



December 15, 2022

Edward Grace  
Assistant Director  
Office of Law Enforcement  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Via e-mail: [edward\\_grace@fws.gov](mailto:edward_grace@fws.gov)

Dear Assistant Director Grace:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—regarding the recent U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) [indictment](#) of named Cambodian officials and nationals as well as unindicted, unnamed U.S. co-conspirators who allegedly conspired to traffic in the illegal importation of long-tailed macaques into the U.S. We are grateful for the tremendous efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that exposed this alleged monkey-smuggling ring. Now we are asking you to take a critical step to ensure that the endangered long-tailed macaques who have been ensnared by this industry will receive the justice that they deserve: **We urge you to instruct all registered monkey importers who have received monkeys from Cambodia since 2018 to immediately halt the sale or transfer of any monkeys in their facilities until this case is resolved.**

Since November 17, PETA has reviewed and identified hundreds of certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs), obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, that document the movement of long-tailed primates from Inotiv's two monkey-breeding facilities in Alice, Texas, or Worldwide Primates in Miami. The CVIs show that since 2018, more than 15,000 long-tailed macaques have been shipped from these facilities to laboratories across the country.<sup>1</sup> There are very few CVIs documenting the movement of long-tailed macaques out of Worldwide Primates' facility in Miami, but publicly available documents ([usaspending.gov](#)) show that the Department of Health and Human Services has contracted for hundreds of Cambodian-origin long-tailed macaques from Worldwide Primates.

Worldwide Primates has not made any public statement regarding its status as an unindicted co-conspirator or its importation and disposition of macaques from Cambodia. In contrast, a [news release from Inotiv](#) on December 12 stated that the company "has not been directed to refrain from selling the Cambodian primates in its possession in the U.S." Inotiv goes on to claim that it is refraining from selling any of the monkeys it took from Cambodia for now, but we implore FWS to exercise its authority and insist that while this case is being investigated, Inotiv and Worldwide Primates suspend the sale or transfer to laboratories of any long-tailed macaques imported from Cambodia. The number of monkeys potentially involved in this investigation is staggering, particularly given that any shipment

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

<sup>1</sup>A compilation of this data, and/or the original documents, is available to FWS upon request.

of monkeys from Cambodia that had falsified documents related to the origin of a monkey invalidates the entire CITES permit, making all the monkeys involved in these shipments illegally imported.

U.S. importers may potentially be able to apply to FWS for re-export permits, which would allow for the transfer of previously imported primates to locations outside the U.S. Until the status of every Cambodian-origin long-tailed macaque imported since 2018 (and/or any of their offspring born in the U.S.) is resolved, we ask that the FWS Division of Management Authority not issue any re-export permits. **Each and every one of those macaques who may have been illegally taken from their homes deserves the fullest protection of FWS. Once these monkeys arrive in experimenters' laboratories, there is no going back and they face almost certain death.**

The Lacey Act is a powerful tool in the fight against unlawful wildlife trafficking. It contravenes this act "to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase" wildlife who have been possessed or transported in violation of any federal law or regulation. Id. § 3372(a)(1). The act allows forfeiture of wildlife "imported, exported, transported, sold, received, acquired, or purchased contrary to" this provision. Id. § 3374(a)(1). Once FWS can determine the identity and location of any monkeys determined to have been illegally smuggled into the U.S., we urge you to use the authority of the Lacey Act to confiscate these individuals and send them to reputable sanctuaries.

Thank you again for your efforts to track illegal monkey smuggling for the U.S. experimentation industry. We hope you will use your authority to rescue any monkeys involved in these illegal shipments, starting by ensuring that they aren't used and killed in experiments before the case is resolved. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
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People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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