



Recent Primate Incidents Demonstrate Risks To Public Health and Safety, Animal Welfare

November 2009 (Indiana): A woman was holding her 10-month-old granddaughter near an enclosure where a monkey was kept as a pet. The monkey pulled the hood of the girl's coat, causing her head to strike the metal cage, and pulled her hair. The child was taken to the hospital and released that night.

November 2009 (Tennessee): A capuchin monkey was found on a road. He had escaped from an SUV of a family vacationing in the area while they were eating at a restaurant, and was recaptured.

November 2009 (Florida): A macaque monkey was on the loose outside a Pinellas County apartment complex.

October 2009 (Kentucky): Authorities found a baboon being kept in the garage of a Kenton County home. The owners said they bought the animal from an Ohio dealer, and they surrendered her to a sanctuary.

September 2009 (Florida): Authorities were looking for a pet patas monkey who had escaped from a Marion County home and been on the loose about two months.

June 2009 (New Hampshire): An employee of a farm was severely bitten by a macaque monkey after leaving an enclosure unsecured. Macaques often carry Herpes B virus, and research published by the CDC concludes the health risk makes macaques unsuitable as pets.

April 2009 (Oregon): A man brought a capuchin monkey in a diaper to a park. A 6-year-old girl approached and the animal jumped on her, causing two puncture wounds below her eye.

April 2009 (Texas): A man was bitten by a squirrel monkey he was transporting to Michigan.

April 2009 (Oregon): Nine macaques escaped from a research center, and one got beyond a perimeter fence; workers lured them back over a few days.

March 2009 (Missouri): A 9-year-old chimpanzee escaped from a home and was shot and killed by authorities. Three other primates had been living at the home; none were registered as required by the state.

March 2009 (Texas): A woman needed 12 stitches after being bitten by her pet capuchin monkey. She had the monkey for eight years and decided to give the animal up.

March 2009 (Illinois): A chimpanzee at the Lincoln Park Zoo died from a respiratory virus that causes human colds, despite precautions taken to minimize contact with people.

March 2009 (Florida): A spider monkey escaped from a circus at a flea market and ran into the woods. He was recaptured six weeks later.

February 2009 (Connecticut): A woman was in critical condition with severe injuries to her face and hands after being attacked by a chimpanzee kept as a pet. She was placed in a "medically induced coma."

February 2009 (Georgia): An animal care technician in a research facility suffered a severe bite to her thumb from a capuchin monkey when cleaning a cage. She was treated at a hospital and transferred to a hand specialist.

Primate Incidents, Continued

February 2009 (Tennessee): A pet spider monkey escaped and made his way to a neighbor's yard.

February 2009 (Oklahoma): A 70-pound orangutan escaped his enclosure at a zoo for about 15 minutes before workers got him back into a holding area.

February 2009 (Washington): A De Brazza's monkey was introduced to a new outdoor exhibit at a zoo and the next day found an opening and escaped onto the grounds. The monkey was tranquilized and returned to an enclosure.

January 2009 (Florida): A monkey on the loose in Clearwater was thought to be a rhesus macaque.

December 2008 (Texas): An emaciated chimpanzee was removed from a home. He apparently had lived for 15 years in a small cage. The cage was littered with trash, and the animal reportedly suffered from malnutrition and lack of exposure to sunlight.

November 2008 (Montana): Two chimpanzees kept as pets escaped or were let loose, and one bit a woman before they were recaptured.

November 2008 (Maryland): A reporter was bitten by a capuchin monkey when he went to a home to cover a story about the monkey.

October 2008 (Illinois): Chicago police seized a ring-tailed lemur. The animal was reportedly found with no food and little water, standing in his own waste.

September 2008 (Pennsylvania): A woman working in a university laboratory was bitten by a macaque, needed two surgeries, and was hospitalized for over a week.

September 2008 (Florida): A person stole a bonnet macaque, claiming the animal was in distress due to lack of water and food.

August 2008 (Oregon): A cage door was left open at a sanctuary. A chimpanzee was briefly on the loose, and she bit a woman's finger.

July 2008 (Missouri): A woman was bitten by a pet macaque, but did not want to identify the monkey's owner.

July 2008 (Virginia): A teenager was bitten by a pet monkey during July 4 festivities at a park, and the health department was seeking information about the monkey to recommend treatment.

July 2008 (Florida): County officials were seeking a monkey on the loose; based on photographs the animal was thought to be a snow macaque.

June 2008 (California): A former pet chimpanzee escaped from the exotic animal facility where he was being housed and was not found despite a search in the San Bernardino National Forest.

June 2008 (New York): A 22-month-old girl playing in her backyard put her fingers through a fence into a neighbors' yard and was bitten by their pet monkey. Doctors spent 12 hours trying to reattach her finger.

June 2008 (South Carolina): Two animal shelter employees were bitten by a pet monkey. The monkey had been found loose in a yard and brought to the shelter after her owner was arrested.

June 2008 (Virginia): A woman sued a Florida company over a shipment of 13 monkeys she claims were ill and not properly tested for disease.

April 2008 (Florida): A monkey wearing a diaper was running loose outside an Orlando apartment complex.

Primate Incidents, Continued

March 2008 (Texas): A chimpanzee escaped from a research center by snatching a tranquilizer gun from an employee and jumping more than 15 feet to a perimeter wall. A police officer shot and killed him. The facility had three incidents of chimpanzee escapes in five months.

March 2008 (Indiana): A child visiting a home was bitten by a pet capuchin monkey.

March 2008 (Colorado): Authorities removed six marmosets who were living in the basement of a Denver home; the owner had brought the animals from Florida to Colorado – which does not allow primates as pets.

February 2008 (Arizona): A 3-year-old boy was bitten by a pet lemur his family just got two weeks before.

February 2008 (Washington): A pet macaque escaped from a home and bit three people.

January 2008 (Washington): An infant macaque was removed from a home; three people were indicted for smuggling the animal into the country illegally.

December 2007 (North Carolina): A clerk at a convenience store was bitten by a customer's pet monkey.

September 2007 (Missouri): Two children were bitten by a pet macaque monkey at a park. The woman who owned the monkey ran off with the animal.

August 2007 (Wisconsin): A woman was bitten by a pet monkey a man had on a leash; the monkey later escaped and was on the loose for several hours before being recaptured and quarantined.

June 2007 (Vermont): Two monkeys were seized and a man was charged with illegally possessing them. Officials said the animals were moved from place to place and kept in small cages.

April 2007 (Mississippi): A federal agent approached a home and was attacked by a pet macaque.

February 2007 (Michigan): A 3-year-old was scratched by a macaque monkey being housed at a pet shop.

January 2007 (Louisiana): An 8-year-old boy received rabies shots after being bitten by a pet lemur.

December 2006 (North Carolina): A snow macaque escaped and was on the loose for more than a month.

October 2006 (Ohio): A man was bitten by a pet macaque monkey he received that day from an Idaho woman who had advertised the animal for sale on the Internet.

August 2006 (Tennessee): A woman was buckling her 3-year-old granddaughter into a car seat when a neighbor's monkey jumped into the car and attacked the girl, who needed stitches for the wounds on her face.

August 2006: (Illinois): A pet monkey escaped from a cage and severely bit a teenager.

August 2006 (Michigan): Two capuchins were among 75 exotic animals found living in unsanitary conditions.

March 2006 (Louisiana): A pet bonnet macaque escaped from a cage and attacked a 2-year-old boy across the street. The boy received rabies prevention treatments.

March 2006 (Texas): A pet monkey bit a person and was euthanized to test for disease.

November 2005 (Kentucky): A pet capuchin escaped from a home and was missing for three days.

November 2005 (Arizona): A monkey escaped and ran through a neighbor's birthday party, biting two children.

Primate Incidents, Continued

September 2005 (Nebraska): Three chimpanzees escaped from their enclosure at a zoo. The zoo director shot and killed them, after a tranquilizer gun failed to work on two of them.

August 2005 (Tennessee): A pet monkey escaped or was stolen; anyone spotting the monkey was warned not to make eye contact because the owner said the animal would bite.

July 2005 (Ohio): A pet macaque monkey escaped from an enclosure, jumped into a truck, bit a man, and fled.

May 2005 (West Virginia): A 13-year-old girl was bitten by a pet monkey a woman had on a leash at a shopping center.

March 2005 (California): A man was mauled by two chimpanzees who escaped their enclosure at an exotic animal facility. He survived several months in a medically induced coma and numerous surgeries.

October 2004 (Arkansas): A woman working at a “drive thru safari” was getting ready to feed a chimpanzee when the animal grabbed her left arm and bit off much of her hand, including two fingers.

*Compiled from news reports by The Humane Society of the United States
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