

# Missouri Primate Foundation (Connie Braun Casey/Chimparty)

12338 Hwy. CC, Festus, MO 63028

Connie Braun Casey owns the Missouri Primate Foundation (MPF) (aka “Chimparty”), a former chimpanzee-breeding facility in Missouri. MPF has repeatedly failed to meet minimum federal standards for the care of animals as established in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has cited MPF for multiple violations, including failing to keep enclosures clean, failing to have proper ventilation in enclosures housing animals (there were strong odors of feces and ammonia), and failing to have effective “pest”-control programs to control numerous roaches, flies, and rodents observed throughout the facility. MPF has also been cited repeatedly for failing to have an adequate enrichment plan for multiple primates, including a singly housed baboon, two chimpanzees, and a capuchin. The baboon was housed alone for over two years and had areas of total hair loss over most of her arms, legs, and tail from plucking her own hair out, which is often a sign of distress. In 2001, three chimpanzees escaped from an unlocked cage and one of them was shot and killed by a neighbor. In 2009, a chimpanzee named Travis, who was bred and sold by MPF, escaped from his owner’s house and attacked a woman, inflicting massive injuries to her face and hands, and was ultimately shot and killed by police. In 2015, the USDA issued an official warning to MPF for violations of the AWA. Please contact PETA for documentation.

**January 5, 2016:** The USDA cited MPF for a repeat AWA violation for failing to keep surfaces sanitized. A rope inside the enclosure housing two lemurs was completely black and was grimy in some areas, a rope inside the enclosure housing a capuchin was soiled with a black substance, and a hammock inside the enclosure housing the baboon was soiled black around the edges. These enclosures also had food waste and excreta on the floors, and there was a buildup of waste outside the enclosure housing the lemurs. MPF was also cited for failing to have an effective “pest”-control program to control the

numerous roaches observed throughout the facility.

**October 5, 2015:** The USDA cited MPF for a repeat violation for failing to remove food waste from two enclosures housing primates. Connie Braun Casey stated that the waste had not been picked up for three days, and the inspector noted that it looked moldy.

**February 9, 2015:** The USDA issued an official warning to MPF for violations of the AWA, including failing to clean multiple enclosures housing primates and failing to have adequate ventilation in a room housing animals—there was a strong odor of ammonia and feces.

**December 9, 2014:** The USDA cited MPF for a repeat violation for failing to clean and sanitize the following enclosures properly: an enclosure with black, grimy material on the bars; an enclosure housing a chimpanzee with a buildup of black, grimy material on the wood; and an enclosure with brown material caked on the metal bars. MPF was also cited for a repeat violation for failing to have proper ventilation in a room housing animals—there was a strong ammonia odor.

**October 29, 2014:** The USDA cited MPF for a repeat violation for failing to keep the following clean: a shelter area for a gibbon that had a buildup of dried waste material; the enclosure housing the macaques, in which multiple piles of waste were scattered around the floor; at least two tunnels connecting enclosures that had accumulations of trash and waste; an enclosure with deteriorating food waste; an enclosure with a buildup of black, grimy material on the bars; a pipe with a brown-black color that was covered with flies; and a viewing room that contained several buckets of miscellaneous items. MPF was also cited for failing to have proper ventilation in a room with a strong odor of feces and ammonia that was housing animals and failing to have an effective “pest”-control program to control the numerous roaches and flies observed throughout the facility.

**August 8, 2014:** The USDA cited MPF for failing to have a responsible adult available to accompany USDA officials during an inspection.

**April 29, 2014:** The USDA cited MPF for a repeat violation for failing to clean the following: surfaces with a buildup of black grime inside an enclosure, an enclosure with urine stains on the floor, walls of an enclosure with brown material smeared on them, wet and soiled bedding material in the enclosure housing the tortoise, and a hanging structure in an enclosure that was soiled with fecal matter. MPF was also cited for improperly storing food for the primates.

**January 7, 2014:** The USDA cited MPF for a repeat

violation for failing to have an adequate enrichment plan for a singly housed baboon, two chimpanzees, and a capuchin. The baboon had been housed alone for approximately two and a half years and had areas of total hair loss over most of her arms, legs, and tail from plucking her own hair out, which is often a sign of distress. The two chimpanzees also had excessive hair loss throughout their coats, and the capuchin had a large area of complete hair loss on her hind end. MPF was also cited for repeat violations for failing to dispose of waste properly, failing to repair sharp wire points protruding into multiple enclosures, failing to keep food receptacles clean and sanitized, and failing to clean the following: enrichment items in multiple enclosures with accumulations of black material on them, multiple enclosures housing capuchins with a buildup of brown material along the bars, and multiple enclosures with bedding material caked on the bars. MPF was also cited for failing to have proper ventilation in a room with a strong, foul odor of ammonia and waste.

**September 17, 2013:** The USDA cited MPF for failing to have an adequate enrichment plan for a singly housed baboon. She had been housed alone for approximately two years and had areas of total hair loss over most of her arms, legs, and tail from plucking her own hair out, which is often a sign of distress. MPF was also cited for failing to remove an accumulation of tools and other items from the room housing the chimpanzees and capuchins; improperly storing food and bedding materials, failing to dispose of trash properly; failing to repair sharp wire points protruding into multiple enclosures; failing to clean food receptacles; failing to provide two capuchins with drinking water; failing to control flies and rodents in buildings housing primates; failing to remove cobwebs, rodent droppings, and dust throughout the housing rooms; and failing to clean the following properly: multiple enrichment items with accumulations of a black buildup, water receptacles with an excessive buildup of slimy green algae-like material on them, and a wall in the enclosure housing the capuchin that had a buildup of brown material on it.

**April 26, 2011:** The USDA cited MPF for failing to have an adequate enrichment plan for two capuchins. They had areas of total hair loss covering at least one-third of their legs and forearms from excessive grooming, often a sign of a lack of mental stimulation. MPF was also cited for failing to clean the following: several enclosures with accumulations of grime and feces smeared on the walls and floors, multiple feeding receptacles, and multiple enrichment items that had filth and grime on them.

**February 16, 2009:** A chimpanzee named Travis who had been bred and sold by MPF escaped from his

owner's house in Connecticut and attacked a woman, inflicting massive injuries to her face and hands. She reportedly lost her hands, nose, lips, and eyelids in the attack. At least three other people, including two police officers, were injured during the incident. Police officers fired several shots at Travis, killing him.

**2008:** The movie *Speed Racer*, which featured a chimpanzee who had been trained by Mike Casey, Connie Braun Casey's ex-husband, didn't receive the "No Animals Were Harmed" stamp of approval from the American Humane Association (AHA) because a trainer hit one of the chimpanzee "actors" in front of the AHA representative.

**September 13, 2005:** The USDA cited MPF for failing to maintain an enclosure that had paint peeling off the walls and floor that the animals could potentially ingest.

**January 8, 2004:** The USDA cited MPF for failing to provide two macaques with sufficient space. The enclosures that they were being housed in were approximately 2-foot-by-2-foot and 1.5-foot-by-2-foot.

**April 19, 2001:** Three chimpanzees owned by MPF escaped from an unlocked cage. A teenage boy shot and killed one of them.

**August 13, 1998:** The USDA cited MPF for failing to clean the indoor enclosures housing primates. There was a buildup of grime on the walls and perches.