



September 8, 2025

Bonnie Nagel, PhD
Interim Chief Research Officer & Executive Vice President
OHSU Research & Innovation

Delivered via e-mail: nagelb@ohsu.edu

Dear Dr. Nagel:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10 million members and supporters globally, over 92,000 of whom live in Oregon—to request that you, as the current Chief Research Officer of Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), investigate why OHSU's Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC) continues to acquire long-tailed macaques from Mauritius, a source repeatedly tied to tuberculosis outbreaks, despite receiving taxpayer money for approximately 4,000 monkeys held in its colony. We further call on you to disclose what precautions were taken to prevent tuberculosis from yet again entering the ONPRC colony with this latest shipment, and to release the 12 recently acquired monkeys to sanctuary rather than consigning them to experiments.

This reckless import is especially troubling given the scale of ONPRC's existing colony of monkeys. By its own admission, the primate center reported to the USDA that for fiscal year 2024, it held 4,119 primates without using them in experiments. Why are millions of taxpayer dollars being funneled to OHSU to breed, feed, and confine these monkeys for research if OHSU instead apparently just warehouses them and buys monkeys from other monkey farms?

According to the attached certificate of veterinary inspection obtained by PETA through a public records request, primate importer BCUS in Immokalee, Florida, shipped 12 female macaques to OHSU's primate center via truck on July 15. The record indicates that at least one of the monkeys was 9 years old.

BCUS imports the monkeys it sells to laboratories from its monkey operation in Mauritius, Bioculture where monkeys are captured and torn from their families in nature. Despite Bioculture's claims that its monkeys are "specific pathogen free," it was [reported](#) that in May 2023, 200 monkeys at one of its breeding sites in Mauritius were euthanized after they contracted tuberculosis. Whistleblower reports have indicated that outbreaks of tuberculosis and other pathogens continue to plague monkey farms in Mauritius that supply U.S. laboratories.

In addition to the welfare concerns of boxing up 12 monkeys and trucking them for at least 3 days across more than 3,200 miles, bringing monkeys into the ONPRC colony from a source with a known history of TB infections jeopardizes the health of other animals, risks profoundly compromising any already dubious data from experiments on the monkeys, and wastes money. In 2019, ONPRC experimenter Jonah Sacha purchased 20 imported monkeys for experiments, only

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Washington
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

Info@peta.org
PETA.org

Entities:

- PETA Asia
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to discover after they were assigned to his study that they had latent tuberculosis, rendering all of the monkeys unusable. He told [Nature](#), “That cost hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage and delayed our research by many years.” In 2023, Sacha co-published a paper acknowledging that [monkeys imported from Mauritius](#) into ONPRC had introduced a deadly, antibiotic-resistant bacterium into the colony.

As PETA recently [released](#), confirmed by new data from the Centers for Disease Control, latent TB continues to slip past outdated screening methods, emerging months or years later in primate colonies. The CDC’s own data show that at least 19% of all confirmed TB cases in imported monkeys were detected after quarantine. This shouldn’t be surprising to the primate center. It’s widely regarded in the scientific community that the standard screening test for primates, the tuberculin skin test, is outdated, insensitive, and nonspecific. In contrast to other monkey peddlers, BCUS doesn’t even list TB test results on these certificates of veterinary inspection, so it’s impossible to verify if it even took this minimal step to attempt to prevent the spread of TB.

We urge you to immediately investigate the acquisition of these monkeys. Given their concerning origin and shipment, we implore you to spare them from experiments and send them to a reputable sanctuary. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Jones-Engel', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D
Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation
Department of Laboratory Investigation
PETA
206-372-6190