



July 18, 2016

Pat O'Conner
President
Minor League Baseball (MiLB)

Dear Mr. O'Conner:

I am writing to you on behalf of PETA and its more than 5 million members and supporters worldwide to urge you to establish a policy prohibiting "monkey rodeos" at all MiLB games. During these cruel events, capuchin monkeys are forced into costumes, tethered to dogs, and made to "race" around a track. The monkeys cling desperately to the dogs, who can reach speeds of up to 30 miles per hour and are trained to start and stop abruptly so that the monkeys are violently jerked up and down and side to side, risking serious physical injury.

Tim Leopard's Team Ghost Riders, the monkey-rodeo exhibitor that frequently makes appearances at MiLB games, has been cited repeatedly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for violating the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires only the most minimal standards of care for animals. Leopard has been cited for keeping animals in unsanitary conditions, inadequate shelter, failing to provide adequate crowd management and safety barriers, improper food storage, and repeatedly being unavailable for animal-welfare inspections. The monkeys in his care have had all their teeth removed, a practice that is extremely cruel and which was recently banned by the USDA as well as the American Veterinary Medical Association.

These rodeos are dangerous and frightening to the monkeys and put the public in harm's way. Monkeys are wild animals and can never truly be tamed. Captive primates are often aggressive and [frequently lash out and attack humans](#).

There's been a huge shift in public sentiment against animals being used for entertainment, and many people find these shows offensive and upsetting. People recognize that these helpless monkeys are clearly frightened and that they may suffer psychological distress and risk serious injuries. **We urge MiLB to ban monkey rodeos MiLB events and to encourage the teams to host only humane activities that are respectful of animals.** I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Julia Gallucci
Primatologist

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington, D.C.

1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk

501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Oakland

554 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-763-PETA

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

- PETA Foundation (U.K.)
- PETA Asia-Pacific
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands