

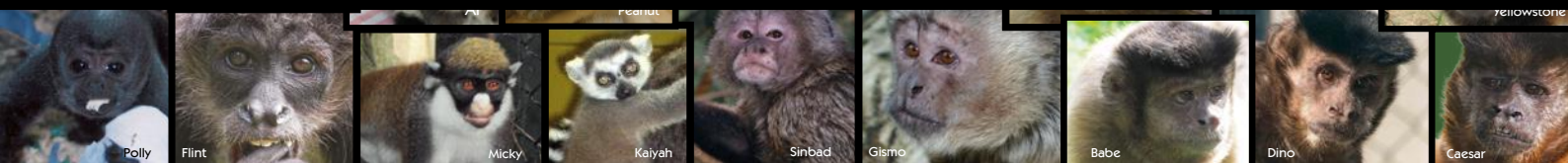


# Call for evidence on welfare of primates as pets

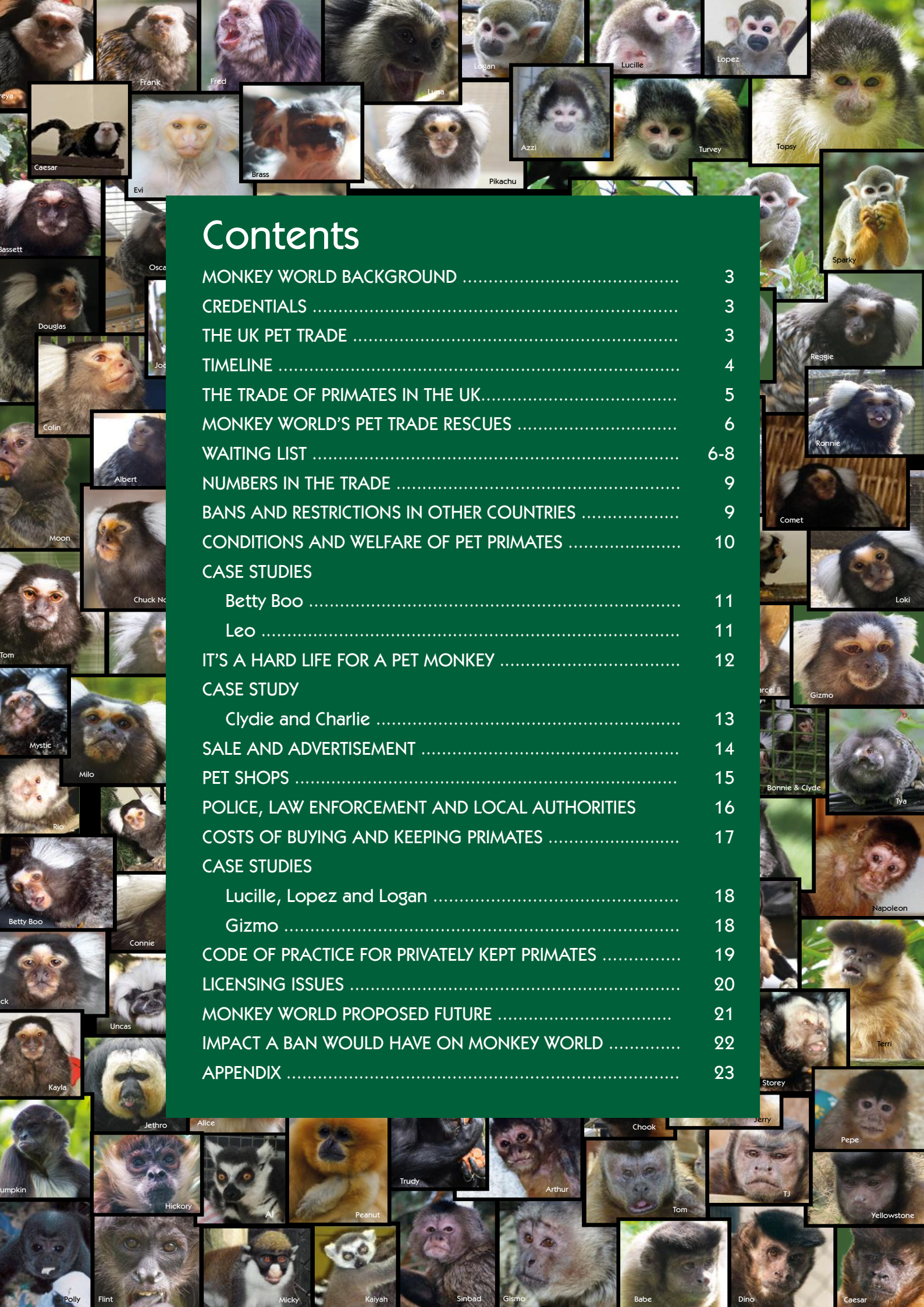


**MONKEY WORLD**  
APE RESCUE CENTRE

## Monkey World Response January 2020







# Contents

MONKEY WORLD BACKGROUND .....	3
CREDENTIALS .....	3
THE UK PET TRADE .....	3
TIMELINE .....	4
THE TRADE OF PRIMATES IN THE UK.....	5
MONKEY WORLD'S PET TRADE RESCUES .....	6
WAITING LIST .....	6-8
NUMBERS IN THE TRADE .....	9
BANS AND RESTRICTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES .....	9
CONDITIONS AND WELFARE OF PET PRIMATES .....	10
CASE STUDIES	
Betty Boo .....	11
Leo .....	11
IT'S A HARD LIFE FOR A PET MONKEY .....	12
CASE STUDY	
Clydie and Charlie .....	13
SALE AND ADVERTISEMENT .....	14
PET SHOPS .....	15
POLICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES .....	16
COSTS OF BUYING AND KEEPING PRIMATES .....	17
CASE STUDIES	
Lucille, Lopez and Logan .....	18
Gizmo .....	18
CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRIVATELY KEPT PRIMATES .....	19
LICENSING ISSUES .....	20
MONKEY WORLD PROPOSED FUTURE .....	21
IMPACT A BAN WOULD HAVE ON MONKEY WORLD .....	22
APPENDIX .....	23



### MONKEY WORLD BACKGROUND

Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre was established in 1987 to rescue chimpanzees who had been smuggled from the wild and abused in the illegal Spanish beach photography trade. Since then, Monkey World has continued to rescue victims of illegal wildlife trafficking, primates who have been abused in the entertainment industry, neglected as illegal pets, and primates rehomed from laboratories. Its most chronic problem, and some of the worst cases of abuse and neglect over 32 years have been as a result of the legal pet trade in primates in the UK.

### CREDENTIALS

Dr Alison Cronin MBE is the Director of Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre in Dorset. She has studied primate and animal behaviour and welfare for over 30 years. She received a BA and MA in Biological Anthropology from Cambridge University, a PhD in Animal Behaviour from the Open University, and an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Oxford Brooks University. In 2006, she was also awarded an MBE for services to animal welfare.

At Cambridge Dr Cronin's degrees in Biological Anthropology covered all aspects of primate biology, ecology, behaviour, and evolution.

For the last 27 years Dr Cronin has worked at Monkey World rescuing and rehabilitating primates of various species from around the world. She oversees the rescues, transport, veterinary care, and daily management of more than 260 primates, of 24 different species, as well as designing enclosures and husbandry routines for these primates.

#### Care of the most common species in the British pet trade:

**77 marmosets:** 62 common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*), one black-eared marmoset (*Callithrix penicillata*), six Geoffroy's marmosets (*Callithrix geoffroyi*), and eight hybrid marmosets (*Callithrix ssp.*). 66 of these individuals were from the British pet trade, five from a biomedical laboratory, and six were born at Monkey World.

**More than 104 capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella ssp.*):** 88 were rescued from a biomedical laboratory and the rest from the pet trade.

**17 squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus* & *Saimiri boliviensis*):** Seven of these from the British pet trade, six from a biomedical laboratory, one from a zoo, and three were born at Monkey World.

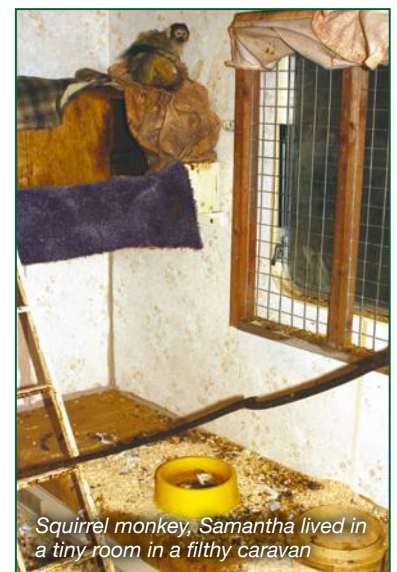
### THE UK PET TRADE

Monkey World's first rescue from the UK market was a capuchin monkey in 1989, and since then, it has rescued 98 primates from England alone (and 109 in total including Scotland, N. Ireland and Wales). In Monkey World's experience, there has been a shift over the last 30 years in the primate companion animal trade, moving from a select few specialist keepers owning primates as a hobby, to now, when keeping a primate as a pet is populist, accessible and the majority of pet primates are kept by the uneducated public, in bird cages in living rooms. From this experience Monkey World has campaigned for a change in the law to protect pet primates, and ensure they are at least kept to the same high standard that zoos and safari parks are expected to adhere to.

**Summary:** Monkey World opposes the keeping of primates in domestic settings as companion animals, and supports the ban on the sale of primates.



Monkey World has rescued many marmosets from life in tiny, indoor bird cages



Squirrel monkey, Samantha lived in a tiny room in a filthy caravan



Marmoset Freya was found loose on the streets of London

# Timeline

April 1st 1999

Monkey World handed list of suspected primate dealers in UK to Ministers.

July 30th 2005

Jim Knight launches public consultation on the welfare of primates as pets at Monkey World.

2012

Construction of first pet trade complex building provides 14 bedrooms to house 15-30 individuals from UK pet trade. Housing was filled within six weeks, and waiting list began in 2013.

Sept 12th 2014

Results of EFRA committee decide there is no cause for a ban, and bring in a Code of Practice for Privately Kept Primates.

2014

Current housing at Monkey World is full, and waiting list grew.

2016

Monkey World re-purposes housing to host more victims of the UK pet trade, costing £19k.

Summer 2016

Dr Cronin meets with Environment Minister George Eustice to discuss the pet trade on the Prime Minister's request.

Spring 2017

Monkey World builds two additional houses for pet trade rescues costing over £110k.

Spring 2018

Monkey World launches campaign to STAMP it out- **Stop the Trade and Abuse of Monkeys as Pets**. Over 50 letters are written to MPs and posts shared thousands of times on social media.

April 2019

Facebook enforced their rule on banning the sale of animals on the site.

October 2019

DEFRA announce a call for evidence on the welfare of primates kept as pets in England.

1989

First rescue from UK pet trade of a capuchin and squirrel monkey.

2005

35 primates rescued from the UK pet trade since 1989, 31 from England alone.

Oct 25th 2005

Petition for ban on pet primates of over 56k signatures delivered to public consultation.

Feb 5th 2014

EFRA select committee on welfare of primates as pets. Dr Cronin and five others give evidence.

2014

Monkey World launched "Welfare 4 Wildlife", a petition against the UK primate pet trade, calling for legislation to ensure higher standards of care for pet primates.

2015

Monkey World builds new complex for victims of domestic pet trade with 14 bedrooms and seven outside enclosures, housing up to 20 individuals, costing over £140k. Housing was full within eight weeks.

April 2016

Monkey World hands in a petition to Downing St of over 110k signatures for Welfare 4 Wildlife.

24th April 2017

Parliament adjournment debate on the pet trade due to Monkey World's petition. Minister George Eustice refuses to change law.

2017

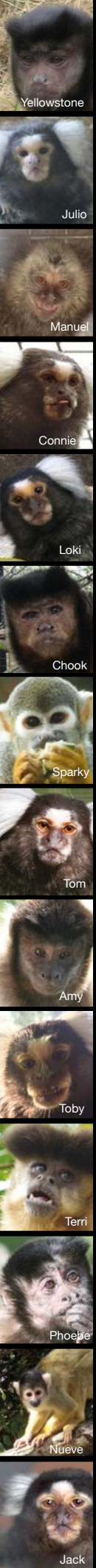
Rescues continue of monkeys from the UK pet trade, now numbering over 100, with over 50 on a waiting list.

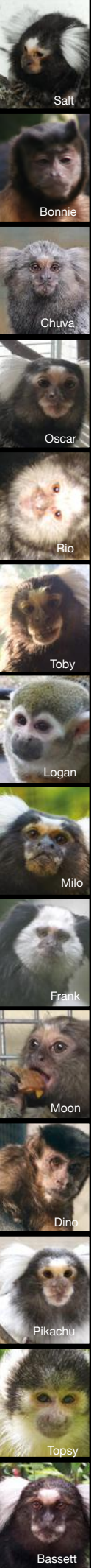
August 2018

Freeads.co.uk banned the sale of primates on their site as a result of Monkey World campaigning, and added their support to the campaign.

August 2019

Dr Cronin is approached by Environment Minister Zac Goldsmith and DEFRA to advise on the current situation of UK pet trade.



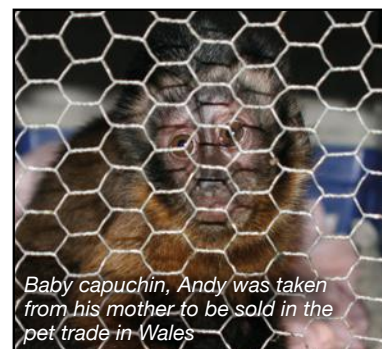


## THE TRADE OF PRIMATES IN THE UK

### Evidence requested 1:

Number and types of primates in rescue centres and typical life spans

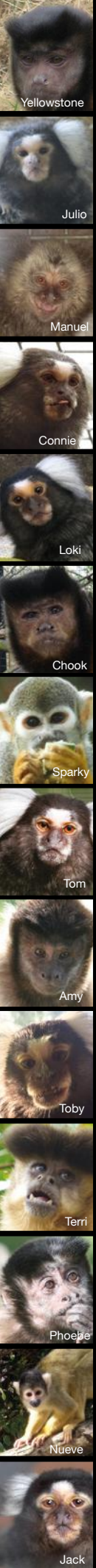
Monkey World has rescued 109 primates of 14 different species from the UK pet trade, (98 from England alone) since 1989. The species details, where they were rescued from and numbers are listed in the table below:



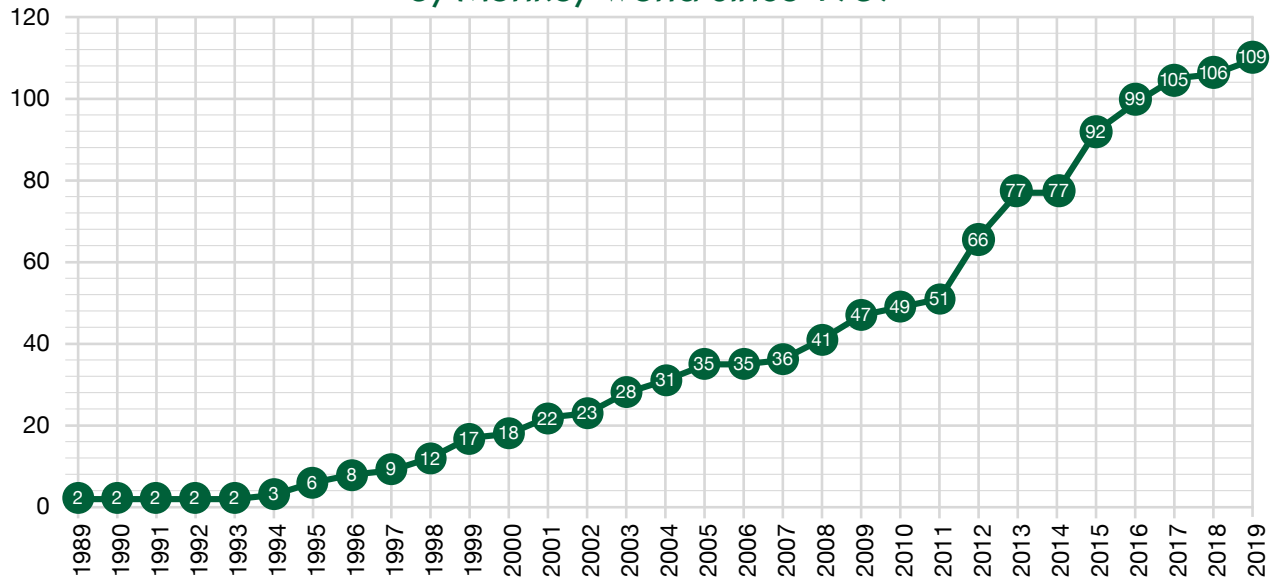
Common Name	Species	Average Life Span (years)	No. Rescued from England alone	No. Rescued from N. Ireland, Scotland, Wales	Total rescued (1989-2019)
Common marmoset	<i>Callithrix jacchus</i>	12	51	5	56
Geoffroy's marmoset	<i>Callithrix geoffroyi</i>	12	5		5
Unknown / hybrid marmoset species	_____	12	3		3
Black-eared marmoset	<i>Callithrix penicillata</i>	12	2		2
Cotton-top tamarin	<i>Saguinus oedipus</i>	14	2		2
Squirrel monkey	<i>Saimiri sciureus</i>	21	9	1	10
Capuchin monkey	<i>Cebus apella</i>	40	16	4	20
White-faced saki monkey	<i>Pithecia pithecia</i>	25	1		1
Woolly monkey	<i>Lagothrix lagotricha</i>	26	1		1
Black-handed spider monkey	<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>	30	3		3
Ring-tailed lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>	25	1	1	2
Greater spot-nosed guenon	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	20	1		1
Golden-cheeked gibbon	<i>Nomascus gabriellae</i>	35	1		1
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	50	1		1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>109</b>







## Number of Primates Rescued From UK Pet Trade by Monkey World Since 1989



### MONKEY WORLD'S PET TRADE RESCUES

Monkey World has seen an exponential increase in rescues from England and the rest of the UK pet trade. Over 30 years, 72% of rescues occurred in the last 15 years from 2004 to 2019. Over half (53%) of the rescues from the UK pet trade have occurred in the last eight years since 2011, showing the increase in recent years of primates in the pet trade in need of rescue (actual figures are 58 rescues from 2011- 2019, from a total of 109). This would be even higher if Monkey World had resources to take all - full capacity caused pauses in 2009 & 2013. However, some rescues have continued despite houses being full.

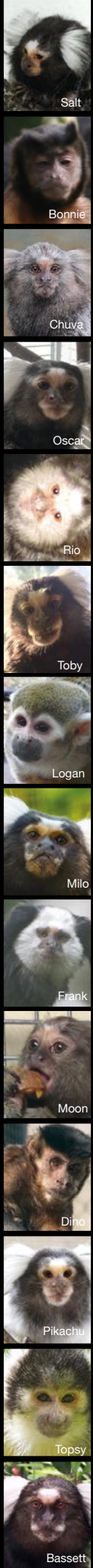


### WAITING LIST

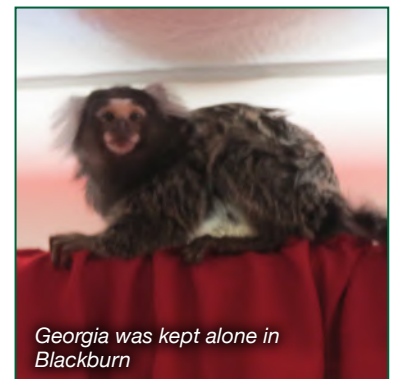
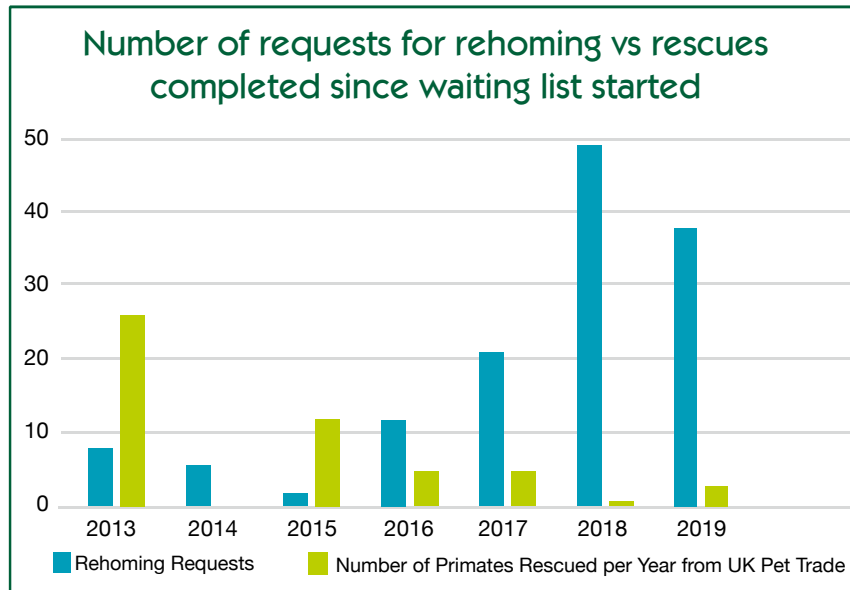
Monkey World currently has a waiting list of over 100 individuals awaiting rehoming. These include common marmosets, Geoffroy's marmosets, squirrel monkeys, ring-tailed lemurs, and black-eared marmosets. This list consists of reports from concerned members of the public, monkey owners who have realised they cannot adequately provide for the pet's needs, and well-meaning people who bought the monkey to 'rescue' them from the trade.

Due to the high number of requests to rescue primates from the UK pet trade, Monkey World has rehomed rehabilitated pairs with professional, vetted institutions to create space at the rescue centre to take in further primates. Young babies from the pet trade, who could be adopted by an established pair in the centre, will also be accepted despite housing being effectively "full". Finally, natural mortality allows spaces for one or two rescues to continue to trickle in over the years.





Between 2012 and 2019, Monkey World received reports of 188 primates in need of rehoming or rescue. We rescued 52 of these, leaving 136 on the waiting list.

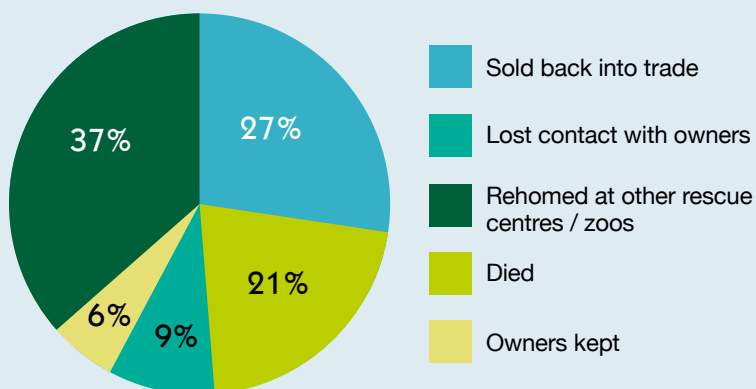


## WAITING LIST

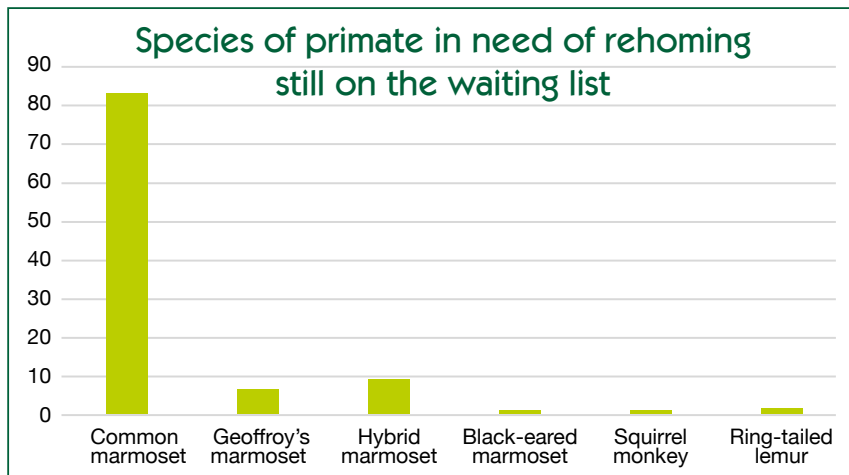
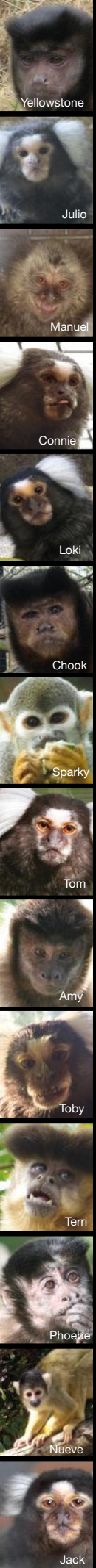
Above is a graph showing the number of primates rescued from the pet trade during the years from 2013, and the number of requests for rehoming that Monkey World received each year but were not able to rehome. Due to the huge demand for rehoming, Monkey World started their waiting list in 2013.

Although the number of rescues decreases due to houses being full (such as in 2014), the centre still received requests for rehoming. During 2013 and 2015, Monkey World had spaces to take in monkeys in need of rescue due to recent new builds specifically for victims of the UK pet trade. This housing was filled very quickly and so the waiting list grew each year after this. It shows that Monkey World's rescue figures do not tell the whole story; although rescue figures show a dramatic increase of primates rescued from the pet trade, what has also increased is the number of requests to rehome their primates.

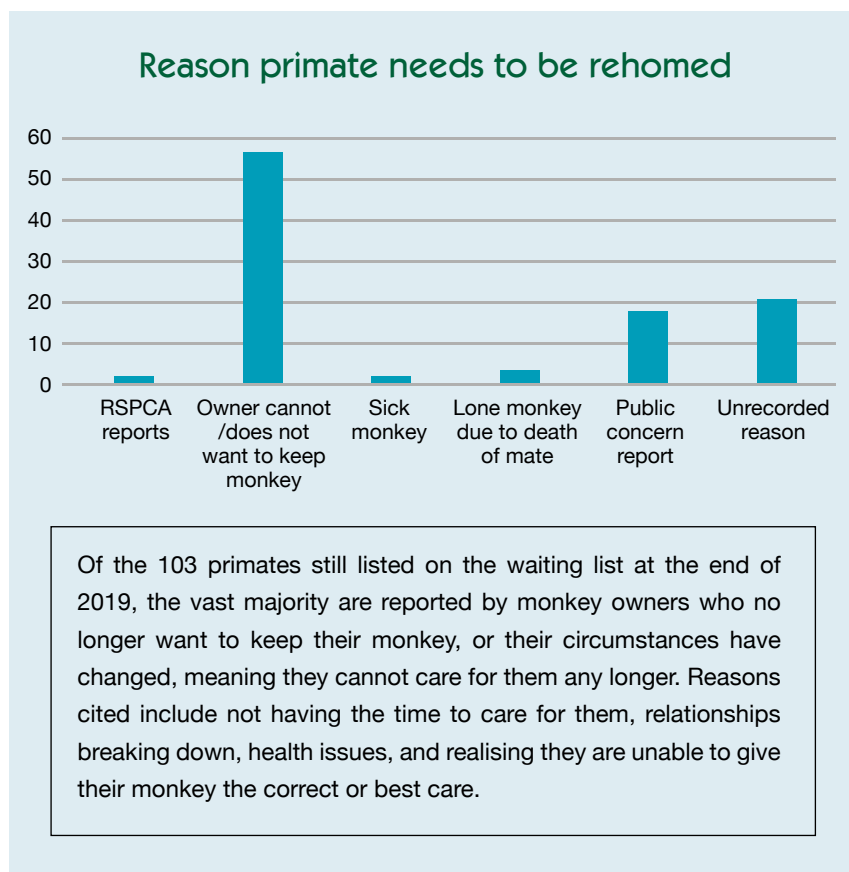
## Reasons primates, that were not rescued, were removed from waiting list



Of the 136 primates on the waiting list, 33 no longer require rehoming because of various reasons. Nearly half of these primates have either died, or been sold back into the pet trade. It is a dangerous and unstable life for a pet trade monkey.



A large number of the primates on the waiting list are marmosets, with the majority being common marmosets. However, we know this is often misreported as the general public are not aware of the different species of marmosets, so some may also be Geoffroy's. Hybrid marmosets appear to be individuals who were either crosses of common and Geoffroy's marmosets, or common marmosets bred with silvery marmosets.



## EXTENT OF THE TRADE:

# Pet Trade in Numbers

**109**  
primates  
rescued from  
UK pet trade  
since 1989

**73**  
since the  
start of  
2008

**105**  
**at least!**  
on the  
waiting list  
in 2020

**£326,047**  
spent by  
Monkey World  
on housing  
alone for victims  
of the pet trade

**2**  
petitions  
raised

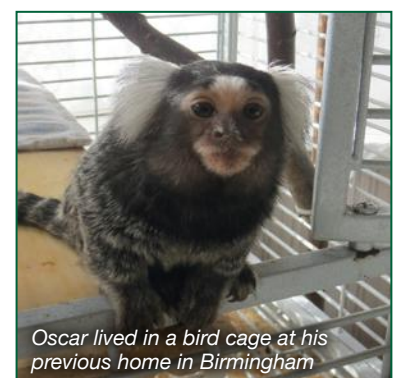
**110,764**  
signatures  
on the 2016  
petition

**14**  
species  
rescued from  
England alone

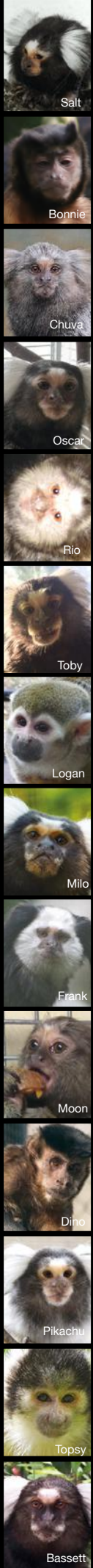
**85**  
species able to  
be kept in the  
UK without  
requiring  
legislation,  
licence or checks

**53**  
letters written  
to MPs  
since July  
2018

**3.5K**  
shares of our  
Facebook posts  
on the UK pet  
trade







## NUMBERS IN THE TRADE

### Evidence requested 1 and 4:

Numbers in private ownership and number being bred

### The Unregulated Trade:

There are currently 85 species of monkey which can be kept legally in the UK without needing a Dangerous Wild Animal (DWA) licence, or any other type of register or legislation at all. They can be bought as easily as goldfish. This includes all species of marmoset, tamarin, squirrel and titi monkey. Other species require a DWA licence; however Monkey World has also rescued primates listed on the DWA from the UK pet trade. These species have included ring-tailed lemurs, capuchins, a guenon, a saki monkey, a woolly monkey, spider monkeys, a golden-cheeked gibbon, and a chimpanzee.

It is not possible to estimate numbers of primates in private households. Common marmosets can become pregnant within two weeks of giving birth, with a gestation period of five months, and twins as usual offspring. They can breed quickly in high numbers, and are often sold at a few weeks old, so the unregulated trade means that a single breeder with just two breeding pairs could produce eight marmoset individuals to be sold into the pet trade per year.

70% of the marmosets that have been rescued by Monkey World (43/67) are male. This is a skewed sex ratio. It is also our experience that many "female" marmosets that are sold are actually male and we believe that breeders and dealers are keeping females to breed and this is why there are more male marmosets in the UK pet trade.

## DANGEROUS NEW TREND

Monkey World is aware that all too often even a primate owner's neighbours will be unaware there was a monkey living next door. In the last two years Monkey World has been called to assist with primates whose owners are unknown. The calls were asking for assistance to capture a marmoset that was loose on the streets of North London, to identify the body of a marmoset that was dead in the street and appeared to have been hit by a car, and to rescue a marmoset that was found outside after it had fallen from a 3rd floor window. Monkey World was also alerted to a case of a pet marmoset who was loose in Oxford in December 2019 (reported in The Sun). This is a worrying development and indicates to us that there is an increasing trade in primates as pets to people who are not specialist keepers and that do not know how to care for their primates properly. (Appendix 1 and 2).

## BANS AND RESTRICTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

Many European countries have banned either the keeping or selling of primates as pets. It differs from country to country as to whether all species of primates are banned or just some. Belgium has a positive list; it lists those species of mammal which are permitted to be kept as pets. The Netherlands ban both the sale and keeping of all species of primates, (Appendix 4). It has been recorded that these systems are easier to regulate and adhere to than a licensing system, as it is clearer in the public's mind as to what is permitted. (Appendix 5).



Under current legislation monkeys can be bought and sold as easily as a goldfish in a bowl in the British pet trade.



Bonnie and baby Andy were reunited at Monkey World after a police confiscation

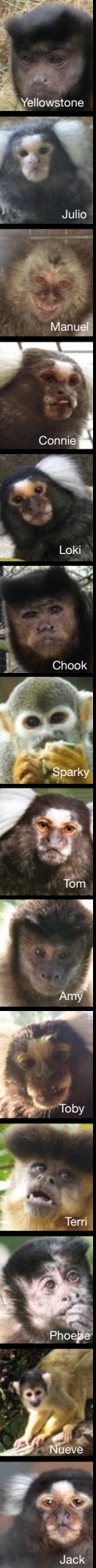


Amy lived alone in a bird cage until police confiscated her in North London



Dead marmoset found on a street in Edmonton, London 2018





## CONDITIONS AND WELFARE OF PET PRIMATES

### Evidence requested 2:

Typical general welfare and conditions of primates kept as pets

#### Unacceptable circumstances Monkey World has rescued primates from:

• **Maternal deprivation.** Infants removed from mother at young age, under a year old, when marmosets in particular are fully dependent on parents for one year.

*Case study: Leo (page 11)*

• **Socially deprived.** Living alone without others of their own kind. Primates are social animals who require company of their own kind.

*Case study: Leo (page 11)*

• **Cramped, indoor enclosure.** Often primates are kept inside in bird cages, or other small enclosures. This does not allow them enough room for active climbing, leading to poor mobility. No perching doesn't allow for natural behaviours and exercise, no natural sunlight which leads to a vitamin D deficiency.

*Case study: Betty Boo (page 11)*

• **Lack of heating, or unsafe heating.** Primates primarily are native to hot countries, and require additional heating for health. Often this is supplied in unsafe electric bar heaters.

*Case studies: Gizmo / Lucille Lopez and Logan (page 18)*

• **Unhygienic enclosures.** Poor design of enclosures, or cages which are not purpose built often mean that the owner cannot safely remove the primate or enter the enclosure to clean, or is unaware of the requirements to clean. Rotting food, and old faeces are often found in cages.

*Case studies: Gizmo/ Lucille, Lopez and Logan (page 18)*

• **Inappropriate diet.** Monkeys are often fed too much, too little, or the wrong diet leading to nutritional bone disease, organ failure, malnourishment, and dental issues.

*Case studies: Betty Boo / Leo (page 11)*

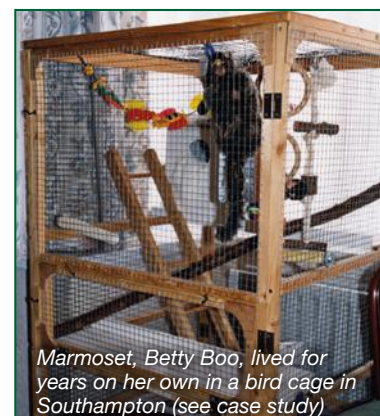
*Lucille, Lopez and Logan / Gizmo (page 18)*

• **Lack of vet care.** Often monkeys' basic health requirements are not met, such as worming and dental care. Local domestic vet practices often do not have the specialist knowledge to advise and treat monkeys. Monkey World has been called on numerous occasions by vet practices requesting advice on treatment for pet monkeys presented to them.

*Case study: Leo (page 11)*

• **Breeding.** The quick gestation period of marmosets means that unscrupulous breeders can farm marmosets, and keep them in a state of near constant pregnancy.

*Case study: Clydie and Charlie (page 13)*



**Monkey World has rescued individuals from the pet trade that have both physical and mental problems including:**

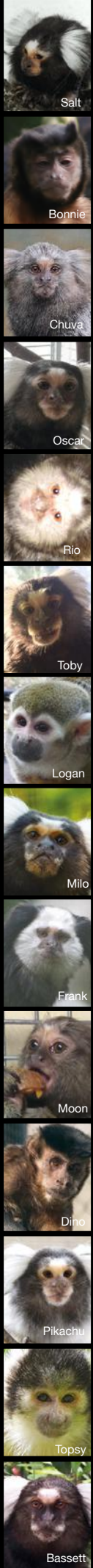
#### Physical problems:

- Broken bones
- Nutritional bone disease (rickets)
- Malnourishment
- Poor musculature
- Amputated tails
- Kidney and liver failure
- Soft tissue damage
- Poor dentition
- Bacterial and/or parasitic infections

#### Mental problems:

- Hyper aggressive
- Hyper alert
- Agoraphobics
- Poor/non-existent social skills,
- Stereotypic behaviour
- Abnormal behaviour
- Self-injurious behaviour





# CASE STUDIES

## Betty Boo

**Species:** Common Marmoset

**Rescued:** May 2003, Southampton

**Conditions:** Solitary living, indoor small cage, incorrect diet, lack of vet care

**Health implications:** Nutritional bone disease, reduced mobility, poor dentition

**Story:** Betty Boo lived in a sitting room in Southampton with her elderly owner for over seven years. Although she was given run of the sitting room, she had no access to outside space, lived alone and was not fed the correct diet. Her owner contacted Monkey World after seeing TV programme Monkey Business, and realising that marmosets require companionship of their own kind and a natural outside environment. Her owner admitted she was unaware of the specific nutritional requirements of marmosets, and Betty Boo had developed one of the worst cases of nutritional bone disease (rickets) the park had ever seen. Furthermore, she had not had company of her own kind since she had been removed from her mother for the pet trade.

While it was unlikely that anything could be done for her crippled limbs, the specialist wildlife veterinarian Dr John Lewis, assessed the marmoset's condition. Betty Boo's poor diet had not only affected her bone growth but it also had a terrible effect on her teeth, many of which were crooked and/or rotten. John removed only a couple of teeth to begin with and checked her general



Betty Boo's skeleton shows how being fed an inappropriate diet and kept in a small cage had affected her bones

condition. Betty Boo was given a therapeutic dose of vitamins to see if we could reverse some of the bad effects of her bone condition.

At the park, the keepers set up the monkey house with loads of climbing frames, ropes, leafy branches and nest boxes to provide mental stimulation, as well as physical fitness and introduced her to Connie, a fellow ex-pet. Betty Boo lived at the park for another eight years until old age caught up with her. Betty Boo's skeleton was kept to educate visitors about the profound effect simple ignorance to primates' needs can have, as you can see her curved and fused spine, broken tail, bowed long bones and deformed femur.

## Leo

**Species:** Common Marmoset

**Rescued:** January 2013, Camden

**Conditions:** Removed from mother at too young an age, solitary living, indoor small cage, incorrect diet, lack of vet care

**Health implications:** Nutritional bone disease, very poor mobility, lack of social skills, malnourished

**Story:** Leo was a tiny baby, just a couple of months old when Monkey World were alerted to him. The RSPCA got in touch after a London vet clinic reported they had a baby pygmy marmoset with severe rickets. When rescued, it was clear that he wasn't a pygmy marmoset but instead a very young common marmoset. The breeder had sold him as a pygmy marmoset to justify the high price- £1700. Leo weighed just 120 grams, and was at an age where he was still completely reliant on his parents. His fur was matted, he was crippled with bone disease and could barely move, dragging his back legs behind his body as he trembled with pain- the team weren't sure if he was going to survive. Any small fall or strain from climbing could have broken more bones and been fatal, so the team kept him in a small box whilst they built up his strength and nursed him back to health with the correct vitamin supplements to harden his bones. After three weeks, Leo's mobility started to improve. The team gave him a bigger space and increased the amount of perching



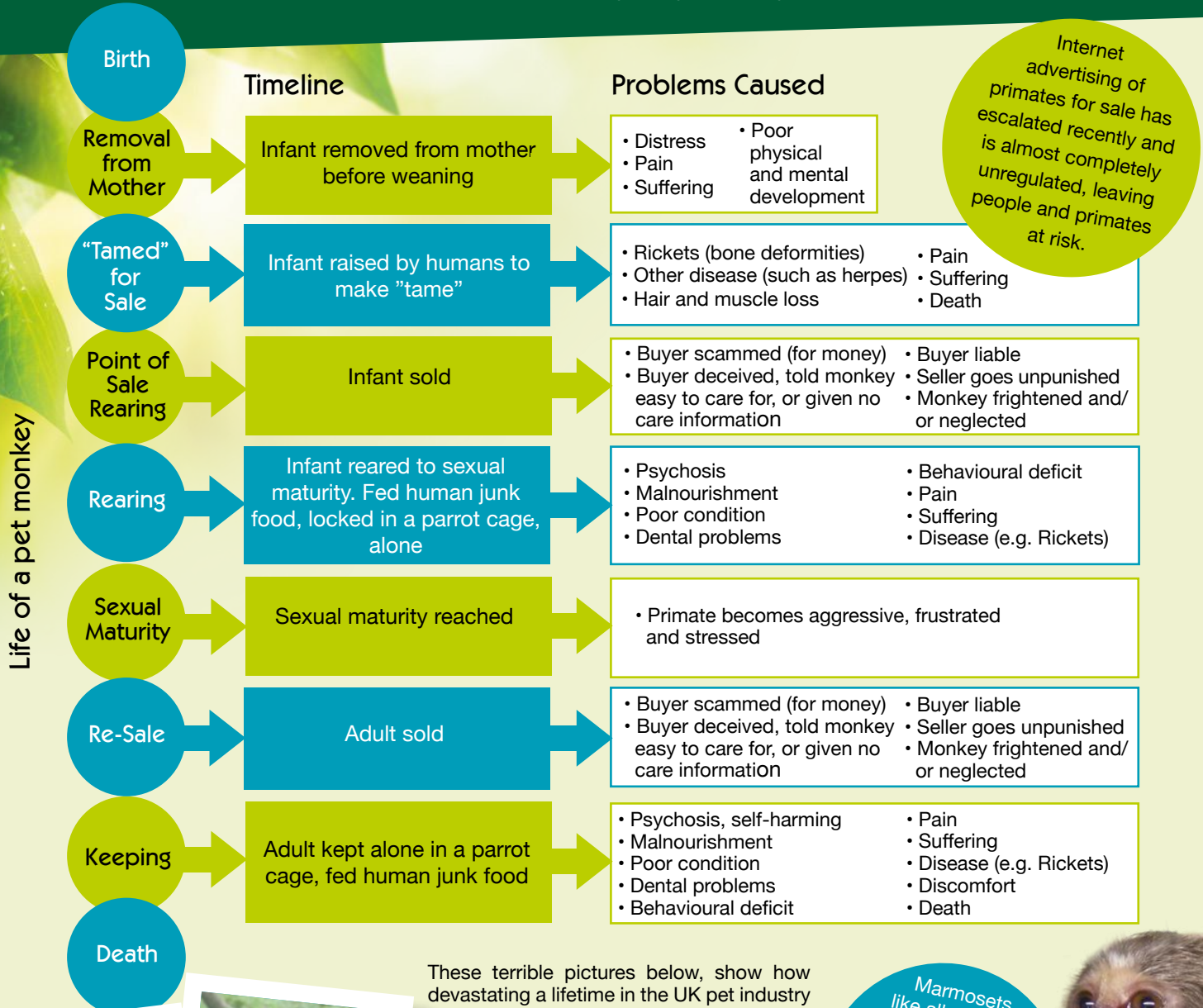
Leo could hardly move and shook with pain when he first arrived at the park

so he could start to climb and build his muscles. Once he was strong and healthy, the thing he required most of all was a family. He was introduced to two other ex-pets, a female common marmoset, Sammy, and a male Geoffroy's, Fred. Sammy took him on as her own and protected him as a mother should do, and Leo started to venture into the outdoor enclosure and explore his surroundings, riding safe on Sammy's back.

# IT'S A HARD LIFE FOR A PET MONKEY

Life can be tough if you are a pet monkey, locked up in a parrot cage all on your own. Bought on impulse, you can quickly become an overwhelming burden to an owner who was told you are easy to care for and required no specialist food, enclosure or veterinary care.

Neglected, suffering and part of a rapidly growing wildlife "pet" industry, a monkey is subject to an industry that evades regulation and that can have terrible consequences for pets and people. A monkey deserves the same protection and care when privately owned as when kept in a zoo or wildlife park open to the public.



Internet advertising of primates for sale has escalated recently and is almost completely unregulated, leaving people and primates at risk.

These terrible pictures below, show how devastating a lifetime in the UK pet industry can be for a primate. Clinging to life these starving, hairless, diseased and self harming monkeys suffered for years before they were rescued by Monkey World where they recovered after years of expert care.

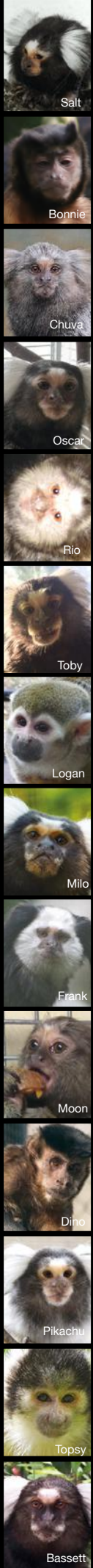
Marmosets, like all primates, have complex needs, that are difficult to meet. They should not be kept alone and need a complex stimulating environment, not a parrot cage.

For two years Charlie the squirrel monkey tolerated being handled by his owner. Then he became sexually mature and was shut inside an empty bird cage, alone in a disused office.

Please see further case studies on pages 11, 13 & 18







# CASE STUDY

## Clydie and Charlie

**Species:** Common Marmosets

**Rescued:** July 2013, Liverpool

**Conditions:** Continuous breeding, removed from mother at too young an age, indoor small cage, incorrect diet, lack of vet care, unhygienic accommodation

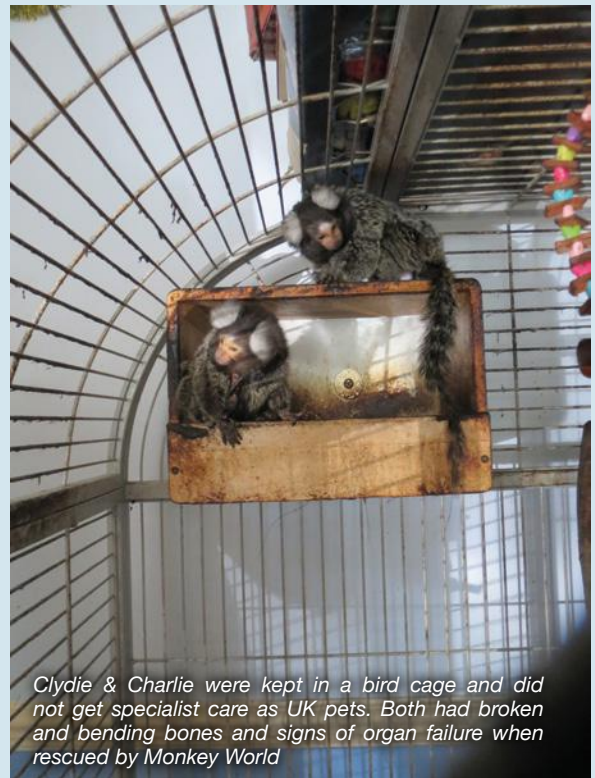
**Health implications:** Nutritional bone disease, very poor mobility, lack of social skills, malnourished, broken bones, fused vertebrae, organ failure

**Story:** Clydie and Charlie were a breeding pair of marmosets living in a filthy, small birdcage in a living room. They came to Monkey World as a result of a police confiscation. The pair were bred so the babies could be sold for profit. Clydie, the female, was almost constantly pregnant, and found with a thick leather collar around her neck so it was easy for the breeder to grab her and remove the babies from her after birth.

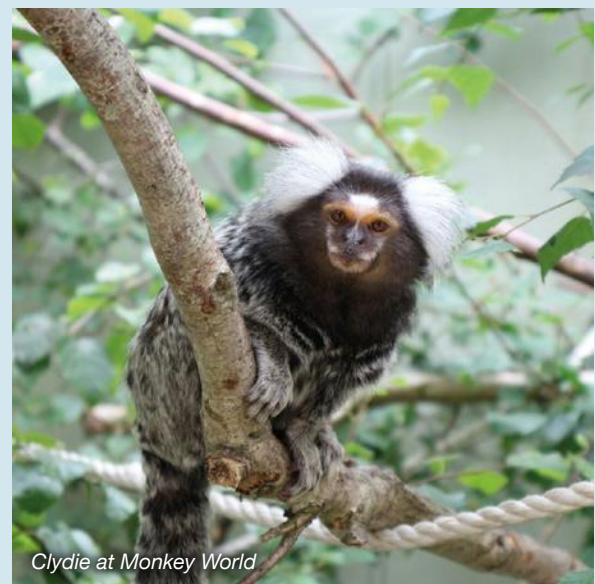
They were in terrible condition; extremely underweight, malnourished with broken teeth and signs of organ failure. Heath checks revealed very low bone density on both of them, so much so that in x-rays the vertebrae couldn't even be seen in Charlie's tail, and Clydie's maxilla (or face) was broken. Clydie was also heavily pregnant, which was exhausting her already limited reserves and she was at risk of collapse.

Charlie's blood tests confirmed he had kidney failure and would not be able to survive, so the team did the kindest thing possible for the tragic case, and euthanised him. Charlie's autopsy confirmed low bone density, malnutrition, broken teeth, kidney failure and a terrible fungal infection that was throughout his lungs. Clydie found it extremely hard to move around due to her weak, fragile bones and from being so weighed down with her pregnancy. She spent large portions of her day resting in baskets whilst the team focused on encouraging her to eat and drink, and supplementing her with calcium and vitamin D3. Clydie slowly built her strength up and started moving around a little more each day. It was important to find her a new companion so the team started introductions with another ex-pet rescued earlier that summer, Milo.

Milo was very gentle and caring around Clydie, who still needed to spend lots of time resting. The pair were soon sharing a nest box each night and are now inseparable! Clydie's babies were still-born, but she coped amazingly well with Milo by her side and her improvement since coming to the park has been tremendous. She now has an extremely good appetite, especially for insects, and even pushes Milo out of the way for food! Her mobility has improved and she can now sprint and leap around her enclosure. Milo has brought out Clydie's playful side and the pair enjoy having a good play session together in their favourite basket or hiding under blankets.



*Clydie & Charlie were kept in a bird cage and did not get specialist care as UK pets. Both had broken and bending bones and signs of organ failure when rescued by Monkey World*

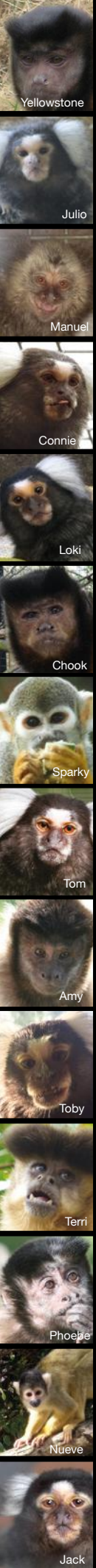


*Clydie at Monkey World*



*Clydie & Milo have adopted little Caesar, another pet trade orphan*





## SALE AND ADVERTISEMENT

### Evidence requested 3: How owners acquire primates as pets

## ONLINE

Social media sales are prevalent, through “rehoming” pages and buying and selling groups. Listed in the column on the right are a number of pages that operate rehoming of monkeys:

### Facebook

In April 2019, Facebook enforced its rule which bans the sale of animals on the site, and public adverts have decreased.

### Classified Sites

**UKClassifieds.co.uk** remain a huge source of primate advertisements. There were over 500 for sale or wanted ads relating to monkeys on 14/08/2019. They have little in the way of selling rules, and have not responded when Monkey World have tried to get in contact via the form on the website. There seems to be no email address or postal address, as the parent company is based in Perth, Australia.

**Freedads.co.uk** responded to Monkey World letters, and those of supporters, to ban the sale of primates on their site in August 2018. They have pledged their support to the campaign against the pet trade.

### Scams

Advertising for primates as pets often attracts scams and fraudulent activity also. Frequently, a monkey is advertised with a request for a deposit, and no monkey is forthcoming once paid. This leads to the well-meaning public being deceived and conned out of their money. As the trade in primates is legal, many have no reason to dispute the legitimacy of these adverts. For those looking for scam adverts, they are easy to spot as usually the language is copied and pasted and the same few stock images are used. In our experience, of the “genuine” adverts, many primates are falsely advertised as the wrong sex or species to drive the price up to unwitting and unknowledgeable buyers.

Examples of both genuine and fraudulent adverts are attached as evidence and screengrabs can be seen in photos across these pages.



*Sale of young marmoset at an age when they are reliant on their parents*



*Marmoset advert on Facebook showing sale at young age*



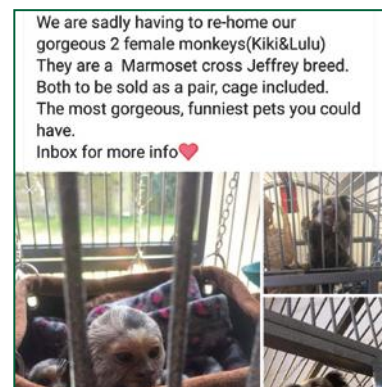
*Marmoset advert on Facebook showing high price and bird cage living conditions*



*Marmoset advert on Facebook showing misinformation on living conditions*



*Advert on Facebook in November 2019, displaying the misinformation buyers often contend with*



*Marmoset advert on Facebook*

### These are a number of Facebook pages that operate sales of monkeys:

#### Facebook

- UK Marmoset and Monkeys:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/160592622630707/>
- Primates And Exotic Mammal keepers UK:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/390601941051333/>
- Marmoset monkeys who live with us UK:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/668792489914804/>

### Classified Sites

- UKclassifieds.co.uk
- Schpock
- Buymydog.co.uk
- Flakeads.co.uk
- Quickmarket.co.uk
- Blitzclassifieds.com
- Vagood.com



## PET SHOPS

Licensed pet shops are often a cause for concern as very few allow their monkeys to socialise with others, and hardly any have adequate outside housing. Often they are kept in small indoor cages, leading the buying public to believe this is suitable. It appears the licence inspectors also are unaware of the requirements monkeys have. Pet shops, such as Manchester Pets and Aquatics has frequently been reported by Monkey World and the concerned public for having inappropriate conditions for primates, yet continues to be licensed by the local authority to sell primates. Appendix 3 is a letter received from Manchester Council regarding the licensing of this property.

Those inspecting and awarding the licences to sell primates must be closely examined as to how qualified they are to do so. Local Authority persons in charge of assessing Dangerous Wild Animal licences are not qualified in the care of exotic animals and in particular primates, nor are most RSPCA inspectors. This makes applying the Code of Practice a nonsense as there is no understanding of basic animal husbandry or animal behaviour.

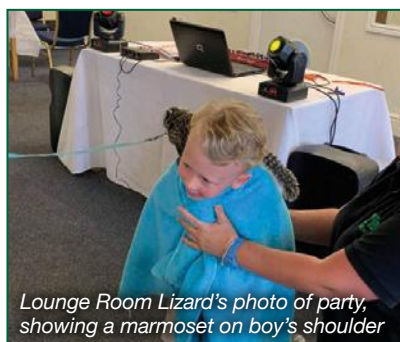
A problem with the lack of legislation is that it also allows for loopholes in the licensing laws governing pet shops. Monkey World is aware of shops that have marmoset monkeys displayed in the shop as "Not for Sale", but as pets. However, this opens the door for conversations about the monkeys, and potential buyers can be put in touch with the "breeder" directly - which could be the pet shop proprietor, thus the pet shop owner has bypassed the need for the addendum to sell primates on their pet shop licence. Lounge Room Lizard and Aquatics is a pet shop in Liverpool which also uses its animals for parties, including marmoset monkeys. The "party" circumstances would allow any marmoset offspring to be sold "under the counter".



Manchester Pets and Aquatics advert featuring marmosets



Lounge Room Lizard and Aquatics advert for parties with animals - marmoset pictured



Lounge Room Lizard's photo of party, showing a marmoset on boy's shoulder

## Pet shops advertising marmosets for sale:

### Manchester Pet And Aquatics, Manchester.

2010 - Present: Many reports, actively advertising marmosets for sale in 2020

### Aquamania, Blackburn.

2010-2013: Numerous reports of marmosets for sale. Still running as pet shop, no active advertisements on internet

### Leeroyslizardlounge.com, Warrington.

2011-2012: Reports of ring-tailed lemurs for sale. No longer in business as of 2020

### Aqua Petshop, London.

2012: Reports of three baby marmosets for sale. No further reports in 2020

### Petshop, 39 Wigton Road, Carlisle.

2011: Sign inside shop saying that can order in pairs of breeding marmosets for £2,500 next to a cage of marmosets

### Petshop, Springbank, Hull.

2011: Reports of two marmosets for sale

### L "n" D Exotics, (aka Mansfield Aquatic Reptile And Pet Centre), Mansfield.

L "n" D Exotics is now Mansfield Aquatics. (L "n" D website forwards to Mansfield's website.)

2014: L "n" D reports of pair of marmosets for sale, multiple sightings

2015: Mansfield Aquatics confirms sales of monkeys on their Facebook page

### Living World Petshop, Cumbria.

2015: Multiple reports as was featured on the Jeremy Kyle show, was raided for selling legal highs. Owner prosecuted in 2019

### Jungle Pets, N. Ireland.

2017: reports of baby marmosets Still actively selling as of October 2019

### Tweddle Farm, Nr. Hartlepool.

2014: TripAdvisor review reporting adverts for marmosets at the site. Still open for business

### Squawk On The Wild Side, Skegness

2014: TripAdvisor response from business stating the animals they have rescued including marmosets, and the plan to rehome animals into family homes. Business now called "Myla's Ark"

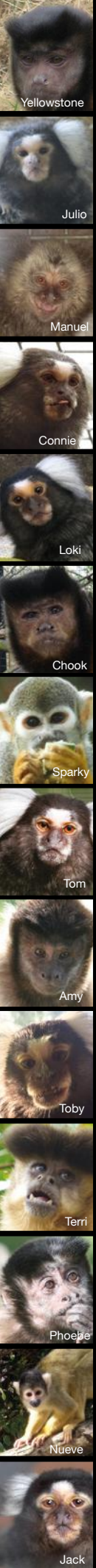
### The Unconventional Menagerie, Stoke

2020: Advertises sale of monkeys on website

### Lounge Room Lizards And Aquatics, Liverpool

2020: Pet shop which displays marmosets and uses them for children's parties. No obvious advertisements for sale





## POLICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

As well as the issues with pet shop licensing authorities, Monkey World has found similar difficulties working with police constabularies who are increasingly finding neglected or abused primates in homes they are attending. Current legislation governing the care of these primates is not straight forward, making the police authorities' job difficult.

Since 1989, 16 prosecutions were brought (by police or RSPCA) following primate rescues to Monkey World, with over half of these in the last eight years (nine since the start of 2011). Monkey World has worked with police on 27 primate confiscations since 1989. 23 of these confiscations were in the last 15 years showing an obvious increase in the frequency of abuse, cruelty, or neglect of captive primates kept as "pets" in UK. However, these figures again do not tell the whole story, as on several occasions confiscated primates were signed over to Monkey World, and so police and/or RSPCA chose not to prosecute the former owners.

Confiscations of primates by the police are often brought about as a side note to another criminal investigation, for example during a drugs raid. Police have asked for Monkey World's assistance when they have been informed primates are on a property under investigation for other reasons. Cruelty and neglect are only a small percent of the reasons why police have confiscated primates, as again, police cannot be expected to know the specialist requirements for exotic wild mammals such as marmoset monkeys. (Confiscation circumstances is listed on page 19, full list of UK pet trade primates is listed in Appendix 8).

Local Authorities sometimes call on vets to perform the inspection on pet shops for them. However, in the UK today the veterinary medicine courses at universities only cover one week of "wildlife" medicine. In this one week, there is an overview of parrots, reptiles, fish, and in some instances primates and other small mammals. It is our experience that most primate pet owners do not have their monkey registered with a veterinary practice and those that do are with unqualified vets that do not have knowledge or experience in handling, assessing, or treating primates kept as pets. Indeed Monkey World gets several calls a year from veterinary practices asking us "How do you anaesthetise a marmoset?", "What are the nutritional needs of a marmoset?", or even "How should a marmoset move if it is healthy?". Advice needs to be given to veterinary practices (through the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons or from Local Authorities) that if they do not have specific experience of treating primates, these individuals should be referred to others who do. This sounds obvious, but inexperienced/unqualified vets are also part of the problem in protecting primates kept as pets.



Monkey World worked with the police & RSPCA to rescue Bud and Cesar from a filthy flat



Alison assisted RSPCA and Basingstoke police to confiscate Milo

## More Pet Shop Adverts



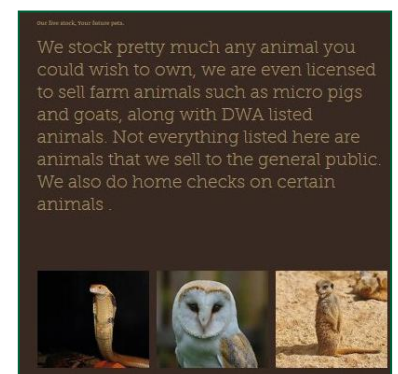
Dangerous 'for sale' sign displaying misleading information, in a pet shop



Mansfield Aquatic, Reptile and Pet Centre Facebook conversation confirming they sell pet monkeys

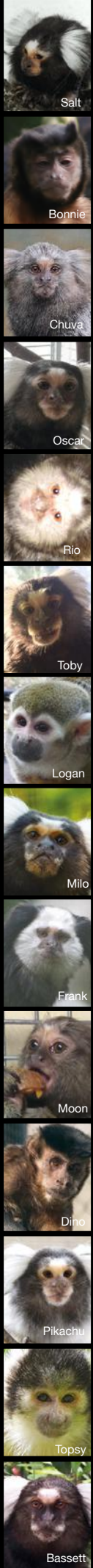


Jungle Pets, N. Ireland advertising marmosets in October 2019



The Unconventional Menagerie advertises the sale of monkeys from its web page





## COSTS OF BUYING AND KEEPING PRIMATES

### Evidence requested 5 and 6: Costs of buying and keeping pet primates

Due to the lack of legislation, people are keeping these primates on a pittance- the cost of a birdcage and feeding them only table scraps.

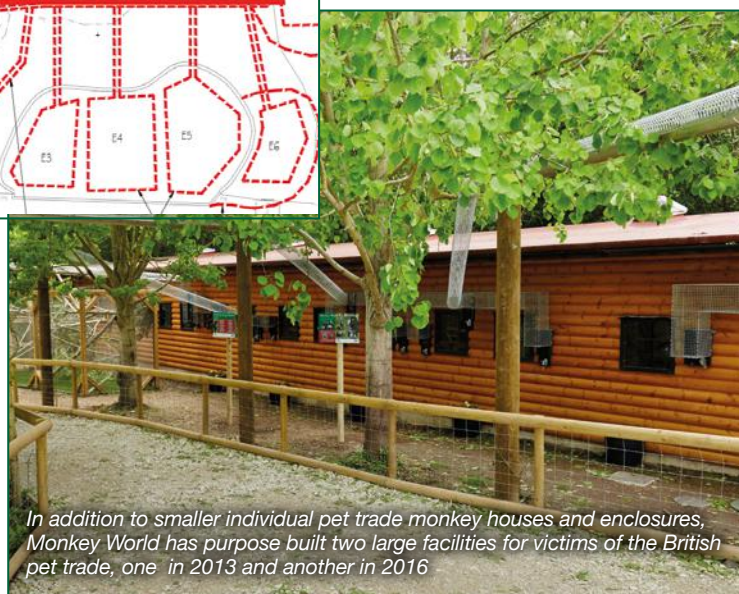
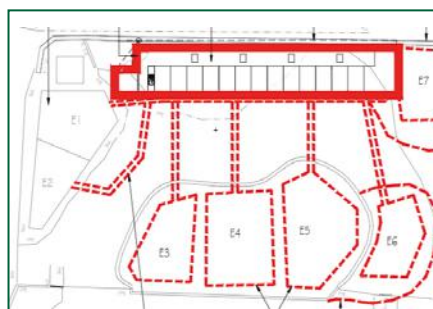
The cost of the primate itself has increased over the years, from a few hundred pounds 20 years ago, to almost £2000 now, for most marmosets (see adverts attached in separate file with evidence). There are very few genuine capuchin adverts (most are scams) so it is difficult to tell the usual cost.

To keep these primates properly, it costs a much higher amount. The financial cost of time from the owner must also be accounted for. These are highly social, intelligent animals who require a specialist diet, stimulation, a varied environment, and a consistent hygiene and cleaning routine. In our experience, very few private owners have the time to fulfil these needs on a long term basis.

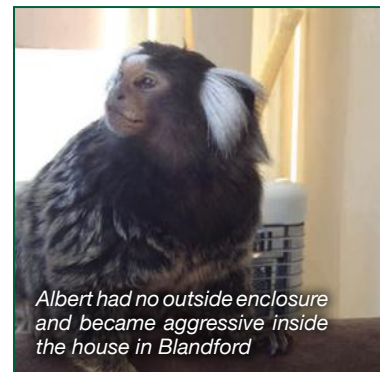
#### Costs of keeping primates

Due to the wide variance in species of primates which can be kept as pets, it is impossible to accurately estimate costs of keeping primates. The list opposite shows items that must be budgeted for in caring for a healthy primate.

Although difficult to account for full costs, Monkey World has spent **£326,047.15** on housing alone, for five buildings to house primates rescued from the UK pet trade.



*In addition to smaller individual pet trade monkey houses and enclosures, Monkey World has purpose built two large facilities for victims of the British pet trade, one in 2013 and another in 2016*



*Albert had no outside enclosure and became aggressive inside the house in Blandford*

### COSTS OF KEEPING PRIMATES

To keep any primate well, the following items must be budgeted for:

**Time.** All primates are intelligent, long-lived and social primates who will require significant care time to keep their environments clean and hygienic, and their environment stimulating.

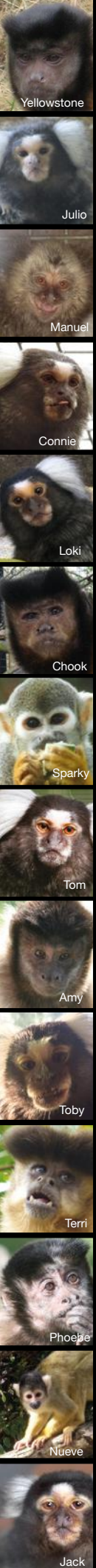
**Housing.** Outdoor space is essential for primates, as are indoor, heated enclosures, with significant perching and climbing materials. There must be access for cleaning, and suitable space to move primates to during cleaning. These need specialist design and build - they cannot be bought as hutches, vivarium or bird cages are.

**Food.** As mentioned primates require specialist diets and vitamins to live healthy lives in a non-native country which are not readily available on the high street.

**Utilities.** Considerable heating is required to keep indoor housing at a comfortable ambient temperature. Costs of water, lighting, waste disposal, and cleaning and bedding materials must also be accounted for.

**Veterinary costs.** This includes general every day health and husbandry, emergency treatment, and for any sickness.





# CASE STUDIES

## Gizmo

**Species:** Capuchin monkey

**Rescued:** March 2004, Ipswich

**Conditions:** Solitary living, no heating, no indoor space, unhygienic conditions

**Health implications:** Social aggression, self-mutilation, infection, malnourishment, underweight

**Story:** Monkey World received an emergency call from a council officer in Ipswich who had been asked to inspect a premises in order to renew a licence to keep a capuchin monkey in a back garden. The monkey had been kept in a garden shed legally for a number of years but when the officer visited she was not happy with the housing conditions or with the health of the monkey. Gizmo, the capuchin monkey, had picked and chewed at the end of his tail so much that he had removed three inches of his own tail and the stump was infected and angry. Gizmo's personality had grown aggressive over the years, so aggressive that his owners had difficulty getting inside of the cage to clean it out. As a result the cage was filthy and it was probably the filth that irritated his skin and caused him to start chewing at his tail. It was estimated that Gizmo was 15, and for years he had been kept in a garden shed with little, if any, heat. Inside of the shed was a tiny two bar heater but it was covered in spider webs and clearly was never turned on. His owners had put a duvet inside of the shed but it was wet and filthy. Gizmo was very unhappy, his tail was in a terrible state, and he was approximately 1/3 underweight. Once at the park, Gizmo was prepared for an immediate operation to remove the infected



*Gizmo had chewed at the end of his tail so much that three inches were missing, and the stump had become infected*



tissue at the stump of his tail. The operation took a couple of hours as the tail was so infected that several more vertebrae and the surrounding tissue had to be removed. It was a delicate operation as allowances had to be made for swelling and to ensure that Gizmo would leave the clean stump alone. All went well and over the following days he was monitored closely. Once Gizmo was healthier physically, he was slowly introduced to Tom, another ex-pet capuchin. Gizmo now lives with a small group at the park and although it is likely he will always have some abnormal behaviours and anxiety from his years alone, he now has friends within the group and is much happier.

## Lucille, Lopez and Logan

**Species:** Squirrel monkeys

**Rescued:** February 2017, Somerset

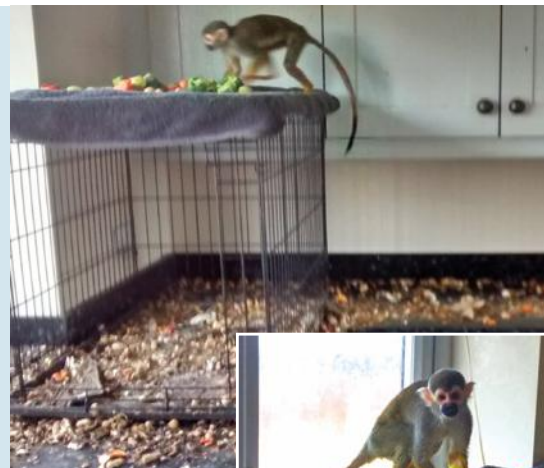
**Conditions:** Lack of perching, unsafe heating, unhygienic accommodation, inappropriate diet

**Health implications:** Malnourishment, blindness in one eye, emaciation, stereotypic behaviours

**Story:** Monkey World was contacted by the RSPCA to help with monkeys living in a house in Somerset, after a police raid following arrests for drug dealing. Three squirrel monkeys were discovered living in a kitchen, with no outside access. Although not a small space, there was nothing to climb upon and the whole kitchen was covered with layers of old rotten food and faeces. A single element electric heater was on as a gesture to keep them warm- but with no cover this was particularly dangerous.

Back at the park, the monkeys were health checked and found to be a young adult male, smaller older female and young male who was not yet adolescent. Lopez, the younger male, had sustained an injury to his left eye, which was sunken and not functioning. Lopez and Logan, the other male, were both very skinny and lacking muscle tone from their lack of perching.

The female, Lucille, was emaciated and after examination, it was clear she had given birth previously.

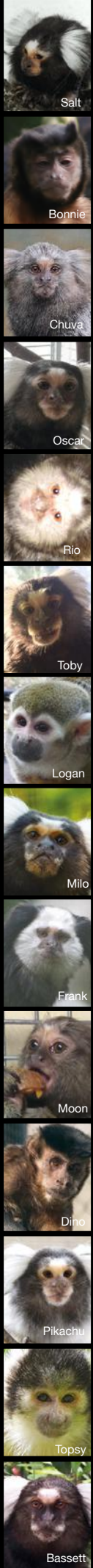


*Squirrel monkeys, Logan, Lucille & Lopez were kept in a filthy, unheated utility room*



Lucille displayed stereotypic behaviours at first, rolling her head, but with a stimulating new environment and enrichment, these have reduced. All three have gained weight and muscle tone with the correct diets and large enclosures, and Lopez manages very well despite only having sight in one eye. They now live with four other squirrel monkeys in the purpose built house with large outdoor runs.





## CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PRIVATELY KEPT PRIMATES

### Evidence requested 8:

Appraisal of existing approach of welfare code of practise

Dr Alison Cronin was involved in the EFRA committee that decided to pursue a **CODE OF PRACTICE** instead of a ban. This was not Dr Cronin's preferred outcome, and unfortunately it has appeared ineffectual in promoting and protecting primate's welfare as pets.

### EXISTING LEGISLATION TO PROTECT PRIMATES IN THE UK PET TRADE IS NOT WORKING!

In our opinion the welfare Code of Practice is not enough to guarantee the good welfare of primates as pets (Appendix 6). It does not contain any detailed and specific information as to the enclosure size, perching, diet, and mobility requirements for any of the 85 species delisted from the DWA and so able to be purchased without a licence. These species all have different requirements and specialist care knowledge that cannot be sufficiently covered in the welfare Code of Practice. Unfortunately, the code cannot be long enough to go into specifics for each animal, and only qualified keepers will have the knowledge of where to find the specific for each species. "Suitable diet.... Suitable temperature... Suitable sleeping arrangements" are phrases used in the code which are simply too general to ensure the primates receive good, species specific care & correct welfare. This language lacks details and leaves it open to interpretation.

Also, of the few pet shops which have primate licences and websites, none mention the code of conduct. (Appendix 7)

Not only is there a low level of compliance with sales using the Code of Practice, but also there is no legislation enforcing the code. It has no "teeth", as it is merely a suggestion of good practice, and therefore offers no protection to primates kept as pets. Failure to adhere to the Code of Practice has no stated legal ramifications, and so does not act as a deterrent to the public keeping primates, and only acts as a procedure to allow prosecution AFTER the monkey in question has already suffered.

There is no legislation that oversees private breeders or even what defines a "private breeder". How many primates does a person have to sell from their home before they are subject to the same licensing standards as a pet shop? And if a pet shop does not keep a monkey in the shop but offers to sell one to a customer to order from the main breeders in another location, then who is responsible for the animal's welfare throughout and following the sale? There are many loopholes in the current laws and regulations that make it impossible for local authorities, including Trading Standards, to keep up and provide adequate protection for the animals or the people being sold these animals.

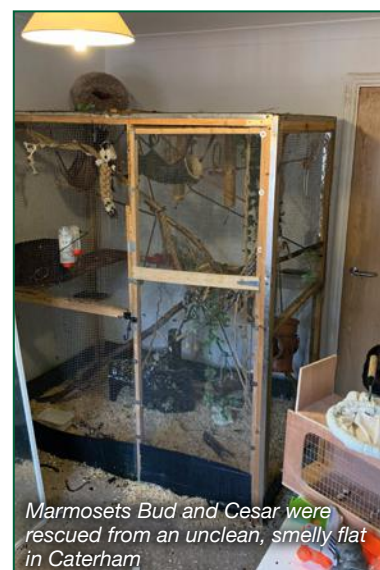
The majority of sales of primates that we are aware of are online through social media or classified sites. In no instances have we seen a Code of Practice displayed or linked to these adverts. On the contrary, the adverts often provide completely inappropriate and potentially damaging care advice.



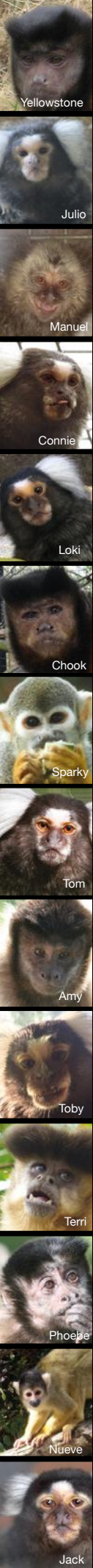
Squirrel monkey, Charlie, was kept in a filthy cage, alone, in a portacabin in West Drayton



Capuchin monkey, Chook, was kept in a dirty, cold outside cage in Yorkshire



Marmosets Bud and Cesar were rescued from an unclean, smelly flat in Caterham

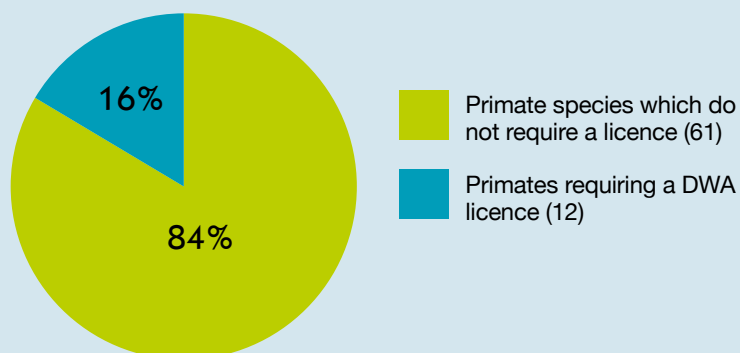


## LICENSING ISSUES

### Evidence requested 10: Potential licensing regimes

The vast majority of the primates Monkey World are requested to rehome, or assist in confiscations with the RSPCA or the police, are species which are legal to own in the UK without needing a DWA licence.

#### All primates rescued from the UK since the start of 2008 (73)



Of the 73 primates rescued from the UK since the beginning of 2008, 61 were species from the legal trade in primates, acquired without needing a licence, and just 12 came from the species of primates needing a licence (whether they held one or not).

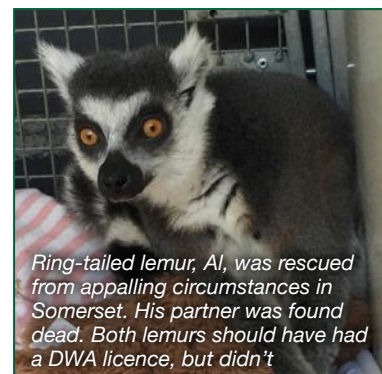
It would seem that the number of primates in the trade being abused or neglected is far fewer in the regulated trade, than those in the free, unlicensed trade. This would suggest that welfare for the licensed animals is improved or primates which require a licence are less popular as pets. It may be that requiring a licence and the subsequent checks provides a deterrent in the first place, as a barrier to trade.

If the government introduced a licensing scheme then it is likely far fewer primates would enter the pet trade; however to successfully protect primates it would require a qualified and knowledgeable team of inspectors to enforce the law. Of course this would be a considerable expense to train and employ these inspectors. There would also be the issue of enforcement once an inspector found a primate home not meeting welfare standards. Would they have powers of confiscation and temporary accommodation before finding homes, or would it be a warning system and re-inspection?

This could also have a huge impact on rescue centres who could be asked to take on a considerable amount when the licensing scheme is brought in.

#### Circumstances of Police Confiscations

- 🐒 Drug raids
- 🐒 Wildlife smuggling
- 🐒 Proceeds of crime raid
- 🐒 Abuse and cruelty



Ring-tailed lemur, Al, was rescued from appalling circumstances in Somerset. His partner was found dead. Both lemurs should have had a DWA licence, but didn't



Alison with RSPCA officer and tiny baby, Moon in Swansea



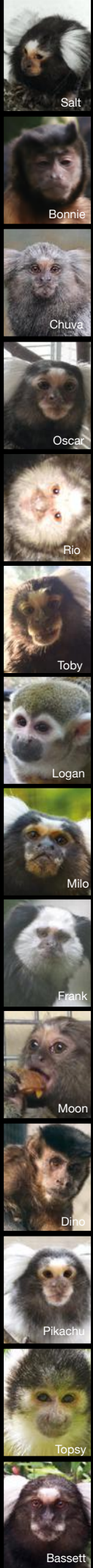
Alison with Amy, whose owners were prosecuted for animal cruelty & neglect in North London



Solomon the baby marmoset was confiscated by Merseyside police, he was too young to be taken from his parents or sold







## MONKEY WORLD PROPOSED FUTURE

### Evidence requested 9:

Impact on primate welfare caused by any restriction on primates as pets.

In the 2019 election, all three main parties (Liberal Democrats, Labour and Conservatives) pledged to ban the keeping of primates as pets.

A ban on sale and trade would effectively stop primates being kept as pets, as no new primates could enter the trade, and those already kept as pets would not be able to be sold on. This would leave a “grandfather” clause, when those with monkeys will be allowed to keep them, as long as their conditions are acceptable on inspection.

By stopping the sale, it would become impractical for private breeders to continue breeding their monkeys as there would be no demand, and so nowhere for the infants to go, and no profit to be made. The general public would have better clarity on the law, as so many at the moment already believe this trade is illegal.

Monkey World is **not** opposed to privately kept primates- as long as they are cared for to the same high standards to which zoos and wildlife parks have to adhere. This would effectively mean that primates could not be kept as pets, or companion animals, in domestic situations (i.e. birdcages in living rooms), but rather in a private collection, with companions of their own kind, effective heating, inside and outside enclosures of a large size, access for cleaning, appropriate diet, specialist vet care and enriching environment. Primate owners who have these facilities, knowledge, time and money are very, very few and far between.

In the instance of a ban on the sale and trade of primates, Monkey World suggests that a clause also be brought in for primate owners to declare themselves, and be open to inspections. If the primates are being kept in good conditions, they should be allowed to keep their primates.

In Monkey World’s opinion, the best way to protect primates would be to ban the sale and trade of all primates effective immediately. No primate benefits from life in a birdcage in a sitting room, and their complex social, physiological and psychological needs are not being met.



Max from Manchester



Lucille from Somerset



Lucky from Stourbridge



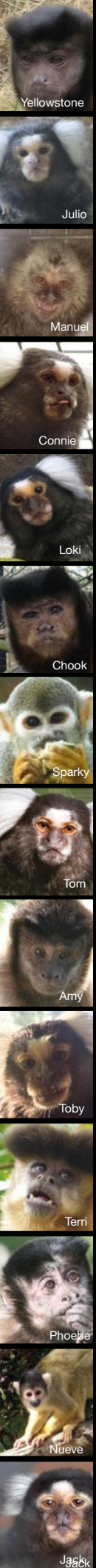
Sinbad from Manchester



Jerry from Kent



Babe from Birmingham



## IMPACT A BAN ON THE SALE OF PRIMATES WOULD HAVE ON MONKEY WORLD

### Evidence requested 11:

Potential impact on rescue centres and animal charities

Initially, it is likely that there will be a spike in people putting their primates up for rehoming, and spaces in rescue centres will be in high demand, as the threat of inspection may prove too much “hassle” for many private owners.

**Monkey World’s mission is to assist governments worldwide to rehome victims of the illegal trade, or those that have suffered abuse or neglect. In the event of a ban on the sale of primates in England, Monkey World would be willing to build housing to cope with the influx from the trade. These animals are long lived, and take considerable expense to care for appropriately so a budget would have to be considered to see how many Monkey World could take.**

### Summary:

Monkey World has been rescuing primates from around the globe for the last 33 years but the most chronic circumstance we are called to assist with is the on-going trade in primates as pets in Britain. Over the past ten years the trade has definitely increased in our experience and seems to be driven with social media and internet sales. Breeders and dealers, as well as licensed and unlicensed pet shops are a problem, giving potential monkey owners misinformation in order to make a lucrative sale of a monkey in a bird cage. At best well-meaning, albeit ignorant, buyers are being taken advantage of; an unidentifiable number of monkeys are suffering in poor circumstances up and down the breadth of the country, an unregulated trade for more than 80 species of primate allows abusers and/or criminals to have access to these wild animals. Increasingly police are coming across primates at the scenes of other criminal activities, and rescue centres are being pushed to their limits rescuing primates from this unregulated trade. Individuals from the exotic pet trade industry will argue that there are laws that protect the primates in the pet trade, but current legislation is clearly not working and neglect and abuse of primates in the British pet trade is increasing at an alarming rate. Monkey World has more than 100 monkeys in need on our waiting list currently – this is the worst it has ever been. As I write, I currently have three individual marmosets kept in sitting rooms and a capuchin in a small outdoor cage scheduled to rescue, I am an expert witness in three cruelty cases (two marmosets and one capuchin monkey), and I feel despair with more than 100 monkeys that need our help but that I cannot currently provide...and that is after building two facilities for victims of the pet trade which were filled within a matter of weeks. This uncontrolled trade needs to stop, and laws need to change in order to ensure primates in the British pet trade receive the specialist care they need and deserve.

Dr. Alison Cronin, MBE  
Director of Monkey World  
January 2020



*Tom was sold several times in the pet trade, while Pepe had only one owner, but he lived in solitary confinement*



*Elderly Alice was sold as a young “reproductive” female*



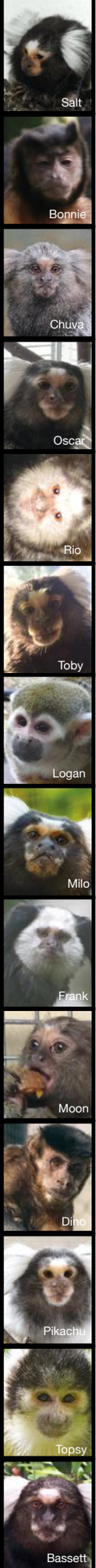
*Logan was in neglectful, filthy and dangerous circumstances before coming to Monkey World*



*Terri lived for years in a tiny sitting room cage in Hackney*







## APPENDIX- EVIDENCE - Attached under numbered files

- 1) Marmoset Found Dead In London, Dec 2018  
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/1061271/Monkey-killed-London-RSPCA>
- 2) Geoffroy's Marmoset Running Loose in London, May 2018  
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/nature/958401/monkey-world-London-rescue-Geoffrey-s-marmoset>
- 3) Correspondence with Manchester council regarding pet shop Manchester Pets & Aquatics.
- 4) Report of laws on keeping pets in Europe: EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS, Analysis of national legislation related to the keeping and sale of exotic pets in Europe, July 2013  
<http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/wp-content/uploads/Eurogroup-for-Animals-Exotic-Pet-Report-FINAL.pdf>
- 5) RSPCA report on Primates as pets: Do you give a monkeys? The need for a ban on pet primates, 2016.  
<https://www.rspca.org.uk/documents/1494939/7712578/Do+you+give+a+monkey%27s.pdf/6872c3ae-8bbd-9dd4-f26d-eb48fc8bbb-ee?t=1553169391718&download=true>
- 6) EFRA Evidence from Dr Alison Cronin, 2014,  
<https://monkeyworld.org/wp-content/uploads/Written-Evidence-on-the-UK-Primate-Pet-Trade-by-Monkey-World-2014.pdf>
- 7) Manchester Pets & Aquatics Website:  
<http://manchesterpets.co.uk/Desktop/Critters.html>
- 8) Table Showing Type of Rescue of UK Pet Trade Arrivals to Monkey World



On the next page are all the victims of the UK pet trade  
that Monkey World has rescued

*Monkey World's report to DEFRA: Call for Evidence on Welfare of Primates as Pets  
Data compiled by Charlie Crowther, graphics by Gill Macdonald*









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