



July 8, 2022

Martin Cetron, M.D.
Director
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Via e-mail: mzc4@cdc.gov

Dear Dr. Cetron:

Thank you for your service to our country. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals U.S.—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to deny permit applications from Jeffrey Quebedeaux or his affiliated businesses to import, quarantine, or hold nonhuman primates.

Jeffrey Quebedeaux is registered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Class T – Carrier under Quebedeaux's Transport LLC (72-T-0012) and, more recently, as a Class H – Intermediate Handler under the William Greer Foundation (72-H-0016). It appears that he registered the latter for his latest business venture to turn a former prison into a holding facility for primates imported from Asia and destined, via Quebedeaux's Transport, to laboratories across the U.S.

According to records that PETA received from a public records request to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Quebedeaux is already in the process of making renovations to the property and investing in cages. The agency sent a letter to him on June 22 that stated, in part, "[U]nder penalty of law, LDWF strongly urges you to cease your proposed activities involving possession and housing of non-human primates at the facility." Possession of nonhuman primates in Louisiana is prohibited under Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 76: 115 (C)(1), with exceptions for accredited zoos and registered research facilities. His proposed facility doesn't qualify as either. It appears that he's willfully ignoring the law, which is a red flag to the CDC that this company shouldn't be trusted to warehouse primates, particularly those who are coming directly from overseas with unknown health histories.

This request is all the more urgent, as just earlier this year, a Quebedeaux pickup truck hauling a trailer containing 100 long-tailed macaques—who had been flown from Mauritius to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York—collided with another vehicle outside Danville, Pennsylvania. Dozens of wooden crates holding the beleaguered monkeys were propelled out of the truck and onto a highway. Some monkeys escaped, and authorities confirmed that three had been shot and killed. Several people who stopped to survey the scene of the accident interacted with the monkeys, and at least one individual reported health symptoms. Quebedeaux's truck driver was seen [moving the scattered crates of](#)

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- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

[monkeys](#) without wearing gloves, a mask, or any other personal protective equipment.

The crash wasn't the company's first reckless incident: In 2020, Quebedeaux's Transport was involved in an incident in New Jersey, in which a truck hauling monkeys caught on fire. Quebedeaux's previous transportation company, Stone Oaks Farm and Transports, was given an official warning from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a violation of the federal Animal Welfare Act following the death in 2011 of a chimpanzee who the company was transporting to a laboratory.

Monkeys can carry tuberculosis, West Nile virus, malaria, Chagas disease, simian immunodeficiency virus, herpes B, hepatitis, and other infectious agents that are transmissible to humans. Given the panoply of pathogens carried by macaques that can be transmitted to humans, it's clear that not only is the international importation and domestic transport of monkeys a serious ethical issue—it also represents a grave threat to public health and safety that Quebedeaux appears not to take seriously. We respectfully urge you not to permit him to import or quarantine primates and to immediately revoke any permissions that may have been granted.

I appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Guillermo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Guillermo
Senior Vice President
Laboratory Investigations Department
KathyG@peta.org

cc: NHPImporters@cdc.gov