



November 7, 2025

Bernadette Juarez
Deputy Administrator, Animal Care
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Via e-mail: bernadette.r.juarez@usda.gov

Dear Ms. Juarez:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) promptly investigate a vehicular accident in which a pickup truck, pulling a trailer transporting 21 adult male rhesus macaques, crashed and released at least 8 of the monkeys. Ultimately, seven of the eight monkeys were gunned down by responding officers and civilians. The crash occurred on October 28 in Jasper County, Mississippi. Based on media reports and photos that PETA has tracked, we believe the handling of monkeys during and after the collision constitutes violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs).

Registered dealer PreLabs LLC (58-B-0669, previously 33-B-0418) acknowledged that the monkeys belonged to them, and PETA has received the certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) that shows the monkeys originated at the registered research facility Tulane University (72-R-0002), were transported by registered carrier Wildlife Transportation Facilitators (51-T-0017), and were destined for the registered laboratory BIOQUAL (51-R-0036) in Rockville, Maryland.

As has been widely reported in the media, the truck crashed on Interstate 59 near Heidelberg, Mississippi. Eight of the 21 monkeys escaped. Responding officers shot and killed five of the loose monkeys after reportedly being told by the truck driver that the monkeys were infected with herpes, hepatitis, and COVID. Newly [released](#) body camera footage shows the truck driver telling a responding officer, “they can’t get away, you have to shoot it,” after one of the monkeys darted across the highway. After speaking with his boss on the phone, the driver told the police that they needed to shoot all the monkeys who were out.

Two of the other monkeys were shot and killed by civilians in the community days later. The last one wasn’t located until 8 days later and was reportedly tranquilized. [Photos](#) from the scene of the crash show that many of the remaining 13 crates containing monkeys were so compromised that they were held closed by duct tape. It’s unclear how many hours the monkeys were sitting inside these dilapidated crates in the median of the highway before being reloaded into a

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Entities

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

temperature-controlled environment and eventually moved into AWA-approved crates or cages and provided any necessary veterinary assessment and care.

It appears to us that the handling and treatment of monkeys before, during, and after the collision violates several AWRs, including the following:

1. Section 3.87(a)(1) of the AWRs states: “Primary enclosures used to transport nonhuman primates ... must be constructed so that ... [t]he primary enclosure is strong enough to contain the nonhuman primate securely and comfortably and to withstand the normal rigors of transportation.” Even if the crates were originally deemed to be properly constructed, the surviving monkeys were presumably transported back to Tulane National Primate Research Center in the dilapidated wooden crates held together by duct tape, which constitutes improper construction.
2. Section 3.86(e) of the AWRs states: “Carriers and intermediate handlers must not accept a nonhuman primate for transport in commerce unless their animal holding area facilities meet the minimum temperature requirements,” that temperatures must not fall below 45°F. However, the monkeys who escaped the wooden crates and were loose for days were exposed to the elements and temperatures as low as 37°F (October 31).
3. Sections 3.86 – 3.92 of the AWRs provide regulations that stipulate appropriate standards for the commercial transportation of nonhuman primates, including provisions for ensuring that primates are not held for more than four hours before departing a station; that primates receive appropriate food and water for the journey; that primates do not suffer injuries while being transported; and that primates who are obviously ill, injured, or in physical discomfort “must not be transported in commerce, except to receive veterinary care for the condition.” However, these standards were not met for the monkeys who were involved in the accident. Monkeys, who had just experienced the trauma of a violent collision, were left stranded on the highway, exposed to the elements. Given the damage sustained by the trailer and crates and the violence of the crash, it is almost certain that monkeys left in the crates were injured. However, there is no indication that they were promptly evaluated or provided with veterinary care.
4. The AWA defines “euthanasia” as “the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method that produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress, or a method that utilizes anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death.” Officers who arrived on the scene killed five monkeys by gunshot, and civilians repeatedly shot two of the other escaped monkeys from a distance. However, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accepts gunshot as a humane method of killing *only* when the gunshot is “properly placed [to] cause immediate insensibility and a humane death.”

This is not the first time any of these companies has violated animal welfare standards. Wildlife Transportation Facilitators was the company that accepted and, over three days, [trucked](#) four elderly pigtailed macaques from New York University across the country to the Washington National Primate Research Center, where one of the monkeys required euthanasia shortly after arrival. USDA has cited BIOQUAL with 16 violations of the AWA since 2014. PreLabs was once cited after an inspector found a rhesus macaque with “approximately 90% hair loss on her chest, abdomen, legs, and arms.” Three times, the USDA has taken the rare step of referring Tulane University’s violations to its Investigative and Enforcement Services division, resulting in two fines and an official warning.

We urge USDA to initiate a full investigation and take decisive enforcement action, including issuing citations and penalties where warranted. These were almost certainly monkeys born and bred at a federally-funded primate center—paid for by taxpayers, destined for taxpayer-funded experiments, and transported across state lines in crates held together with duct tape. They survived confinement in a National Primate Research Center only to end up in a wrecked trailer on a Mississippi highway, some shot dead by police or civilians after escaping. No federally regulated entity should be allowed to evade accountability for endangering animals, the public, and the law.

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" and last name "Meyer" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Meyer
Associate Director of Primate Experimentation Campaigns
Laboratory Investigations Department
AmyM@peta.org

Enclosure

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

LOUISIANA CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

Contact State of Destination for Movement Requirements and Certificate Validity
FOR FOREIGN SHIPMENTS (Outside United States or Leaving United States) USE FEDERAL FORM

OFFICIAL USE ONLY: The Veterinarian issuing this certificate is accredited and has been authorized to inspect animals and issue certificates.

Certificate Number

72-2203-1761512016

ENTRY PERMIT #:

INSPECTION DATE: 10/23/2025				SHIPMENT DATE: 10/28/2025				<input checked="" type="radio"/> Large Animal <input type="radio"/> Small Animal									
CONSIGNOR - Contact Person at Origin				CONSIGNEE - Contact Person at Destination				CARRIER (Transporter)									
First Name		Last Name		AND/OR		First Name		Last Name		AND/OR		Business Name		Wildlife Transportation Facilitators			
Jason		Dufour				Daisy		Saba				Physical Address		13125 Catoctin Furnace Road			
Business Name				Business Name				City				State		Zip Code		Phone Number	
Tulane National Primate Research Center				Bioqual				Thrumont				MD		21788		(910) 448-0325	
Physical Address of Animals				Physical Address of Animals				Transport Method				Purpose of Movement					
								Trail				Sale					
City		State		Zip Code		County		City		State		Zip Code		County			
Covington		LA		70433				Rockville		MD		20850					
Phone Number		Location ID#						Phone Number		Location ID#							
(985) 871-6523								(301) 941-3636									
Consignor's Address (if different)				Consignee's Address (if different)				<input type="checkbox"/> Print <input type="checkbox"/> Reconsigned									

Disease Certification Statements	Flock/Herd Accredited Free For: Herd/Flock #										Current State/Area Status:										
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis <input type="checkbox"/> Brucellosis <input type="checkbox"/> Scrapie <input type="checkbox"/> NPIP										Tuberculosis: _____										
	<input type="checkbox"/> Johne's <input type="checkbox"/> PRV <input type="checkbox"/> CWD <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____										Brucellosis: _____										
										<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____											

SPECIES	# OF HEAD	OFFICIAL PERMANENT ID	OTHER ID (REGISTRY NAME, NUMBER OR DESCRIPTION)	AGE	SEX	BREED	TB DATE OBSVD	TB TEST RESULT	BRUC TEST DATE	BRUC TEST RESULT	BRUC VACC TATTOO	EIA TEST DATE	EIA LAB NAME	EIA TEST RESULT	ACCESSION #	OTHER		
	1	JT63	M. MULATTA	14	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	JV30	M. MULATTA	13	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	KR80	M. MULATTA	12	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	LH98	M. MULATTA	10	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	ME03	M. MULATTA	8	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	MF66	M. MULATTA	8	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	MJ82	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	ML48	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	ML62	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	MM56	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	MN52	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	MR21	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	MT69	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	NE15	M. MULATTA	6	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete
	1	NJ08	M. MULATTA	6	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG			N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy	Delete

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Other	1	NM15	M. MULATTA	5	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG				N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy Delete
Other	1	ML70	M. MULATTA	7	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG				N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy Delete
Other	1	NE59	M. MULATTA	6	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG				N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy Delete
Other	1	NG41	M. MULATTA	6	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG				N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy Delete
Other	1	NN74	M. MULATTA	5	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG				N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy Delete
Other	1	NI62	M. MULATTA	6	Y	M	Other	10/26/2025	NEG				N/A	N/A	N/A			Copy Delete
TOTAL	21	Add Row	Delete Last Row															

OWNER/AGENT STATEMENT "The animals in this shipment are those certified to and listed on this certificate."	VETERINARY CERTIFICATION - I certify, as an accredited veterinarian that the above described animals have been inspected by me and that they are not showing signs of infectious, contagious and/or communicable disease (except where noted). The vaccinations and results of tests are indicated on the certificate. To the best of my knowledge, the animals listed on this certificate meet the state of destination and federal interstate requirements. No further warranty is made or implied.
DATE	Date 10/26/2025 Printed Name Jason P. Dufour Phone (985) 871-6523 Email jdufour@tulane.edu
SIGNATURE	Address 18703 Three Rivers Road City Covington State LA Zip 70433
	USDA Accreditation # 055328 State of License LA License # 0002203
	Signature _____
Save Form	Print Form
Submit by Email	

CERTIFICATE AND CERTIFICATE #
OFFICIAL AFTER DIGITALLY SIGNED

Version 3.2