



## Resource Pack for Schools & Youth Groups



## Introduction

Thank you for inviting one of Monkey World's Education Officers to visit your school or group. It's great to see you are in support of our campaign to stop the unlicensed sale of marmosets and other monkeys currently in the UK at the moment. This pack contains information to supplement the presentation you will have seen, and ideas and resources for follow-up activities. We would love to see examples of what different groups produce, so make sure to send us updates via [education@monkeyworld.org](mailto:education@monkeyworld.org)

Thank you for your support!

## What is STAMP?

STAMP stands for Stop the Trade & Abuse of Monkeys as Pets. We believe that average pet owners are not knowledgeable enough nor have the appropriate facilities to correctly care for the 85 species of monkey currently able to be kept as pets legally in the UK. Therefore, there should be a register, license or increased checks on those with monkeys to ensure they are providing a high standard of care and quality of life.

On Wednesday April 20th at 2.30 pm Dr Alison Cronin, Director of Monkey World, presented the petition of 110,764 signatures to Number 10, Downing Street calling for the Government to ensure that monkeys kept as pets, in a legal British pet trade, are guaranteed a standard of care that meets their physical and psychological needs. In April 2017 parliament held an adjournment debate on the subject, and Minister George Eustice claimed the existing laws are sufficient to protect pet primates. Since then, Monkey World has rescued 13 more primates from the legal UK pet trade & currently has a waiting list of over 50. The claims that the law is protecting primates is simply NOT TRUE.

In October 2019, the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced a call for evidence on the welfare of pet primates in England. You can help stop the trade now, by emailing your opinions to the government. Please see <https://monkeyworld.org/support-us/uk-pet-trade/> on how to do this!

We are asking our supporters to help us to

### **STAMP It Out!**

Use the information and resources in this pack to learn more about the campaign and help us to protect the UK's pet monkeys.



## Freya's Story

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the director of Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre, Dr Alison Cronin, was called upon to rescue a female marmoset monkey who was leaping along scaffolding poles in inner city London. The Geoffroy's marmoset was herded into the lobby of a tower block, and concerned locals in Tower Hamlets managed to grab the monkey and secure her in a reptile vivarium. They hoped that someone would come forward and claim the marmoset, but it was up to Monkey World to come to the rescue.



*Dr. Alison Cronin with Freya in Tower Hamlets*

The female marmoset, now named Freya, showed signs of rickets (nutritional bone disease) with definite kinks in her spine and tail. Rickets is a condition commonly seen in monkeys from the pet trade as they are kept indoors their whole lives, without access to sunlight, resulting in a vitamin D3 deficiency. Now safely at Monkey World, Freya lives with 2 other marmosets – Fred and Sammy.

## Logan, Lucille & Lopez's Story

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017 Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre received a call from the RSPCA asking for help. Somerset Police has conducted a raid following arrests for drug dealing, and found various wild animals at the property. Among the animals found, there were 3 squirrel monkeys whom Monkey World agreed to rescue.

The squirrel monkeys were living in a filthy kitchen, with nothing other than work surfaces and the top of a built-in cupboard for them to climb on. Clearly there had never been any cleaning done, so the work surfaces and floor had a deep layer of faeces and uneaten food. All three squirrel monkeys were clearly malnourished and the smaller male had a very badly damaged eye.

All three were quickly taken back to Monkey World, where they were named Logan, Lucille and Lopez by the Primate Care Staff. Once they had settled in, they were all examined by the vet due to concerns about their health. Lopez had clearly sustained damage to his eye, making it sunken and not functioning. Lopez and Logan were both very skinny and lacked muscle tone.



Since arriving at Monkey World, they have settled in very well; they particularly enjoy the insect feeds and tearing into the fun enrichment they are given.



*The kitchen where the squirrel monkeys were previously living*

## The Law

Unfortunately stories like Freya's and the Somerset squirrel monkeys' are not uncommon. It is currently legal to buy all species of marmoset, tamarin, squirrel monkey and titi monkey without a licence in the UK. Without proper regulation and licensing, unscrupulous breeders are able to breed and sell over 80 species of primate to well-intentioned members of the British public who do not have the ability to care for them appropriately.

Breeders earn upwards of £1000 for each marmoset and have little to no regard for what happens to the animal once sold. To make the primates appear as manageable pets, breeders will tell buyers that the primates are content living alone, inside bird cages and have no special dietary needs.

**THIS IS NOT TRUE!**



## FACT FILE: Common Marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*)

**Country of Origin:** Brazil (South America)

**Habitat:** Scrub, swamp and tree plantations. Their home range must contain a large number of sap and gum producing trees as tree gum constitutes a significant portion of their diet.

**Height:** Head/body length = 15.8 – 20.7cm

**Weight:** Males = 256g      Females = 236g

**Life Expectancy:** 12 years

**Gestation:** 5 months

**No. at Birth:** 1-3 (twins are most common)

**Diet:** Gum, fruit, insects, and small animal prey.

**Lifestyle:** Mixed sex family groups between 9-20 individuals



## FACT FILE: Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)

**Country of Origin:** Brazil, Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela and Colombia

**Habitat:** Primary and secondary moist forest, riverine forest, and in mangrove swamps

**Height:** Head/body length = 26.5 – 37cm  
Tail length = 36 – 45.2cm

**Weight:** Males = 0.7 – 1.3kg      Females = 0.6 – 1.2kg

**Life Expectancy:** 21 years

**Gestation:** 5.5 months

**No. at Birth:** 1

**Diet:** Insects make up about 75% of a squirrel monkey's diet. They also eat other animal prey such as frogs, snails and crabs. Fruit and seeds constitute a small percentage of their diet.

**Lifestyle:** Live in multi-male/multi-female groups. Separate dominance hierarchies within males and within females.



## Activity 1 – What Do Monkeys Need?

This quick activity can be completed as a whole class or in small groups before starting the other activities. Get the children to create a list of everything a monkey needs to be happy and healthy in captivity. The answers could include:

- Indoor space
- Outdoor space
- Access to sunlight
- Others of their own kind
- Things to climb
- Fresh water
- A healthy diet
- Veterinary care

## Activity 2 – Debate

This is a great activity for focusing on spoken language and discussion skills. Set your group up with different roles (below) so they can debate the current laws relating to pet primates in this country. Some children will take on the role of those who want to change the law, while others will be against any changes to the law. Staff can act as the debate facilitators and decide which side has given the most effective arguments.

### **Primate Expert – FOR the law being changed**

#### **Key Points:**

Monkeys are wild animals and are not domesticated.

The current law allows breeders to sell them without giving proper advice on how to care for them.

Monkeys have complex needs that most people cannot meet.

Many pet monkeys end up in rescue centres because they are too difficult to look after.

Many pet monkeys develop health problems because they are not given the right diet or access to sunlight.

### **Breeder – AGAINST the law being changed**

#### **Key Points:**

Breeding and selling monkeys is how I make money and/or support my family.

Monkeys make very interesting pets because they are intelligent and are good companions.

It is the owner's responsibility to find out how to look after their pet monkey – not mine!

If the law changes, it might put people off buying pet monkeys and ruin my business.



**Monkey Owner – FOR the law being changed**

**Key Points:**

I wish I never bought a pet monkey – I didn't know enough about their needs and it made the monkey ill.

Because I didn't need a license to buy a marmoset, I thought it would be an easy animal to look after.

I spent £1500 on my marmoset – that is a lot of money I won't ever get back!

As much as I tried to look after my marmoset, living inside a house with people was not the right environment.

**Monkey Owner – AGAINST the law being changed**

**Key Points:**

I have pet marmosets and I think I am a very good owner. It is not my fault if other people don't look after their pets!

If the law changes and monkey owners have to be inspected, it is an invasion of privacy.

The current animal welfare laws work for good owners, like me.

## Activity 3 – Persuasive Writing

One of the ways in which the public can help Monkey World to protect the UK's pet primates is to write to the relevant Members of Parliament and voice their concerns. Get your class practising their persuasive writing skills by drafting letters about the problems with the legal UK primate pet trade.

On the next page is our sample letter – can your class identify the persuasive writing techniques we have used? Get them to write their own letters that aim to persuade the government to change the law to better protect the UK's pet primates. After the letters have been sent, let us know if you get a reply!



Rt Hon Theresa Villiers  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
22 Whitehall  
London, SW1A 2EG

Dear Rt Hon Theresa Villiers,

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, 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 100 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 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,

