



Please find overleaf a sample letter about the use of primates as pets in the UK

Please personalise with your own details in the relevant sections. You could send a copy of this letter to your own local MP, and the Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers.

When you get a reply please send it (or a copy) to:

apes@monkeyworld.org

or

Dr Alison Cronin, STAMPitout, Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre, Longthorns, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6HH

Thank you for helping to protect pet primates in the UK.





[ENTER ADDRESS HERE]

Dear **XXXXXX**,

I am writing to you because I am deeply concerned by the plight of pet primates in the unregulated UK pet trade. Antiquated animal laws are failing to protect the primates from cruelty or neglect, and instead only occasionally lead to prosecution after it has occurred.

I understand that during a parliament adjournment debate on this subject in 2017, it was suggested that the current laws are sufficient to protect pet primates. **THEY ARE NOT**. The trade is on the rise, with rescue centres such as Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre reporting a catastrophic rise in the rehoming of pet primates from the UK, currently totalling 116 rescued, with over 50 on a waiting list

- The Animal Welfare Act is currently not used to enforce the conditions in which animals are kept. The rise in the number of primates rescued from the pet trade speaks for this.
- Displaying the existing “statutory code of practice for the welfare of privately kept non-human primates” in licensed pet shop premises will not stop unscrupulous breeders from selling primates. The wording of the code also requires prior knowledge of primate care to be enforced. The average pet shop owner and potential buyer will not know what is a “suitable location... appropriate amount of space... appropriate enclosure... correct temperature... and appropriate feeding” for each species of primate and the examples given and the vague language used are not detailed enough to protect the sold primates.
- The majority of sales of primates are on social media and online, and although the Pet Advertising Advisory Group advises against the online sale of primates on six websites, it does not tackle the unregulated trade rife on social media. A quick internet search will also reveal up to 10 sites at any time selling monkeys in the UK.
- The proposal that local authorities will decide whether a licensed vendor may sell primates as pets faces the issue that many local authorities are unaware of the specialist care required by primates. Dr Alison Cronin from Monkey World is regularly asked to provide expert advice as to the suitability of conditions by councils, local authorities and the police.

I believe the steps outlined during the debate are **NOT** sufficient enough to protect pet primates, and will do nothing to quell the rising tide of abuse & neglect suffered by 85 species of monkeys in the UK.

I would be grateful if you could raise my concerns with the relevant Ministers, and ask that the Government rethink its decision to not introduce a register to protect primates and increase the standard of welfare for UK pet primates.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

