



May 4, 2023

Christopher Braden, M.D.  
Deputy Director  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dear Dr. Braden:

I'm writing to you once again 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 take immediate action to reduce the public health dangers inherent in the importation of primates. Reports have just emerged in the media and PETA has received independent notifications of an ongoing tuberculosis outbreak at a macaque breeding facility in Mauritius that supplies U.S. laboratories, primarily Charles River Laboratories. The U.S. is the largest importer of monkeys from Mauritius, importing more than 8,000 in fiscal year 2022.

**It is imperative that the CDC investigate this situation, immediately stop all imports of monkeys from Mauritius, order all monkeys imported from the country in the last six months to be re-tested using a reliable and sophisticated algorithm that can detect animals exposed to and/or infected with tuberculosis, and order all humans who have handled monkeys from Mauritius to be tested. You must not delay.**

According to the reports, tuberculosis infection was confirmed in multiple long-tailed macaques at the Bioculture export facility in Mauritius. While recent shipments of monkeys caught up in the outbreak were reportedly cancelled, there are basic epidemiological characteristics of tuberculosis infection and detection in macaques that warrant immediate action. The primate importation and experimentation industry know that the tuberculin skin test (TST) assay used to detect tuberculosis in monkeys is neither sensitive nor specific. There have been countless spontaneous tuberculosis outbreaks in populations of laboratory monkeys who had been repeatedly screened with the TST and were supposedly free of this zoonotic pathogen. Surveillance and diagnostic tests simply are not working. Your own data on imported monkeys has revealed that more and more animals are arriving into the U.S. infected with tuberculosis.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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