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- Monkey World is the biggest primate rescue centre of its kind in the world. It rescues monkeys and apes from cruelty, abuse and neglect from countries across the globe.
- Monkey World currently houses over 260 primates of 22 different species, including chimpanzees, orang-utans, gibbons, capuchins, woolly monkeys and marmosets.
- The primates have been rescued from laboratories, the entertainment industry, beach photography, and the pet trade.
- One of the biggest problems that Monkey World is facing, is that you can still buy 85 species of small monkey without a licence in this country. Most of the ex-pet monkeys that Monkey World rescues arrive with physical & psychological problems, as a result of improper care by their owners.

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Which animals make good pets?

- Which animals make good pets?
- **As a group**, come up with a list of animals that you think make good pets. Can you explain why they make good pets?



You might have come up with ideas like:

- Hamsters – because they are very small, and they don't need a garden
- Cats – because they are good companions, they tend to be quite independent, and they can be trained
- Rabbits – because they are quiet, can be trained, and like company
- Dogs – because they are loyal, like to play and encourage you to exercise more

What other reasons did you come up with? Did you say they were **cute, fluffy, cuddly?** We also tend to pick our pets because of the way they look.

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Do you think **monkeys** make good pets?

Do you think monkeys make good pets? Can you explain why?

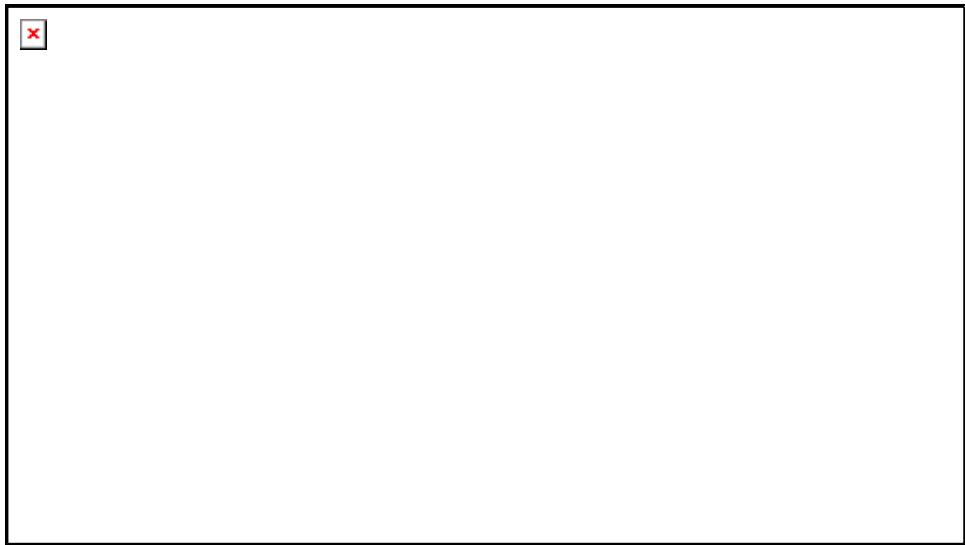


- This is a picture of a squirrel monkey at Monkey World
- Monkeys **do not make good pets**, because:
 - They are not **domesticated** like cats & dogs – they are **wild animals** and are adapted to live in the trees, not in people's houses!
 - They need lots of indoor and outdoor space, which most people cannot provide in their homes
 - They need to live with at least one other monkey
 - Most vets do not know much about caring for a monkey's health
 - Monkeys have specialised diets & your local pet shop won't have everything they need
 - They have very complex needs that most people do not know about
 - They can become aggressive with people



What do pets need?

- **As a group, make a list of things that pets need. You might come up with a list like this:**
 - Exercise & lots of space
 - A healthy diet
 - Company from their own kind
 - Fresh water
 - Toys/enrichment to keep them occupied
 - Access to indoor and outdoor spaces (if appropriate for that animal)
 - Vet care



- This is a picture of a common marmoset, which is a species of small monkey native to South America. Every week, people contact Monkey World asking for us to rehome their pet marmosets. Marmosets are part of a group of 85 species of small monkey that can be kept as pets in the UK without a licence. People buy them from pet shops, but more commonly through online breeders. Sadly, the public are regularly misled by dishonest breeders, who let well-meaning people believe that marmosets:
 - Can be kept in small cages
 - Do not need a specialist diet
 - Are happy to live alone
 - Do not need to go outside
- **As a group,** discuss why you think people want monkeys as pets. Look at your list of things that pets need; could you give a marmoset everything it needs?

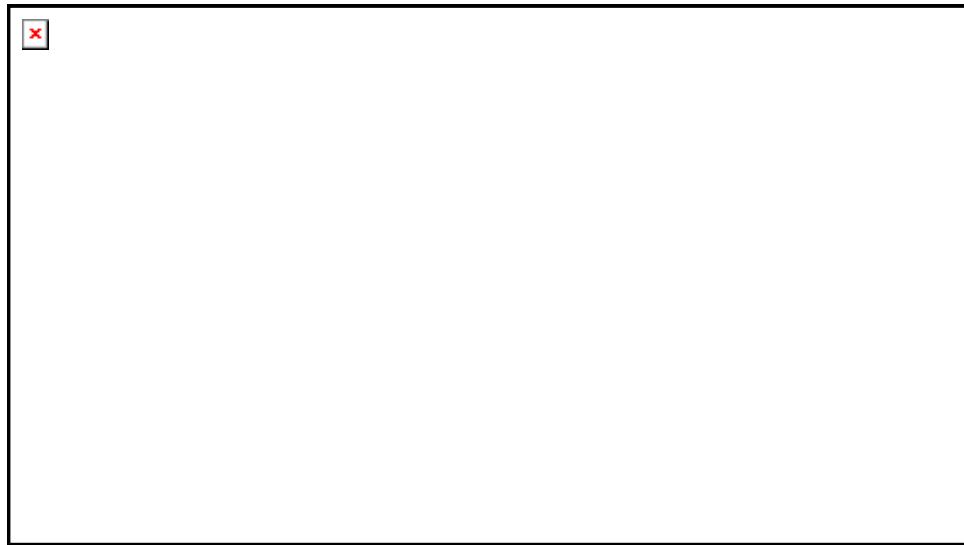


- These are pictures from 2 separate pet trade rescues by Monkey World.
- Left is Betty Boo, a common marmoset who lived in a bird cage in a Southampton flat. Her owner asked Monkey World to take her & give her a happier life at the rescue centre.
- Right are Uncas & Alice, 2 cotton-top tamarins who were confiscated from their owner who kept them in a dirty parrot cage.
- When breeders sell monkeys to the public, they tell the new owners that a bird cage is suitable to keep them in.
- Why is this not true? Answer: *There is not enough room in a bird cage for a monkey to get plenty of exercise, plus there is no access to the outdoors. If monkeys (and other animals) don't go outside there are negative impacts on their health; they get a condition called rickets, which affects their bones and makes their skeleton deformed. This does not happen if animals go outside regularly and absorb vitamin D from the sun.*

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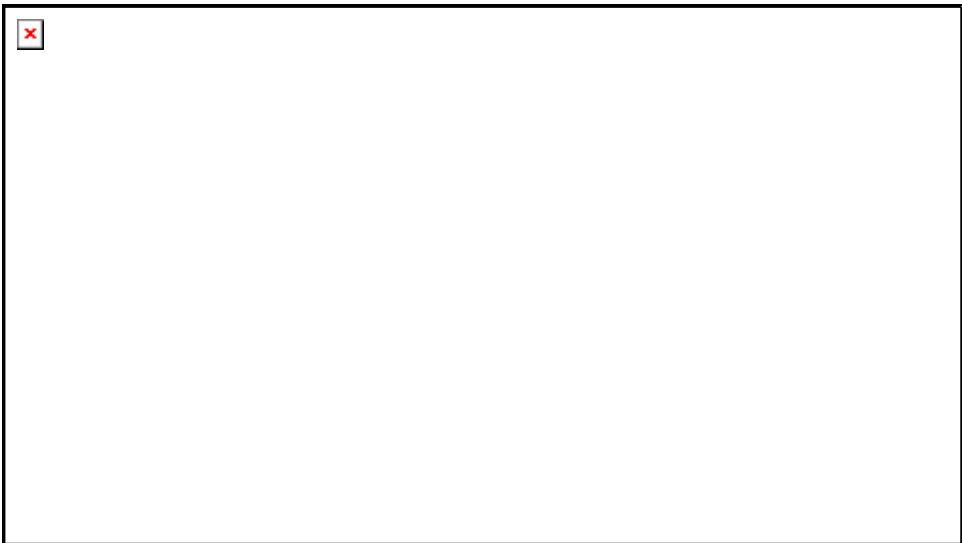


- This is a picture of Caesar, a 5 month old common marmoset who Monkey World rescued from the pet trade.
- Monkey World's director, Dr. Alison Cronin, was able to rescue Caesar with help from the Police; because the baby monkey was still so young, the Police agreed that it was cruel for him to have been separated from his mother so that he could be sold as a pet.
- Baby marmosets should live with both of their parents until they are at least a year old. Female marmosets tend to give birth to twins, so dad needs to help to look after and carry the babies around.



- When baby marmosets are rescued by Monkey World, the Primate Care Staff try to get them adopted by an adult pair of marmosets. Primates generally have long childhoods, where their parents teach them all of the skills they will need to find food, stay safe, and interact with others.
- Monkeys from the legal British pet trade are regularly kept on their own, so they don't always have many social skills when they first arrive at Monkey World.
- **As a group**, discuss what our parents and guardians teach us. What are some of the most important things we learn as children?





- Brass and Evi are Monkey World's "unknown marmosets".
- Monkey World call them the "unknown marmosets" because they are a *hybrid species*. Monkey World did a DNA test to find out what species these strange looking monkeys are, but the test showed they were not a known species. This means that their parents were different species that were cross-bred together, creating babies who look different.
- These two marmosets were rescued in 2013 from life living in a bird cage in a pub, with 2 other marmosets.
- Due to the way they have been bred, they have bald patches and are very light in colour. Marmosets love to sunbathe, but Brass & Evi are more at risk of getting sunburnt. To make sure that they can still enjoy the sunshine, their enclosure is built with a special mesh that protects them from the sun's rays.



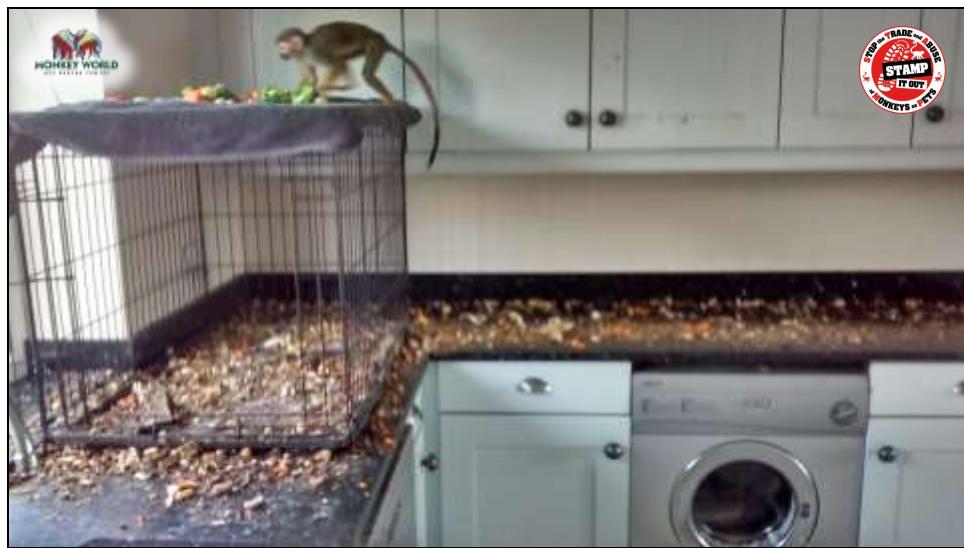
- Logan, Lucille & Lopez's story

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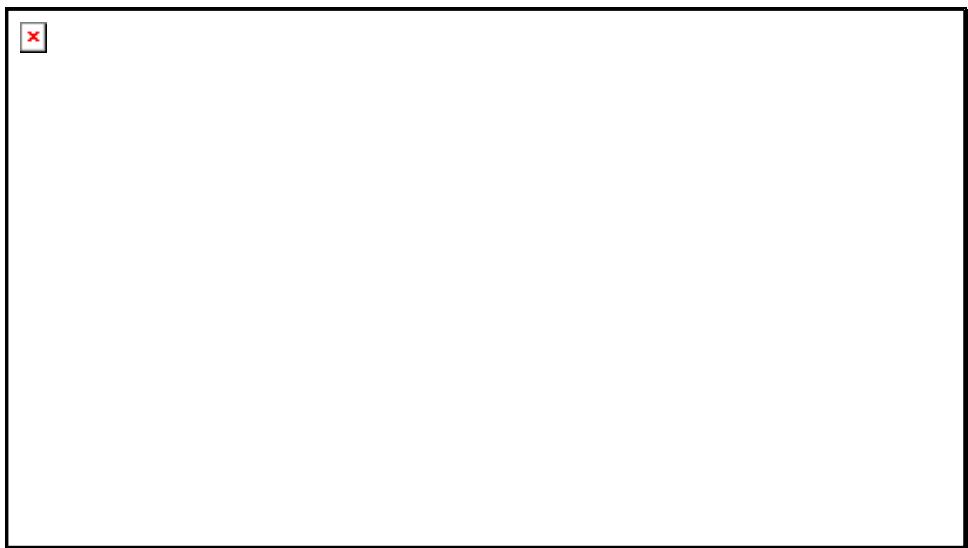


- These are photos of what Monkey World found when they were called to an address in Somerset in 2017.
- There were 3 squirrel monkeys – 2 males and 1 female – who were living in the kitchen at the house.

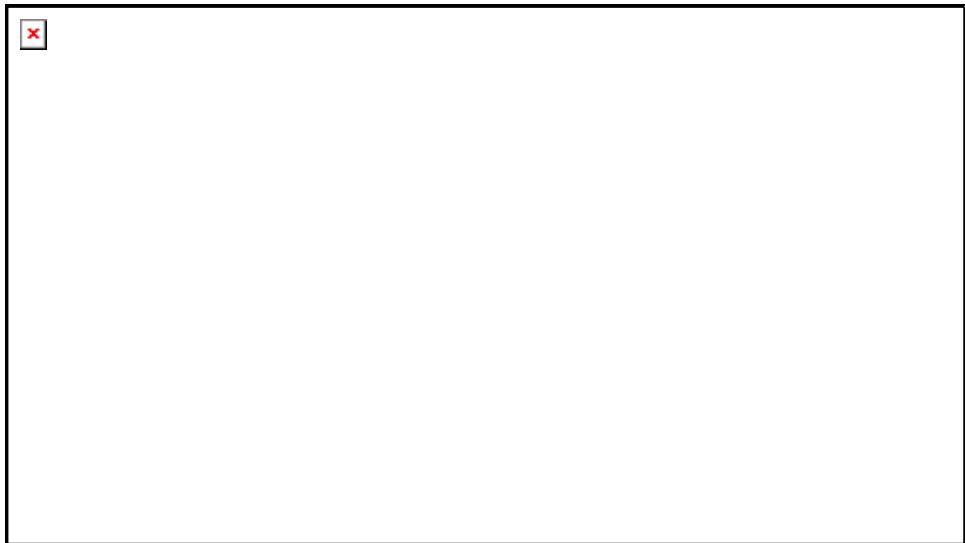
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- The three monkeys had been neglected and kept in very poor conditions. The kitchen counter is covered in rotting food, poo and wee.
- The 3 monkeys were all in bad condition; they were all very underweight and had various injuries, including one of the boys (now named Lopez) had a damaged eye.



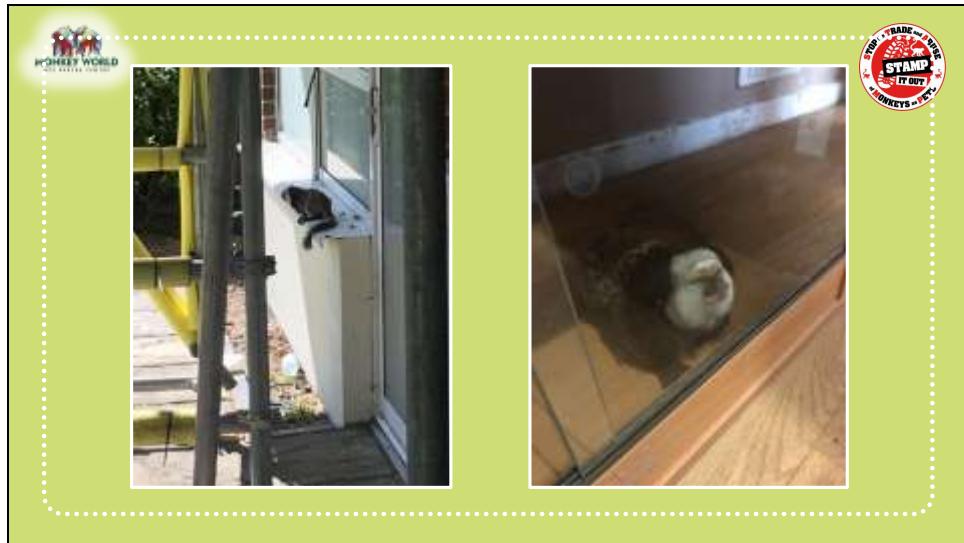
- When they arrived at Monkey World the keepers named the Logan, Lucille and Lopez.



- Since they arrived at Monkey World, these 3 squirrel monkeys are in much better health and are much happier now they have expert keepers to look after them. They were put on an increased diet, including lots of insects which is one of the main foods that squirrel monkeys eat.
- Logan is now the dominant male of the group of squirrel monkeys at Monkey World. As well as cleaning their enclosure, preparing and giving food, creating enrichment activities, and monitoring their health, the Primate Care Staff also have to understand the politics of the group. Monkeys are very intelligent and live in complex social groups. The keepers have to be able to understand the group dynamics and hierarchy to be able to provide the best care.



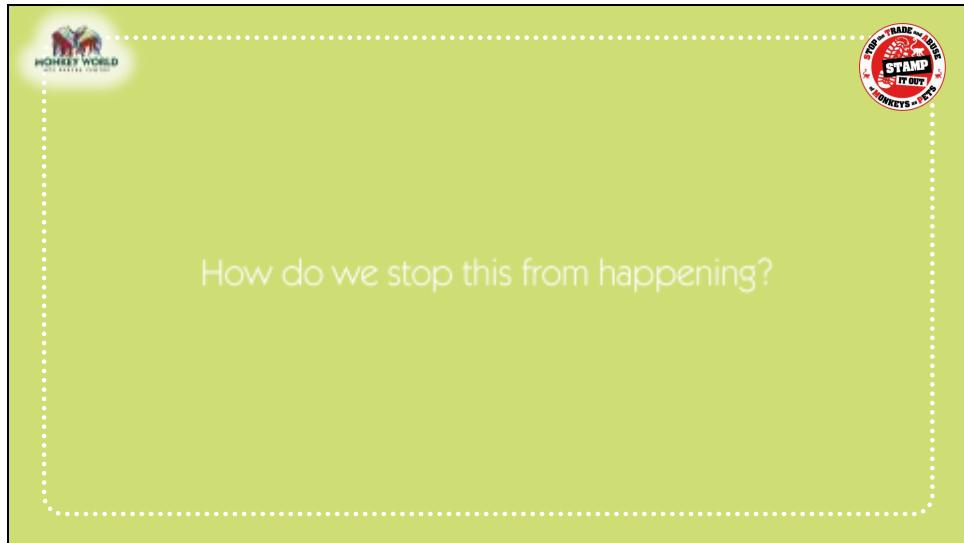
- Freya's story



- In the Spring of 2018, Monkey World was called to assist when a marmoset was found climbing the scaffolding on a block of flats in Tower Hamlets, London.
- A resident took her opportunity when she saw the marmoset run into the building's foyer. She shut the marmoset inside, used a towel to catch her, then put her in an empty vivarium to keep her safe.
- The female geoffroy's marmoset needed a home urgently, so Monkey World were happy to assist.



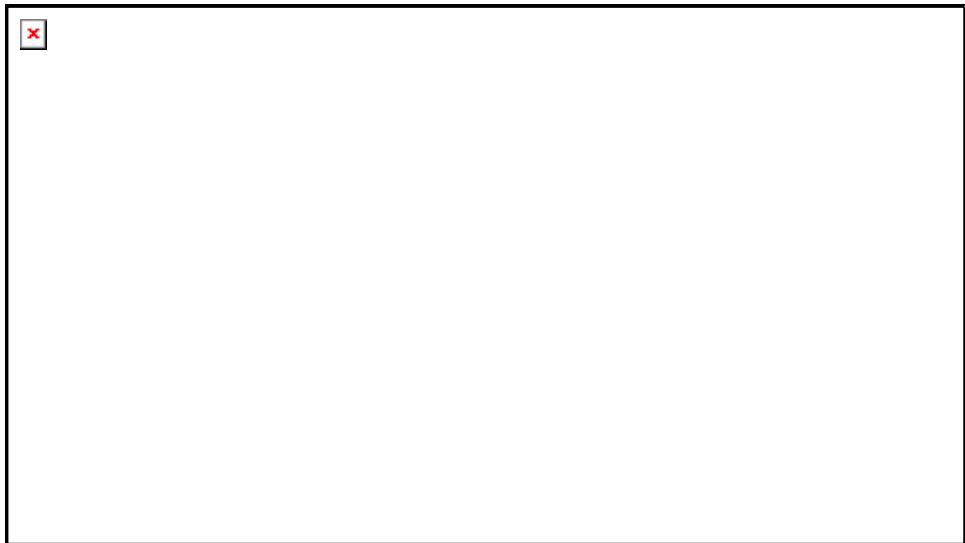
- We cannot be sure where the marmoset (now called Freya) came from – she might have escaped from her house or she might have been abandoned. Her owner never came forwards.
- Now living at Monkey World, Freya lives with Fred, another Geoffroy's marmoset



- We have seen just a few stories of the monkeys that Monkey World has rescued from the legal UK pet trade. It is not fair on the monkeys that people keep them in such small cages, on their own, without the proper diet or space to exercise.
- So how do we stop this from happening?



- Monkey World are trying to make it harder for the bad breeders to sell these animals, by encouraging our supporters to complain to the websites that allow breeders to sell the monkeys.
- Look at this advert for example – what is wrong with it?
 - The marmoset is 17 weeks old – that is too young to be separated from its mother.
 - It says they can live for 20 years – this is wrong, the breeder obviously hasn't done his research! Marmosets tend to live for up to 12 years.



- Monkey World has taken petitions to Downing Street in the hope of getting support from the government about changing the laws surrounding pet monkeys in the UK.
- Monkey World think that everybody who owns a pet monkey should be inspected regularly, so the government can make sure that they are being cared for properly.
- Unfortunately the government have not yet decided to change the law, so Monkey World need your help to spread the message about why **monkeys don't make good pets!** We can all help to **STAMP IT OUT!**
- In October 2019, Defra put out a call for evidence on the welfare of primates as pets in England. We need you to write in to tell them your opinion on the pet trade. You can find out how to do this here:
- <https://monkeyworld.org/support-us/uk-pet-trade/>

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PET TRADE FACTS



- At the moment, there are 85 different species of monkey, including marmosets, tamarins and squirrel monkeys, which can legally be kept as pets in the UK under current laws.
- Since 1989, Monkey World has rescued 116 monkeys from the legal pet trade. There is a waiting list for a further 50 monkeys waiting to be rehomed.
- Most of the monkeys we rescue are common marmosets, but over the years 16 different species have been rescued from the UK pet trade.
- Monkeys need specialist care – the right types of food, environment, and healthcare. Marmosets live in small family groups, and babies usually need to stay with their mums for a year in the wild. Many of the marmosets that we rescue are under a year old and are too young to be removed from their parents. Many arrive at monkey world with physical and/or mental health problems, including rickets, agoraphobia and little or no social skills.

- Use these facts & the information in the Resource Pack for your follow up activities!