



June 2, 2017

Dear Mr. Bruckheimer,

I'm writing to you today from PETA's Animals in Film and Television Division following a [disturbing report](#) that a capuchin monkey who appeared in your film *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* was repeatedly projectile vomiting during shooting on a boat. This latest incident comes as no surprise, seeing as your production was also [in the news](#) after one of the monkeys bit a makeup artist on set—another telltale sign of a monkey in extreme distress.

Today, we're urging you to pledge not to use monkeys or other wild animals in future productions.

We've written to you multiple times regarding the issues inherent in using capuchin monkeys for the film. We've pointed out that monkeys are intelligent, curious, and highly social animals with complex physical and psychological needs that can't be met on any film set or in training compounds. Most monkeys used for entertainment are sold as infants by animal breeders and dealers who remove the babies from their mothers prematurely—a practice that's cruel to both the baby and the mother and denies the infants the maternal care and nurturing that they need for normal development. In order to suppress natural behavior and ensure total control over these animals—who are dangerous and unpredictable—trainers typically use abusive training techniques.

In 2015, we also informed you about Joe Suffredini of Avian Entertainment—who reportedly provided the monkeys for the film—and his egregious track record when it comes to animal welfare. Avian Entertainment has been cited *numerous* times by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act, which establishes only minimal guidelines for animal care. Avian Entertainment's citations include the following:

- Failing to provide an adequate written program of environmental enrichment for capuchin monkeys.
- Not having an adequate veterinary-care program for capuchin monkeys
- Keeping capuchins in filthy enclosures (The resting platforms in the enclosures, which were also being used for feeding, had "an accumulation of hair, and food waste.")
- Housing capuchins in inadequate enclosures that didn't meet the minimum size requirement for the animals, which is a mere 3 feet of floor space and 30 inches of height

Avian Entertainment was also previously cited for inadequate tuberculosis testing and vaccine protocols for the capuchins, an inadequate environmental-enrichment plan, and an inadequate perimeter fence (to prevent access from the public and the escape of the animals).

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As you know, this isn't the first time that one of your *Pirates* productions has come under fire for animal-welfare concerns, since more than 100 animal deaths occurred during the filming of [*Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*](#).

May we please hear from you concerning this right away? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia Gallucci, M.S.
Primatologist
PETA