



Monkey Madness

Stop the Importation of Primates for Research

DID YOU KNOW THAT AUSTRALIA IS CURRENTLY HOME TO THREE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PRIMATE BREEDING FACILITIES - THE NATIONAL MARMOSET AND MACAQUE FACILITIES AT CHURCHILL, VICTORIA AND THE NATIONAL BABOON FACILITY IN SYDNEY, ALL OF WHICH BREED ANIMALS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING USED IN RESEARCH?

During the last ten years, despite this “ready supply”, eight permits have been granted to import primates into Australia for research.¹ This includes shipments of 67 macaques imported from Indonesia in 2003 and a further 44 macaques in 2009, both provided to the University of Melbourne for HIV/AIDS vaccine research.²

Data obtained from CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species – to which Australia is a signatory), showed that in the period 2000 to 2008, a total of 220 pigtail macaques were imported from Indonesia, and 46 owl monkeys came to Australia from the USA – all for research purposes. CITES advises that it “has not yet received Australia’s Annual Trade Report for 2009 so no imports have been reported by Australia after 2008.”³ HRA is aware from Australian authorities that at least one other permit has been issued since that time (likely to be the 44 macaques mentioned above).

Captured from the Wild

The National Health & Medical Research Council’s policy on the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes states “Non-human primates imported from overseas must not be taken from wild populations and must be accompanied by documentation to certify their status.”⁴ Similarly, Indonesia has an official ban on the export of wild-caught macaques. Ironically, there is no restriction on the number of monkeys who can be trapped in the wild to replenish breeding stocks.

In April 2009, the British Union Against Vivisection (BUAV) published a report on its undercover investigation: Indonesia: The trade in primates for research. Not surprisingly, the report concluded that the ban on wild-caught macaques is a sham.

Conservation Status

Pig-tailed macaques are classified as Appendix II under CITES, meaning that “although not necessarily now threatened with extinction may become so unless trade in specimens of such species is subject to strict regulation in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.”⁵ With Indonesian forests being destroyed by logging, conversion of land for agricultural use and human settlement, continual trade in these primates for research will further exacerbate the losses from habitat destruction.

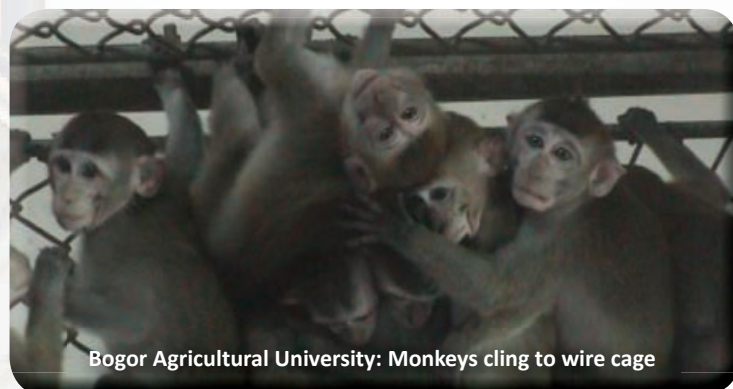
Bogor Agricultural University

The BUAV report also documents conditions at Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) – where Australia’s imports were sourced from!

Extract from BUAV Report

“The BUAV investigators visited one holding facility at the IPB which they were told infant and juvenile long-tailed macaques had been taken there after they had been trapped on Tinjil Island. The facility contained a number

of small rooms, each containing one small chain link pen housing around 15-20 monkeys. The pens were a barren environment with a metal grid floor. There was no substrate for the monkeys to play or dig in. There was virtually no enrichment, just a few perches. The monkeys could only climb the side of the pens and there was nowhere for them to hide from each other or people. The pens were indoors so there was no fresh air and limited sunlight through one window.



Bogor Agricultural University: Monkeys cling to wire cage

Only one pen was seen to have a water bottle attached to it. The others had free standing bowls made from either rubber or plastic. In at least one pen, this bowl was empty, leaving the monkeys no access to water. The only evidence of food was a few pieces of monkey chow seen on the wire floor of one pen. In other pens no food was visible. The areas underneath the pens were covered in waste and what appeared to be monkey chow biscuits that had fallen through the grid floor. Mould could be seen growing on some of the food. This was a stressful environment in which these monkeys were forced to live. These conditions were in stark contrast to living freely in family groups in a natural environment on Tinjil Island.”⁶



Bogor Agricultural University: baby monkey in barren cage

Added to this fear and misery are the holding pens at airports and **long arduous flights to destination countries – all this before the research begins!**

You can access BUAV's footage at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brKbWMMmvWZo>



There is NO justification for Australia to support this international trade in cruelty and perpetuating bad science.

Australian researchers should be using non-animal methodologies that are far more relevant to studying human disease rather than trying to replicate a disease in a species that is genetically different to our own and expecting to achieve accurate or indicative results for humans.

Instead of logically reducing and ultimately eliminating the use of primates, Australian researchers are utilizing those already bred within our three established colonies, and still importing more!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

References

1. Ongoing correspondence with Australian Quarantine Inspection Services.
2. CSIRO email dated 12 January 2011.
3. CITES email 11/1/11.
4. Policy on the Use of Non-Human Primates for Scientific Purposes, NHMRC, page 5, item 7.
5. CITES Text of the Convention: <http://cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml> as quoted by BUAV Indonesia: the trade in primates for research. 2009.
6. Indonesia. The trade in primates for research A BUAV investigation, April 2009, page 18.

All photos courtesy of *The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection*.

Take Action!



What you can do...

- Please sign and post the two enclosed post cards addressed to the Ministers responsible for the importation of primates.
- Complete our petition (also enclosed) by asking your friends, relatives and work colleagues to sign, then return to us ASAP so that we may submit them to the House of Representatives seeking an immediate ban.
- If you are not already a member, please consider joining Humane Research Australia. For a small annual fee of \$25 you can add your voice to ours in lobbying for effective change.
- Become a monthly donor. For a nominal amount deducted from your credit card on the first day of each month, you can help us continue our important work.

Whilst HRA opposes the use of ALL primates (as well as other animals) in research, we believe that this ban will be a significant step toward reducing the suffering of many animals and assisting the BUAV's efforts to end the international trade.

MY DETAILS

Name: _____
Postal Address: _____
Post Code: _____
Phone: (m) _____ (w/h) _____
Email: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

I am paying by:
☐ Cheque/Money Order ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa
Card Number: _____
Name on Card: _____
Signature: _____ Expiry: ____/____/____

I'D LIKE TO MAKE A REGULAR MONTHLY DONATION OF:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 \$.....Other
per month, until further notice. I understand that this payment can be stopped by me at any time.

HERE IS MY (ONCE OFF) DONATION OF:

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PLEASE SIGN ME UP TO BECOME A MEMBER

☐ \$25

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