



September 27, 2023

Mesfin Tasew Bekele
Chief Executive Officer
Ethiopian Airlines

Via email: mesfinta@ethiopianairlines.com

Dear Mr. Bekele:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members globally—to respectfully urge Ethiopian Airlines to establish a policy against the transportation of monkeys to be used in laboratories. According to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [inspection report](#) for LR Transport LLC (DBA JKL Secure Freight), Ethiopian Airlines transported 336 long-tailed macaque monkeys originating from Mauritius on July 16th on Flight ET518 to the U.S., where they're destined to be used in experiments. Long-tailed macaques are now on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, meaning that **they're among the most endangered species on the planet.**

The monkeys were held in cramped wooden crates in the cargo hold of the Ethiopian Airlines plane for nearly 18 hours after arriving in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, until landing in Atlanta, Georgia. After these monkeys were unloaded from the plane, they spent 95 minutes on the tarmac without any shade, in temperatures greater than 29.4 degrees Celsius. Spending more than 45 minutes in such high temperatures can lead to monkeys overheating and has a detrimental impact on their health and wellbeing. The crates of monkeys were then roughly handled as workers loaded them into trailers, causing further distress and likely physical harm to these monkeys. It's unknown how many monkeys arrived at the ultimate destination injured or already dead.

In addition, Ethiopian Airlines itself received a USDA citation for a violation on January 9, 2023, after your contracted intermediate handler, Worldwide Flight Services, had no health certificates for the 90 marmosets from South Africa or the 504 long-tailed macaques from Mauritius that you transported to Dulles International Airport. Transporting long-tailed macaques from Mauritius is particularly concerning, as there has been a tuberculosis outbreak at one of the major breeding facilities. Tuberculosis is a highly infectious mycobacterial disease that can be transmitted from monkeys to humans. The pathogen can persist on environmental surfaces and requires specialized treatment and sanitation.

PEOPLE FOR
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OF ANIMALS

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

Given the multitude of pathogens carried by monkeys that can infect humans, it's clear that the international transport of monkeys is not only a serious ethical issue, but also a grave threat to public health and safety—including to your crews on your flights and on the ground.

There's no such thing as an illegal animal experiment in the U.S., no matter how needless or cruel. Monkeys are subjected to highly invasive surgeries—often multiple times—and toxicity testing in which they are force-fed massive doses of drugs or chemicals, resulting in severe illness and death. They're infected with diseases they'd never normally contract, addicted to mind-altering drugs, paralyzed through intentional damage to their brain or spinal cord, and irradiated. All monkeys inside laboratories are forced to live in tiny, barren steel cages, and they will all be killed. The information derived from such inhumane treatment fails to yield treatments and cures for humans.

Following an immense public backlash, every major airline in the world has stopped transporting monkeys to laboratories. We hope that Ethiopian Airlines will align its actions and policies with those of other major airlines and stop transporting monkeys to laboratories. May I please hear from you?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" being more prominent than the last name "Meyer".

Amy Meyer
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