



February 6, 2026

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; ac.complaints@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) investigate a significant failure by a licensed Class B dealer, BC US LLC (58-B-0628) to abide by federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations established to ensure the safety and wellbeing of primates.

PETA received a whistleblower report stating that on January 28th, 2026, a live, newly imported long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) was recklessly left in the wooden crate they were shipped in and was placed into the biohazard waste container located on BC US property in Immokalee, Florida. The monkey remained inside the waste container until the dumpster was picked up by the waste management company, Stericycle, two days later, on January 30th, 2026. The monkey was still alive and escaped when the Stericycle staff in Miami, Florida, opened the lid of the waste container on February 2nd, 2026. Based on the reported timeline, the monkey would have been confined without food and water for approximately five days and exposed to extremely cold temperatures as low as 32°F on January 28th, 2026. The whistleblower understands that the monkey was eventually captured and brought back to the BCUS facility on February 3rd, 2026. It is unknown if either company has reported the escape to authorities.

PETA has corroborated that a shipment of monkeys exported by Bioculture Mauritius LLC arrived in Miami on SkyTaxi Flight 418 on January 28th, 2026, reportedly for BC US. The flight time was nearly 29 hours, not including truck transit to the Mauritius airport or transit to BC US's facility.

The facts as reported raise profound concerns about BC US's basic systems for animal intake, quarantine, monitoring, and accountability. A newly imported primate, arriving after an almost 29-hour international journey, should have been immediately inspected, documented, and placed in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mandated quarantine under controlled care. Instead, this monkey appears to have been effectively lost within the BC US facility, left unattended in their shipping crate, and ultimately discarded into a biomedical waste container without anyone recognizing that a live primate was inside. That a newly imported macaque could go unnoticed, uncounted, and unmanaged for this

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length of time suggests a breakdown in fundamental husbandry practices, recordkeeping, and oversight at a USDA-licensed Class B dealer.

This allegation demonstrates multiple apparent serious violations of the Animal Welfare Regulations (AWRs) including:

9 CFR § 2.40 (a) (1) (2)– Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care: (a) “Each dealer or exhibitor shall have an attending veterinarian who shall provide adequate veterinary care to its animals in compliance with this section. (1) Each dealer and exhibitor shall employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements. In the case of a part-time attending veterinarian or consultant arrangements, the formal arrangements shall include a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits to the premises of the dealer or exhibitor; and (2) Each dealer and exhibitor shall assure that the attending veterinarian has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.”

9 CFR § 2.75 (2) (3) Records: Dealers and exhibitors: “Record of Animals on Hand (other than dogs and cats) (APHIS Form 7019) and Record of Acquisition, Disposition, or Transport of Animals (other than dogs and cats) (APHIS Form 7020) are forms which may be used by dealers and exhibitors to keep and maintain the information required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section concerning animals other than dogs and cats except as provided in § 2.78. (3) One copy of the record containing the information required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall accompany each shipment of any animal(s) other than a dog or cat purchased or otherwise acquired by a dealer or exhibitor. One copy of the record containing the information required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall accompany each shipment of any animal other than a dog or cat sold or otherwise disposed of by a dealer or exhibitor; Provided, however, That information which indicates the source and date of acquisition of any animal other than a dog or cat need not appear on the copy of the record accompanying the shipment. The dealer or exhibitor shall retain one copy of the record containing the information required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section.”

9 CFR § 3.82 Feeding: “The diet for nonhuman primates must be appropriate for the species, size, age, and condition of the animal, and for the conditions in which the nonhuman primate is maintained, according to generally accepted professional and husbandry practices and nutritional standards. The food must be clean, wholesome, and palatable to the animals. It must be of sufficient quantity and have sufficient nutritive value to maintain a healthful condition and weight range of the animal and to meet its normal daily nutritional requirements ... Nonhuman primates must be fed at least once each day except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care.”

9 CFR § 3.83 Watering: “Potable water must be provided in sufficient quantity to every nonhuman primate housed at the facility. If potable water is not continually available to the nonhuman primates, it must be offered to them as often as necessary to ensure their health and well-being, but no less than twice daily for at least 1 hour each time, unless otherwise required by the attending veterinarian, or as required by the research proposal approved by the Committee at research facilities. Water receptacles must be kept clean and sanitized in

accordance with methods provided in § 3.84(b)(3) of this subpart at least once every 2 weeks or as often as necessary to keep them clean and free from contamination. Used water receptacles must be sanitized before they can be used to provide water to a different nonhuman primate or social grouping of nonhuman primates.”

9 CFR § 3.80 Primary enclosures: “Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they... Protect the nonhuman primates from injury ... Contain the nonhuman primates securely and prevent accidental opening of the enclosure, including opening by the animal ... Provide shelter and protection from extreme temperatures and weather conditions that may be uncomfortable or hazardous to the species of nonhuman primate contained ... Provide the nonhuman primates with easy and convenient access to clean food and water.”

9 CFR § 3.92(a) Handling: “Any person subject to the Animal Welfare regulations (9 CFR parts 1, 2, and 3) who moves (including loading and unloading) nonhuman primates within, to, or from the animal holding area of a terminal facility or a primary conveyance must do so as quickly and efficiently as possible, and must provide the following during movement of the nonhuman primate: Shelter from cold temperatures. Transporting devices on which nonhuman primates are placed to move them must be covered to protect the animals when the outdoor temperature falls below 45 °F (7.2 °C). A nonhuman primate must not be exposed to an ambient air temperature below 45 °F (7.2 °C) for a period of more than 45 minutes, unless it is accompanied by a certificate of acclimation to lower temperatures as provided in § 3.86(e) of this subpart. The ambient temperature must be measured in the manner provided in § 3.91(d) of this subpart.”

It is even more troubling that this monkey had just arrived from Mauritius and had not undergone any import quarantine period. Under federal law, all nonhuman primates imported into the United States are subject to mandatory CDC quarantine requirements. The CDC regulations at **42 CFR § 71.53** require that imported nonhuman primates be covered by a valid CDC import permit and be quarantined for a minimum of 31 days in a registered, CDC-approved quarantine facility. This requirement exists precisely because newly imported macaques pose a recognized risk of carrying zoonotic pathogens, including tuberculosis. Because this animal was not in CDC-approved quarantine, its subsequent escape from a biomedical waste container at a Stericycle facility in Miami potentially exposed Stericycle employees, first responders involved in recapture efforts, and others present at the site to an unscreened, recently imported macaque of unknown health status.

Mauritius' primate breeding and export facilities have experienced recent tuberculosis outbreaks, making strict post-arrival isolation, quarantine, and health monitoring essential. The whistleblower's report that monkeys are sometimes sick in quarantine at BC US—and that staff are instructed to keep this quiet—further suggests that the facility may be minimizing or obscuring serious animal and public health risks rather than managing them in accordance with federal expectations. The public reasonably expects that USDA-licensed primate dealers will comply with the Animal Welfare Act and that APHIS will provide meaningful, transparent oversight of facilities entrusted with live, newly imported, and potentially infectious animals.

That BC US has not had an APHIS inspection report posted on your website since 2023 only heightens these concerns. We therefore urge APHIS to conduct an immediate, focused inspection of

BC US, assess compliance with all relevant AWR provisions, determine whether any required incident reporting occurred, and issue appropriate citations and enforcement actions for each violation identified.

Sincerely,



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