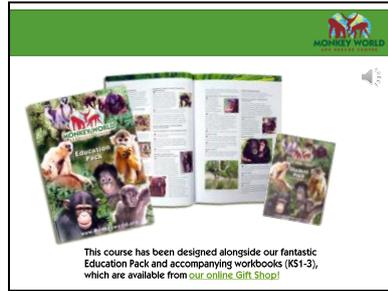
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These lessons have been designed alongside our Education Pack which is full of comprehensive information on primate classification, habitats, family groups, diets and more. It is perfect for learning more about primates at home! It is available from our online Gift Shop, along with curriculum-linked workbooks available in Keystages 1, 2 and 3!