Although it is likely that most incidents go unreported, records show that scores of children are among the more than 275 people who have been injured by captive primates during dangerous incidents in 43 states since 1990. Children have been attacked and injured by pet primates while riding their bikes, playing outdoors, visiting local parks, walking their dogs, and shopping at malls and grocery stores. Traumatized youngsters have been bitten by macaques who tested positive for the deadly Herpes B virus, subjected to painful rabies-protection injections, sent to the hospital to be tested for a variety of frightening diseases, suffered bite wounds that penetrated to the bone, and lost fingers. One woman died after contracting Herpes B from a macaque and others have suffered catastrophic injuries, such as the Connecticut woman who had to undergo a face transplant after she was mauled by a friend’s pet chimpanzee. Following is a partial list of dangerous incidents involving captive primates, with some of the more notable items highlighted.

“Children were running, falling down, screaming. It was total mayhem.”

One of several mothers trying to protect their children from a rampaging chimpanzee who escaped at a roadside zoo in New York.

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**WELFARE CONCERNS**

The complex social, physical and psychological needs of primates cannot be met in a situation in which the animals are kept as “pets.” Primates kept as pets are taken from their mothers when just hours or days old and raised in deprived and inappropriate environments. These animals often develop into mentally disturbed individuals with self-destructive and neurotic behaviors.

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**July 10, 2013/Independence, Kansas:** Two capuchin monkeys at the Ralph Mitchell Zoo escaped from a pen when the keeper failed to secure a lock. One monkey was recaptured and the second one was found dead on zoo property two days later. The monkey may have died from high temperatures and recent injuries it had sustained.1,2

**June 19, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A police officer who was handing a driver a speeding ticket through an open truck window was attacked by a capuchin monkey who leaped from the back seat and grabbed and bit the officer’s hand. The man used the monkey to pose for photos with the public for money.3

**June 18, 2013/Conway, Arkansas:** A 30-pound pet macaque monkey escaped from a veterinary clinic where he was being boarded. He broke a lock to get out of his cage and then exited the building by opening the clinic’s back door. Police officers responded to the scene and blocked the road to contain the monkey. As they waited for animal control and clinic employees to arrive, the monkey climbed onto the shoulders of one officer and ultimately followed him back into the clinic. While trying to get the monkey to go back into his cage, the officer was bitten on the knuckle of his right thumb. Police officers escorted animal control officials into the building so they could sedate the monkey in order to return him to his cage. It took two attempts to sedate the animal. The officer sought treatment at a medical center for the bite to his thumb and was subsequently sent to Little Rock for observation due to concerns that he had possibly been exposed to Herpes B virus. The monkey’s owner acknowledged that the animal was “an escape artist.”4,5,6

**June 8, 2013/Alexandria, Louisiana:** A 20-pound Colobus monkey escaped from its handler and climbed a tree at the Alexandria Zoo while the monkey was being moved from an enclosure. The zoo was evacuated and temporarily closed while the monkey was tranquillized and recaptured.7
June 4, 2013/Miami-Dade County, Florida: A motorist captured a loose monkey on his cell phone video shortly after the monkey ran across the hood of his car as he was driving. The monkey then darted across school property, climbed a tree, and sprinted through the road. On June 28, 2013, the monkey was spotted again running through a condo complex and across power lines.8,9

June 4, 2013/Wise, Virginia: A patas monkey ran loose for approximately 30 minutes on the University of Virginia-Wise campus before being recaptured. A student who was taking care of the monkey for a friend left the animal in a car, where he escaped from his cage and then through the open sunroof.10

June 2, 2013/Godfrey, Illinois: A 6-year old boy was bitten by a pet java macaque who was taken to a dog festival at a local park. According to the boy’s friend, the monkey jumped on the victim, grabbed his shirt, “pulled him back and bit his arm.” The boy was taken to the hospital by ambulance and had to undergo several treatments for a bone-deep wound, which became infected. He also underwent treatment for possible rabies exposure. The monkey’s owner tried to leave the park and was detained by witnesses who blocked her from doing so. The monkey was quarantined. The owner admitted to an officer that the monkey had previously bitten her several times, including a few hours before the monkey bit the child. The boy’s father filed a lawsuit against the monkey’s owner seeking in excess of $50,000 on one count of alleged negligence.11,12,13,14

May 18, 2013/Neville, Ohio: A small monkey running loose through a neighborhood was deemed a public health and safety risk and shot and killed by a state wildlife officer.15,16

March 19, 2013/Denver, Colorado: A 17-year-old howler monkey escaped from her enclosure at the Denver Zoo by chewing a hole through the steel mesh of the cage. Zoo-goers were escorted from the building while the monkey sat in a planter box outside the exhibit. She was quickly coaxed back inside with food.17

March 2, 2013/Cheyenne, Colorado: An adult howler monkey named Eva escaped an enclosure at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo by pulling back some mesh and spent about an hour on top of the monkey house before zoo staff were able to recapture her with a net.18

March 2013/Pawnee County, Oklahoma: A pet vervet monkey escaped from a cage and was on the loose for a week. The monkey’s owner told sheriff deputies to shoot the animal if they found him because he was afraid the monkey would hurt someone. A woman in her car spotted the monkey running down a rural road and was startled when he jumped onto her car. The vervet then ended up at a nearby glass company where employees noticed that he had an injured tail and the business owner caught him in a net.19
February 16, 2013/Minneapolis, Minnesota: A 3-year-old boy was bitten by a lemur who was being exhibited by Barry De Voll’s Blue Trunk Educational Series at the Minnesota Convention Center. The lemur was invited to climb up the boy’s arm for a photo and the child was bitten on the hand when he lowered his arm. The bite appeared to be mildly infected and medical personnel were concerned that a small cyst between three bite wounds could indicate a Herpes B infection if the lemur had been housed with macaques (a species that commonly carries the Herpes B virus). Although the cyst later tested negative for the deadly virus, the boy was put on anti-viral medication and given rabies prevention shots. The animal handler falsely claimed the lemur only scratched the child.20,21

February 11, 2013/Topeka, Kansas: A Golden lion tamarin opened her transport box and escaped outdoors as she was being carried from the Topeka Zoo’s veterinary hospital to another building. She was captured by zoo staff.22

January 21, 2013/North Miami Beach, Florida: Two pet lemurs escaped and ran wild through the neighborhood, charging at neighbors and police. Both lemurs jumped out of a tree onto a 2-year-old girl who was being carried by her mother and began attacking the girl. The girl was treated at the scene for a scratch to her face, just under the eye, and her mother was treated for a scratch to the arm. Police and the primates’ owner finally recaptured the lemurs.23,24,25

January 2013/Jackson, Mississippi: A Diana guenon escaped from an enclosure at the Jackson Zoo and went into a restricted area for the hoofstock at the zoo. The monkey was tranquilized and recaptured.26

December 4, 2012/Houston County, Texas: A mail carrier sought medical treatment after she was attacked by a resident’s pet lemur when the primate jumped into her vehicle, bit her on the hand and arm, and then jumped out. She sent a text to her supervisor that read, “got bit by the monkey, blood’s everywhere, come get me.” The lemur, who had jumped on her car weeks earlier and pulled her hair, was placed under quarantine.27

November 2012/Los Angeles, California: Michele Kanan, the wife of General Hospital star Sean Kanan, was attacked by a squirrel monkey who had been brought as entertainment to her birthday party. The monkey leaped out of the handler’s arms, jumped five feet, and bit Mrs. Kanan on the arm. The handler grabbed the monkey as the animal was about to bite her a second time.28

October 2012/Cherokee, North Carolina: A child was bitten by a capuchin monkey who escaped from an island exhibit at Santa’s Land roadside zoo by crossing a water moat and then scaling a fence topped by three strands of electric wire.29

September 29, 2012/Merritt Island, Florida: A pet capuchin monkey named Mookie, whose owner regularly took him out to public places, bit a man on the shin when he and his girlfriend stopped to pet the animal outside a convenience store. Officials ordered the monkey to be quarantined for 30 days at the owner’s home.30
“I had no idea chimpanzees could cause so much damage.”

Captain of a fire department in California, responding to an incident where two chimpanzees mauled a man.

**September 9, 2012/Sanford, Florida:** A 4-year-old pet pigtail macaque escaped from a backyard cage and ran amok for two hours, biting and scratching two people, jumping on cars and chewing on a satellite dish. Animal control officers closed the streets around the area and he was finally captured by his owner. This was the second time the primate had escaped in the last two months. 31, 32

**August 31, 2012/Pueblo, Colorado:** Numerous animals exhibited at the Colorado State Fair by Tammy Thomson’s Camp Junction, ran loose, causing a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector to write, “The animals are at risk of injury, being lost or stolen, or of potentially injuring a member of the public ...” These included two unconfined 3-month-old lemurs who were startled when a cage fell off a table, causing them to bolt and run loose for more than 20 minutes, approaching members of the public and the food vending area. Another lemur who escaped when an employee opened an enclosure was on the loose for at least ten minutes, and an approximately 28-day-old lemur passed through the mesh of an enclosure and into the public area at least twice. 33

**August 29, 2012/Paso Robles, California:** A woman was treated at a hospital after she suffered several severe bites to her arm and fingers from her pet Java macaque. The 22-year-old primate was obese because of an improper diet that included Frosted Flakes and other junk food and was kept inside their trailer in a pet travel crate intended for a small dog. The monkey was confiscated by authorities, taken to a veterinarian to have several tumors on her neck, rump and shoulder inspected and to be tested for tuberculosis, and then quarantined for 60 days. It was not the first time the monkey had bitten the woman. 34, 35, 36

**August 15, 2012/Martin County, Florida:** A 3-feet-tall, 26-pound pet macaque monkey escaped from a home and attacked his owner who was trying to recapture him with a net. The monkey bit the man’s buttocks and thigh and injured seven tendons and one nerve in his hand, resulting in two, three-hour surgeries on his hand and the need for rehabilitation. The monkey was shot and killed by the man’s friend in order to stop the attack. 37

**August 12, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** After her second escape from a backyard cage in a residential neighborhood, an adult female chimpanzee named CJ was transferred to the facility of magician Dirk Arthur, where she escaped and briefly roamed free during a visit from a veterinarian. 38, 39

**August 11, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** For the second time in a month, an adult female chimpanzee named CJ escaped from a backyard cage in a residential neighborhood. She roamed the area while a perimeter of police officers waited for animal control to arrive. CJ became agitated when she saw the animal control officer with a tranquilizer gun. Once she was shot with a tranquilizer, CJ walked into a nearby vacant home with her handler and fell asleep. 40, 41, 42
“The right to own a dangerous animal without government interference ends at the word ‘dangerous.’”

St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial board on a proposal to require that people in Missouri with pet primates obtain a license

August 8, 2012/Fort Lauderdale, Florida: A paramedic was bitten by a pet marmoset monkey belonging to a man who crashed a motorcycle while riding with the monkey in a travel bag. The monkey bit the paramedic on the knuckle, causing a small puncture wound and requiring the man to get a tetanus shot.53

July 12, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada: A male and female chimpanzee escaped from a backyard cage in a residential neighborhood after the male chimpanzee ripped the cage from the concrete and then broke through a padlocked gate. Police responded to emergency calls with more than 20 squad cars and issued warnings to residents and motorists to stay indoors while diverting traffic away from the area. The chimpanzees were running amok, climbing into cars, pounding on vehicles, and banging on windows of homes. Police gave the owners about 30 minutes to try and capture the chimpanzees, but shot and killed the male when he darted towards a crowd of onlookers. An hour later the female chimpanzee was tranquilized and captured.44,45,46

June 29, 2012/Davidson County, North Carolina: Animal control officers searched for a crab-eating macaque who escaped from the Wake Forest University Primate Center. The primate was seen in backyards in residential neighborhoods and was finally captured 11 days later after a teenager spotted the monkey in a tree outside her home.47,48

June 17, 2012/Galveston, Texas: A woman was bitten on the hand when she grabbed a cotton-top tamarin at Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid.49

June 9, 2012/Chamberlain, South Dakota: Responding to a report from a motorist that a monkey was on the loose, a police officer spotted the primate on the corner of an exit ramp off Interstate 90. The officer chased the primate, described as grayish in color and about 2 feet tall, into a fast food restaurant parking lot, but the monkey escaped into some tall grass and disappeared.50

May 14, 2012/Mission, Texas: Animal control officers trapped a patas monkey who had been observed running loose in the area for three weeks and brought the animal to the Gladys Porter Zoo. No one reported a missing monkey and zoo officials suspected the primate got loose just before being smuggled into Mexico.51,52

May 12, 2012/Bordentown, New Jersey: A 2-year-old girl was bitten by a spider monkey at the Animal Kingdom Zoo after she crossed the split-rail fence surrounding the monkeys’ enclosure. The girl was grabbed and bitten on the thumb and index finger by a monkey who wanted the popcorn she was holding. The Health Department ordered all the monkeys quarantined to check for diseases because the animals’ veterinary records could not be located.53,54

May 11, 2012/Dexter, Iowa: The Iowa Department of Human Services investigated a private residence that offered daycare services after the owner’s 1-year-old capuchin monkey scratched a girl on her hand when it jumped off her lap. The child was taken to the hospital and advised to undergo rabies shots.55
“Within weeks, 19 monkeys were dead and three humans were sick [from] the first known case of an adenovirus jumping from monkeys to humans.”

Disease outbreak at the California National Primate Research Center in Davis

May 6, 2012/Asheville, North Carolina: Three people were bitten by a pet marmoset monkey who escaped from a home and into the surrounding neighborhood. According to a witness, the monkey “freaked out” and started jumping on and biting people. One woman was bitten on both ears, her daughter was bitten on the finger, and another person was also bitten on the ears. Two of the victims were treated with antibiotics to avoid infection. By the time animal control and police officers arrived at the scene, the monkey had been recaptured by her owner, but a search of the house uncovered marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms, hashish and ecstasy and led to a man who lived at the home being charged with several drug violations. The monkey was euthanized to be tested for rabies. 56, 57, 58

May 4, 2012/Chattanooga, Tennessee: Police and animal control were called to capture an escaped pet marmoset after receiving calls from neighbors that a monkey was on the loose. 59

May 1, 2012/Casselberry, Florida: Two people contacted the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with reports of seeing a loose monkey. 60

April 29, 2012/Oviedo, Florida: Two people reported seeing a monkey in and near the downtown area. 61

April 24, 2012/Pender County, North Carolina: The sheriff’s office removed a macaque monkey from a private residence after the animal had escaped twice in two months and bit a neighbor once, her son twice, as well as a third unidentified victim. The state veterinarian ordered the monkey euthanized to be tested for diseases. 62

April 24, 2012/Sanford, Florida: The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission received a report of a monkey running loose. 63

April 17, 2012/Gainesville, Florida: The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission set a trap hoping to capture a Patas monkey who appeared in a Duval neighborhood and was eating from fruit trees. 64

April 5, 2012/Shady Hills, Florida: Pasco County law enforcement searched for more than four hours for a pet monkey who escaped from a vehicle and ran into a nearby wooded area when the owner stopped at a gas station. 65

April 2012/Rolla, Missouri: A twelve-year-old girl was injured by a vervet monkey at the Cub Creek Science Camp. A staff member had the monkey on a leash when the animal jumped onto the girl, causing a puncture on her hand with either his teeth or nails. The girl received stitches and antibiotics for the wound. The monkey was quarantined for ten days. 66
March 19, 2012/Buffalo, New York: A keeper at the Buffalo Zoo was bitten on the hand and calf by a 400-pound male gorilla who escaped his cage and came face to face with her in an area used by zoo personnel. The keeper took refuge inside another gorilla’s cage, zoo-goers were moved indoors, and a SWAT team secured the area while a veterinarian tranquilized the animal. The SWAT team captain commented, “That was the scariest thing I’ve ever done in my career.”

March 19, 2012/Manatee County, Florida: A business park’s security video captured a primate, believed to be a capuchin monkey, rummaging through dumpsters. The monkey was suspected of scavenging at the park for the last six months.

March 19, 2012/Ashley, Pennsylvania: A young man took the family’s pet java macaque on a joyride in a stolen vehicle and the monkey escaped when police stopped the vehicle. Police warned residents to be on the lookout for a potentially dangerous primate. The monkey, on the loose for hours, was pursued by game commission officials and law enforcement from four jurisdictions. The monkey’s owner eventually captured the monkey, who was seized by the game commission.

March 2, 2012/Niles, Ohio: A pet store clerk underwent medical treatment for potential diseases after she was bitten by a spider monkey who a customer brought into the store. The health department ordered the monkey quarantined.

February 19, 2012/Kansas City, Missouri: Two male gorillas at the Kansas City Zoo escaped from interior cages which had mistakenly been left unlocked, and into the hallway of the zookeeper area. The keepers hurried into the animals’ outdoor yard and climbed out of the exhibit on a ladder provided by another employee. The gorillas, who never had access to any public spaces, were coaxed back into a secure area with water hoses.

February 7, 2012/Sanford, Florida: Seminole County Animal Services captured an escaped pet rhesus macaque after police had received calls over the last three weeks from residents reporting a primate on the loose.

January 23, 2012/Gentry, Arkansas: A rhesus macaque and two other primates had escaped from enclosures and were running loose in the drive-through area of Wild Wilderness Safari, a roadside zoo.

January 2, 2012/Southern Pines, North Carolina: A 2-year-old pet rhesus macaque escaped after being in a new home for only two weeks. The monkey, whose canine teeth had been removed, was on the loose for five days before being recaptured. The monkey endured temperatures that dipped into the 20s during two of the nights he was outdoors, lost approximately one pound of body weight, suffered a broken finger, scratches, and chafing from the diaper he was wearing when he escaped and, according to a veterinarian, was traumatized by the ordeal.
“People [in Canada] who work with monkeys can no longer give blood because of fears they may spread a virus similar to HIV.”

Decision by Health Canada after determining that about 70 to 90 percent of captive-born primates are infected with Simian Foamy Virus

**November 22, 2011/Palm Coast, Florida:** State and county authorities, responding to complaints from several residents, discovered a macaque in a neighborhood tree. The primate remained on the loose after an animal control officer tried unsuccessfully to tranquilize the animal. 77

**November 11, 2011/Dallas, Texas:** A spider monkey at the Dallas Zoo escaped an enclosure and climbed on top of the cage. Ten zoo employees recaptured the monkey after approximately one-half hour. 78,79

**October 25, 2011/Dallas, Texas:** An adult chimpanzee escaped from an enclosure through an unlocked door and into a keeper’s area at the Dallas Zoo. Dallas police and a tranquilizing team were called to the “Code Red” situation and zoo-goers were moved to another section of the park. The chimpanzee was sedated and returned to the enclosure. 80,81

**October 18, 2011/Zanesville, Ohio:** Fifty animals escaped from Terry Thompson’s farm when Thompson opened all the enclosures and fences and then killed himself. The sheriff’s office warned residents to stay in their homes and recommended that local schools close, and a sign on the Interstate cautioned motorists to stay in their vehicles. Forty-eight animals were subsequently shot and killed by sheriff’s deputies—two wolves, six black bears, two grizzly bears, 18 tigers, three cougars, and 17 African lions. A baboon was killed by the big cats and a macaque monkey who was released and never found was believed to have been killed and eaten by the big cats. Three leopards, a grizzly bear and two monkeys were taken to the Columbus Zoo. Thompson had just been released from prison after serving a one-year term for weapons offences. 82,83

**October 14, 2011/Lake Hills, Texas:** One of five capuchin monkeys kept as pets escaped from a home and was on the loose for five days before being recaptured. The monkey reportedly attacked a dog and charged at a man, prompting three people to shoot at the animal. 84,85

**October 6, 2011/Holly Hill, Florida:** A pet cotton-top tamarin escaped from a residence, went to a neighbor’s back porch, then climbed a nearby tree. A police officer was bitten on the finger while capturing the monkey. The monkey was brought to an animal hospital where it escaped from a cage and “went beserk.” The monkey was later returned to her owner. 86

**September 29, 2011/Doniphan, Nebraska:** A “therapy” monkey who was temporarily staying at a resident’s home escaped through a doggie door and was recaptured the next day by animal control officers. The grivet monkey was described as scared and hungry. 87

**September 28, 2011/St. Cloud, Florida:** A feral rhesus macaque died from internal injuries after falling 60 feet from a tree when he was shot with a tranquilizer dart by an animal control officer. Authorities captured the primate due to public safety and health concerns. 88
“Everyone was screaming and when I tried to run into the garage, I tripped, and it jumped onto my head. I was really scared.”

One of three Ohio children attacked by a neighbor’s pet grivet monkey

**September 2011/Waller County, Texas:** A couple released ten capuchin monkeys from cages as wildfires approached and forced an evacuation of the area. A game warden with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was bitten as she tried to capture one of the escaped monkeys and was treated at a hospital for a bite wound to her thumb. The loose monkey was shot and killed four days later. 89

**August 12, 2011/Springfield, Missouri:** An 8-year-old girl was attacked by a pet macaque monkey who reached out and grabbed her from a car in a store parking lot. The monkey bit and scratched the girl’s forehead and fingers. Antiviral drugs and antibiotics were administered to the girl as a precaution. 90, 91

**August 4, 2011/Shelbyville, Tennessee:** A woman was washing a car in her driveway when she was attacked and severely injured by a pet macaque monkey who had escaped from a neighbor’s home. The woman got the monkey off of her by putting her finger in his mouth, pulling his teeth out of her leg and pushing him away. She had to undergo surgery for a deep cut in her calf muscle and doctors told her she was lucky she wasn’t killed. A sheriff’s deputy was also attacked by the monkey who jumped on the officer’s arm and left two deep cuts. The officer shot and killed the monkey. According to police, the animal had also bitten a sheriff’s officer the previous year. Four other monkeys who were discovered living in dog crates and bird cages that were too small for the animals and without access to food or water were removed from the neighbor’s home. 92, 93

**July 6, 2011/Elk River, Minnesota:** A 9-year-old girl was bitten when she approached a caged monkey at Wapiti Park Campgrounds. The monkey, used as a “service” animal, was brought to the park by a visitor. 94

**June 30, 2011/Jackson, New Jersey:** A baboon escaped from Six Flags Great Adventure’s drive-through safari and was on the loose for two days before she was recaptured at a farm approximately 20 miles from Six Flags. A woman who was in her backyard with her twin 2-year-old daughters and 3-year-old son spotted the baboon about 30 feet away and later expressed concern that Six Flags had not warned nearby residents of the animal’s escape. Citizens reported the baboon’s whereabouts as she traveled through two counties and police helped zoo officials tranquilize the animal when she entered a barn. 95, 96

**June 9, 2011/Fremont, Ohio:** A 7-year-old pet grivet monkey escaped from a woman’s home and attacked and scratched three children. Police fired two rounds during a nearly 3-hour chase throughout the neighborhood. The monkey was re-captured by the owner, who was later fined $150 for allowing an animal to run at-large. 97, 98

**May 31, 2011/Kansas City, Missouri:** A red-capped mangabey escaped from a cage at the Kansas City Zoo after a keeper forgot to close a padlock and was loose for 30 minutes. Dozens of visitors were ushered into buildings until the monkey was tranquilized and recaptured. 99, 100
May 20, 2011/Key West, Florida: After paying $20 to a street performer to have her photo taken with the man’s lemur, a New Jersey tourist was bitten twice on the face by the primate.  

April 26, 2011/Surry County, Virginia: A 7-year-old java macaque attacked a man while he was sleeping in his bed, biting his nose and arm. The man checked himself into a hospital and two weeks later gave up the male macaque and his female companion.  

March 24, 2011/McDowell County, North Carolina: A 14-month-old vervet monkey broke free as he was being walked on a leash. The monkey was spotted 45 minutes later 1½ miles away and was still missing a week later.  

March 21, 2011/Amelia, Ohio: A 7-year-old capuchin monkey escaped from a cage while being taken to the vet. The monkey was loose for three days and spotted near a high school.  

March 15, 2011/West Knoxville, Tennessee: Three police officers, an animal control officer, and a crime-scene technician were dispatched to a local residence after a report that a pet capuchin monkey had been found in a backyard tree. The 4-pound, 46-year-old monkey was captured when her caretaker eventually arrived on the scene.  

March 11, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah: All four spider monkeys at the Hogle Zoo briefly escaped from an enclosure and were seen climbing trees and approaching local wildlife. Zoo staff used fruit to lure them back to the cages.  

March 8, 2011/Belleview, Florida: A 21-year-old capuchin monkey with a history of escaping from his backyard cage got loose and was killed by a neighbor’s Rottweiler.  

March 2, 2011/Fort Madison, Iowa: Authorities discovered that a 10-year-old child who had been taken to the Fort Madison Hospital for a cat bite had actually been bitten by a pet macaque.  

January 30, 2011/Reidsville, North Carolina: A woman who was caring for a friend’s capuchin monkey was attacked as the monkey tried to escape from his cage. The monkey “went crazy” and jumped on her head and bit her hand. The woman received medical treatment for bites that “ripped all the way to the bone in several places.” Authorities ordered the monkey euthanized for rabies testing after determining the monkey had bitten three people.  

January 14, 2011/Scottsbluff, Nebraska: A keeper at the Riverside Discovery Center was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when she attempted to pet the animal. When the chimpanzee grabbed the woman’s hand, she began screaming, which attracted another chimpanzee, who also grabbed her hand. The keeper’s index and ring fingers on one hand were bitten off at the knuckles, and the middle finger was lacerated. She was taken to a hospital for treatment.  

June 24, 2011/Lansing, Illinois: A 46-year-old woman was charged with keeping two capuchin monkeys and five dogs in filthy, unsanitary, and neglectful conditions. One malnourished monkey was living in a small wire dog cage and the other was in a large metal bird cage. The cages were covered in excrement and cigarette butts and none of the animals had food or water.
“It was like a hurricane going through the house.”
Pennsylvania police officer describing the scene where an escaped pet monkey bit two people

2011/Dade City, Florida: A member of the public was bitten by a 1-year-old macaque monkey at the Stearns Zoo when he/she was allowed to have close contact with the animal.111

2011/Hernando County, Florida: A 2-year-old girl was bitten by a caged lemur at Boyett’s Grove attraction. In a separate incident at the same facility, another person was bitten by a monkey.114

December 26, 2010/Williston, Florida: A resident shot at, and missed, a patas monkey who was foraging on corn in a backyard feeder. The man was one of several residents who had reported seeing a loose monkey in the area over the past few weeks.115

December 22, 2010/Miami, Florida: A pet capuchin monkey escaped and bit a neighbor on the ear, who was taken to the hospital. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took possession of the monkey to determine if the animal had rabies.116

December 17, 2010/Rogersville, Tennessee: Hawkins County Sheriff’s deputies investigating a residence for methamphetamine production discovered three 20-pound monkeys and one 50-pound monkey in the home. The monkeys were aggressive toward officers and one ripped the jacket of a Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency officer. The man’s wife was given custody of the primates.117

November 20, 2010/Mauston, Wisconsin: A 20-pound pet monkey escaped from a basement while the owner was trying to get the animal back inside a cage. The monkey went to a nearby car parts store, charged at an employee and a customer, then jumped onto the back of the employee.118

November 7, 2010/Oneida Castle, New York: An 8-year-old pet capuchin monkey escaped from a home by opening a screen door. The animal wandered into a neighbor’s yard and attacked a woman who was outside playing with her son. The monkey jumped onto the woman’s arm and then bit her finger when she reached out to keep the monkey away from the child. The woman was taken to the hospital for puncture wounds. The fire department, state police, and sheriff were called to the scene. The monkey was captured and killed in order to be tested for rabies.119

November 2010/Phoenix, Arizona: A pet rhesus macaque bit a person on the hand and was subsequently killed.120
There was blood everywhere, it was horrible.”

Husband of an Illinois woman upon finding his wife on the floor following an attack by their pet macaque

October 19, 2010/Kansas City, Missouri: Mark Archigo’s adult pet chimpanzee, Sueko, escaped from a cage inside a truck and rampaged through a Kansas City neighborhood for 40 minutes. Sueko charged at two young girls who were out for a morning walk, opened the passenger door of a sport utility vehicle that drove into the neighborhood, broke a gate and fence, and pounded on parked vehicles, passing cars, and the front door of a house. As authorities attempted to tranquilize the animal, Sueko charged a police car, pushed a trash can against its front bumper, climbed onto the car’s hood, pounded on the roof, and kicked the windshield, breaking it. Sueko was finally recaptured when she walked into Archigo’s van. Archigo has been in and out of legal trouble over Sueko since 1995 (see 2000/Jackson County, Missouri and 1995/Kansas City, Missouri).

September 2010/San Antonio, Texas: Three monkeys escaped from Primarily Primates after an enclosure was damaged by a tropical storm. Two monkeys were quickly recaptured but one spider monkey was on the loose for nine days and traveled at least 6 miles before being tranquilized and recaptured. While he was loose the monkey was spotted near homes and in some garages and at one point he chased a woman into her garage and kept her trapped there for more than an hour.

July 31, 2010/Greenwich, New York: A lemur at the Ashville Game Farm bit a 7-year-old boy. The boy was petting the lemur as other people were feeding the animal when the boy was bitten on the thumb. The victim received a series of rabies shots and a judge ordered that three lemurs at the facility be killed and tested for rabies.

July 21, 2010/Hamilton County, Indiana: A 40-pound, 3-foot-tall pet patas monkey injured a teenage boy and bit a family dog on the ear after escaping from a cage and running through the family’s house for 20 minutes. Someone in the house called 911 and told the dispatcher that the monkey was a dangerous wild animal. A witness to the attack on the boy remarked that he had “never seen any animal jump on top of somebody and just start attacking him.” Family members locked themselves in different rooms to avoid the monkey until police, paramedics, and animal control responded to the 911 call.

July 21, 2010/Mechanicsville, Virginia: Six chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at Windy Oaks Animal Farm when a gate was left open. Two male chimpanzees were still on the loose when animal control received a call about the incident. At least two hours after animal control was first called to the scene, a sheriff’s deputy shot one of the chimpanzees with a tranquilizer dart and the animal was returned to the enclosure. Windy Oaks did not have knowledgeable staff or equipment to tranquilize the escaped chimpanzees. Animal control officials and sheriff’s deputies searched the compound for the second chimpanzee but could not find him. He was finally recaptured the next day. According to Windy Oaks’ veterinarian, this escape was the third such incident at the facility.
“It bit the top of my eyelid and it just kind of latched onto my cheek.”

A North Carolina grocery store clerk who was bitten by a customer’s pet monkey

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July 18, 2010/Catskill, New York: A woman was mauled by a pet capuchin monkey who was being kept at the Kaaterskill Lodge. The victim was taking photographs of the monkey when the animal jumped out of the enclosure and attacked her. The woman was left with a scar down her cheek and had to receive rabies shots because Allen Hirsch, the owner of the lodge, disappeared with the monkey after the attack.  

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July 17, 2010/Wichita, Kansas: Nine chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at the Sedgwick County Zoo and were found in a maintenance area when keepers arrived at work in the morning. Eight of the chimpanzees were returned to the enclosure, but one adult male was loose for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured.  

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July 12, 2010/Westfield Township, Ohio: A pet monkey, who was sitting in the cab of a truck, escaped and climbed a utility pole after the driver lost control of the truck and crashed. State troopers coaxed the monkey down and tethered it to a tree on a long leash.  

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July 2010/Rising Sun, Maryland: A squirrel monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Plumpton Park Zoo and died.  

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April 25, 2010/Clearwater, Florida: A 5-year-old girl and her mother encountered two escaped pet lemurs and began feeding them until rescue workers arrived. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission returned the lemurs to the owner, who stated the lemurs escaped by sliding out the trays in the bottom of the cage.  

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March 29, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia: A man was attacked for the second time in two weeks by his capuchin monkey, named Noah. Acquired as a “helper” monkey, Noah reportedly went “berserk” and attacked the man’s legs and bit his left hand, severing his pinky finger. Police, animal control, and paramedics were called to the scene, and the victim was taken to a hospital, where he underwent surgery for his injuries.  

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March 17, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia: A man was attacked by his helper capuchin monkey, named Noah, when he accidentally stepped on the monkey’s foot. The man described the attack as worse than war, which he claimed was “a breeze compared to my little fight with [Noah, which] cut the vein, tore ligaments out of my wrists. I’m pumping blood all over.” His injuries were treated at a hospital.  

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March 4, 2010/St. Petersburg, Florida: A rhesus macaque was shot twice with tranquilizer darts but managed to elude wildlife officials who were attempting to capture the animal. The monkey had been on the loose for more than a year.  

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February 9, 2010/Carencro, Louisiana: A 3-year-old girl was bitten on the hand by a pet Japanese snow macaque while visiting a friend. The girl was treated at a clinic and the primate was euthanized to be tested for rabies and Herpes B.
“[T]he monkey lunged at her and grabbed a hold of her hair and started scratching.”
Witness describing a 6-year-old Oregon girl being bitten on the face by a man’s capuchin—the monkey had been provided by Helping Hands

February 2010/Palm Harbor, Florida: Two chimpanzees at a roadside zoo called Suncoast Primate Sanctuary escaped from a cage that was not properly secured. One of the animals, described as typically gentle, relentlessly attacked and chased a female volunteer. The victim, who escaped the attack by locking herself in a bathroom, was hospitalized for treatment of serious injuries, including a deep laceration on the back of her head, damaged tendons in her right hand, and bite wounds on her thigh, back, and abdomen. When a sheriff’s deputy responded to the incident, he was denied access and reported that zoo staff were “very uncooperative and intentionally deceptive and evasive.”

2010/Jacksonville, North Carolina: A pigtailed macaque monkey was shot and killed after attacking and biting the owner of the Lynnwood Park Zoo.

November 27, 2009/Shelbyville, Tennessee: A capuchin monkey was found on a road in a busy shopping district and captured by three friends who were Christmas shopping on Black Friday. He had escaped from an SUV of a family vacationing in the area while they were eating at a restaurant.

November 22, 2009/LaPorte, Indiana: A 10-month-old girl was attacked by a pet Java macaque while visiting a relative’s home. The attack occurred when the girl was held too close to the cage. The monkey grabbed the hood of the infant’s coat, as well as her hair, causing the baby’s head to strike the metal cage repeatedly. The baby sustained a “rope burn” to her neck that was caused by the drawstring on her coat and had red marks on the back of her head as a result of her head hitting the cage.

November 12, 2009/Tampa, Florida: A macaque was spotted running loose in a residential neighborhood. It was not known where the monkey escaped from or how the animal got loose.

November 7, 2009/Foley, Alabama: Residents and employees from a local zoo attempted to catch a monkey who was running loose in a neighborhood. The animal was ultimately identified as a capuchin by a man who said he was looking for his pet.

October 2009/Pine Mountain, Georgia: A mangabey at Wild Animal Safari escaped while staff was moving the animal from one enclosure to another. The monkey was shot and killed by zookeepers after climbing the zoo’s perimeter fence.

September 6, 2009/Scottsbluff, Nebraska: Four spider monkeys escaped from an enclosure at the Riverside Zoo while they were being fed. One of the monkeys attacked a zookeeper, who sustained bites to her arms and legs. The bites required multiple stitches. Three of the monkeys were quickly recaptured, but the fourth monkey remained loose on zoo grounds for approximately five hours.
“Every time [my 8-year-old son] has a fever or has a cold it’s going to be off to the doctor.”
Louisiana mother worried her child may have contracted a disease after being bitten by a friend’s pet lemur

**September 1, 2009/Los Angeles, California:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their crates while they were being unloaded at the Los Angeles Zoo following their transfer from Wildlife Waystation, which had been threatened by a wildfire. One chimpanzee climbed over the fence and into Griffith Park, where she was spotted approximately an hour later and secured in the back of a truck. The other chimpanzee remained loose on zoo grounds for 20 minutes before being tranquilized.151

**August 19, 2009/Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin:** A capuchin monkey escaped from the Irvine Park Zoo after vandals opened her cage. She was captured 15 days later in a live trap set at a nearby home. Three porcupines, two coatimundis, and another capuchin monkey also escaped, but were quickly recaptured.152

**July 2009/Marion County, Florida:** State wildlife officials were looking for a pet Patas monkey who had escaped from a Marion County home in July and was still on the loose two months later. Authorities believe this is the same monkey seen running loose by residents in the Williston area in January 2011.153,154

**June 20, 2009/Foley, Alabama:** A caller reported seeing a primate running loose near Pleasant View Baptist Church. A deputy sent to investigate the incident was unable to locate the primate.155

**June 12, 2009/Columbia, South Carolina:** A 390-pound gorilla at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden escaped by grabbing some low-hanging bamboo, scaling the 12-foot-4-inch wall of the enclosure, and climbing over two high-voltage security wires. The animal rushed at two food-service employees, pushing one aside and knocking the other down before jumping back into the enclosure. One of the employees was taken to a hospital, where he was treated for cuts and bruises. 156

**June 5, 2009/Candia, New Hampshire:** A macaque escaped from an enclosure at Charmingfare Farm when a worker left two doors unlocked. The worker was bitten on his calf as he tried to recapture the animal. As a result of his injuries, the worker required medical attention.157

**June 2, 2009/Annapolis, Maryland:** A resident looking out his kitchen window spotted a primate sitting next to his car. The primate ran away when he rushed outside for a closer look. County animal control officers searched the streets as well as treetops, but were unable to find the animal.158

**May 26, 2009/Columbus, Ohio:** A gorilla at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium escaped from an enclosure through a door that was improperly secured and walked into a hallway used by zookeepers. Visitors were evacuated from the area, and the zoo’s entrance was closed for approximately 45 minutes. While the entrance was closed, the gorilla was coaxed back into the enclosure.159
“The pet trade in a variety of nonhuman primate species, and particularly the apparent increase in macaque species as part of this trade, may constitute an emerging infectious disease threat in the United States.”

*Emerging Infectious Diseases*, a peer reviewed journal published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8, 2009/ Pleasant Hope, Missouri</td>
<td>Two Japanese snow macaques escaped from a private menagerie after a fallen tree damaged their cage. One monkey was quickly recaptured. The second monkey remained at large for nearly a month and was discovered dead after apparently being hit by a car.</td>
<td>160,161</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2009/ Calabasas, California</td>
<td>Two 10-year-old boys spotted a lemur while eating lunch in one of the boy’s backyard. The lemur jumped from a tree and ran off. County animal control had not received any reports of a lost lemur.</td>
<td>162</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21, 2009/ Corpus Christi, Texas</td>
<td>A squirrel monkey bit a man who was transporting the animal to Michigan. Animal control officers planned to quarantine the monkey for three months to test for diseases.</td>
<td>163</td>
<td></td>
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<td>April 18, 2009/ Salem, Oregon</td>
<td>A man’s pet capuchin monkey, provided by Helping Hands as a “helper” monkey, bit a 6-year-old girl at a park. The monkey lunged at the girl, grabbed her hair, scratched her, and bit her under the left eye, leaving two puncture marks. The man left the park before authorities arrived. The girl was taken to an urgent care facility, where she was treated.</td>
<td>164,165</td>
<td></td>
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<td>April 14, 2009/ Springfield, Missouri</td>
<td>A rhesus macaque escaped from an exotic animal menagerie owned by Debby Rose. The macaque went to a nearby home, and when the homeowner knocked on a window to scare the animal off, the macaque lunged at the window.</td>
<td>166</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3, 2009/ Portland, Oregon</td>
<td>Nine macaques escaped from the Oregon Health &amp; Science University when a worker left the cage unlocked. It took almost three days to recapture all the monkeys.</td>
<td>167</td>
<td></td>
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<td>March 30, 2009/ Winston, Missouri</td>
<td>A 9-year-old chimpanzee named Timmy escaped from his 10 foot by 6 foot cage at a private residence and ran loose on a nearby state highway. Sheriff deputies were dispatched to help recapture the chimp who at one point opened a deputy’s patrol car door, grabbed the deputy’s leg, and tried to strike him. When the chimp attempted to attack the man again, he was shot and killed. The deputy suffered minor injuries and the owners of the chimpanzee suffered cuts and scratches.</td>
<td>168,169</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13, 2009/ Fruitland Park, Florida</td>
<td>A spider monkey named Reggie escaped from the Liebling Family Circus when the circus owner failed to latch the animal’s leash correctly. The monkey fled into nearby woods and was not recaptured until more than six weeks later.</td>
<td>170,171</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>March 2, 2009/ Mineola, Texas</td>
<td>A woman was bitten on the hand by a capuchin monkey she had for eight years as she was placing a toy in the monkey’s cage. She received 12 stitches and decided to place her monkey at a facility in Oklahoma.</td>
<td>172</td>
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<td>February 25, 2009/ Athens, Georgia</td>
<td>An animal-care technician at the University of Georgia suffered a severe bite to her thumb while cleaning the cage of a capuchin monkey. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital and later transferred to a hand specialist in Atlanta for additional treatment.</td>
<td>173</td>
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February 25, 2009/East Ridge, Tennessee: A 4-year-old boy discovered an obese spider monkey wandering through the yard when he looked out his window. The escaped pet was captured by animal control officials and returned to the owners.¹⁷⁴

February 19, 2009/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: An orangutan named Elok escaped from an enclosure at the Oklahoma City Zoo by climbing into the moat and then over the exhibit wall. Twenty zoo visitors were ushered into buildings until Elok was recaptured approximately 100 feet from his enclosure.¹⁷⁵

February 19, 2009/Seattle, Washington: A De Brazza’s monkey at the Woodland Park Zoo escaped from an enclosure by swimming across a moat and climbing a rock wall. The zoo was evacuated and the monkey was on the loose for approximately 25 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured. Other monkeys had previously escaped from the same enclosure.¹⁷⁶

February 16, 2009/Stamford, Connecticut: Sandra Herold’s 200-pound, adult pet chimpanzee named Travis escaped from the house and attacked her friend Charla Nash as Nash got out of her car, inflicting massive injuries. The chimp tore off both of Nash’s hands, her nose, lips, and ears, and she was left blind in both eyes. Herold and two police officers were also injured during the fracas. In an effort to stop the attack, Herold stabbed the chimpanzee repeatedly with a butcher knife. Travis also went after several police officers at the scene, one of whom shot him numerous times when the chimpanzee opened the door to his police cruiser and started to get inside. Travis finally made his way back into the house, where he died. More than two years after the incident, Nash underwent face transplant surgery, but the surgery to replace her hands was not successful. Neighbors reported that they often saw Travis roaming the streets in the neighborhood, sometimes unleashed, and that he frequently rode around in trucks with his owners. Travis had been involved in at least two previous incidents [see September 2008, October 19, 2003, and 1996/Stamford, Connecticut].¹⁷⁷,¹⁷⁸,¹⁷⁹

February 2, 2009/Flour Bluff, Texas: An escaped or abandoned ring-tailed lemur was discovered when children were seen playing with the animal outdoors. The animal, who had an injured arm and was reportedly biting at the children, was seized by authorities and the owners were ticketed for illegally possessing an exotic animal.¹⁸⁰

January 30, 2009/New Orleans, Louisiana: An orangutan named Berani escaped from his enclosure at the Audubon Zoo by stretching a T-shirt to help him scale a 10½-foot wall. He then wrapped the shirt around an electric wire surrounding the exhibit and finally swung out of the exhibit. The orangutan stood on a boardwalk with zoo visitors nearby for approximately 10 minutes before returning to his exhibit.¹⁸¹
“Here New Albany is in a budget crunch and we’ve spent a total of 4 to 6 hours on this case yesterday and we’re spending time again today on the case.”

Frustrated county animal shelter director in Indiana who was forced to spend limited resources investigating a pet monkey bite incident

Jan 24, 2009/Naples, Florida: A worker at Gary’s Paradise Gardens was attacked by a capuchin monkey. The monkey escaped through a space that was created when the worker removed the food bowl from the side of the cage. The woman was bitten on her right leg, lower arm, and hand and required stitches for some of the wounds.  

Jan 13, 2009/Clearwater, Florida: A rhesus macaque, believed to be an escaped pet, was seen running loose at a strip mall.

2009/Davis, California: An adenovirus infected both titi monkeys and humans at the California National Primate Research Center, illustrating that there may be more pathogens than previously thought with species-jumping potential. The virus sickened three people and killed 19 monkeys. Researchers suspected the titi monkeys may have acquired the virus from macaques and passed it on to humans.

2009/Mechanicsville, Virginia: Chimpanzees at Windy Oaks Animal Farm broke some welds on an enclosure, and two male chimpanzees pushed through a wire panel, opened a door, and escaped.

Nov 10, 2008/Carbon County, Montana: A woman was taken to a hospital for treatment after a chimpanzee named Conner latched on to her arm with his teeth. The woman lost 6 to 8 inches of skin. Conner was one of two chimpanzees who escaped from the home of Jeanne Rizzotto and ran to a neighbor’s yard, where they were seen chasing cats up trees, swinging from the roof of the house, and getting into cars and trucks. One of the chimpanzees was also seen crossing a highway. The bite victim had been trying to prevent Conner from entering a home. The animals were recaptured, and Conner was quarantined at Rizzotto’s home.

Nov 3, 2008/Rockville, Maryland: A WTOP reporter was treated at a hospital emergency room after being bitten by pet capuchin monkey. The reporter, who was at the residence doing a story on the monkey, was attacked while getting recording equipment from a table. The monkey had previously been confiscated by animal control and was returned to the owner following a court case.

September 24, 2008/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: An 18-pound macaque monkey—a type of monkey commonly kept as a pet—bit and then mauled the hand of a University of Pittsburgh laboratory technician. The macaque grabbed a pole that the technician was using to test the animal’s water system, pulled the woman’s hand into the cage, and bit her palm. “My hand was in its mouth,” the woman said. “It was clamping down on it and munching on it for up to a minute. I had no choice but to pull my hand out in shreds.” The animal’s teeth penetrated to the bone and the woman sustained bone, tendon, and nerve damage. She underwent three surgeries to treat recurring infections and was released from the hospital after eight days, at which time she still had no feeling in two fingers and was awaiting results of blood tests on the monkey to determine if she had been exposed to hepatitis B or other infections.
### September 2008/Stamford, Connecticut

Travis escaped from his cage, prompting Herold to ask the owner of a nearby private menagerie that he be shot with a tranquilizer gun.  

| August 14, 2008/Michigan City, Indiana | A pet monkey escaped from a home by opening a window and briefly roamed the neighborhood before being recaptured. |
| August 8, 2008/Bend, Oregon | An intern at Chimps, Inc. was attacked by a 120-pound chimpanzee who entered a cage through an unlocked door while the woman was inside cleaning the area. The chimpanzee jumped on the woman’s back and repeatedly hit and bit her—including biting off most of her thumb—and attacked her again as she tried to return to her intern living quarters. The intern was treated on the scene by firefighters and then driven to a hospital. |
| August 8/2008/Cincinnati, Ohio | A white-handed gibbon escaped from his cage at the Cincinnati Zoo and made his way to the parking lot where he bit a visitor on the leg. The gibbon was quarantined, and the zoo decided that he would no longer be allowed outdoors. |
| July 18, 2008/Las Vegas, Nevada | A pet spider monkey ran loose inside a bank for 10 minutes. The monkey scaled an employee, ran across desks, dangled from room dividers, and clung to a chair. The owner warned bank employees not to capture the monkey because he will bite. |
| July 4, 2008/Columbia, Missouri | The Boone County Health Department reported that a woman was being tested for a deadly virus after being bitten on the hand by her friend’s pet Japanese snow macaque. |
| July 4, 2008/Richmond, Virginia | A teenage girl was bitten by a pet monkey brought by an unidentified person to July 4 festivities at a park. The health department was seeking help from the public in locating the owner and identifying the type of monkey in order to recommend treatment. |
| July 2, 2008/Clay County, Florida | State wildlife officials were seeking a monkey, believed to be a snow macaque, seen running loose in the Eagle Landing subdivision. The Wildlife Conservation Commission warned the public that, “The monkey has large canine teeth and can inflict a painful bite.” |
| June 27, 2008/Devore, California | A chimpanzee named Moe escaped from his cage at Jungle Exotics, surprised construction workers when he wandered into a house next-door, and then continued on into the San Bernardino National Forest. After more than a month, search efforts were called off because of mounting expenses. Moe was never found. |
| June 11, 2008/Michigan City, Indiana | A spider monkey escaped from his enclosure at the Washington Park Zoo by using a garden hose to scale the wall of the moat. The moat had been emptied of water and was being cleaned by workers. The monkey was recaptured at a nearby boat dealership. |
June 5, 2008/Queens, New York: A 22-month-old girl had her finger bitten off by a neighbor’s pet capuchin monkey when she stuck her fingers through her backyard fence and into the pen of the monkey who was caged next to the fence. Doctors worked for 12 hours attempting to reattach the girl’s finger but were unsuccessful. The monkey was euthanized in order to be tested for rabies.

June 2008/Spartanburg, South Carolina: A Rhesus macaque was discovered running loose in the yard at the home of a person being investigated for dumping toxic waste on local roads. The monkey was captured and taken to the Spartanburg Animal Shelter where she was placed under quarantine after biting two employees.

May 17, 2008/Los Angeles, California: A 29-year-old orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo punched a hole in the mesh of his exhibit and escaped into a holding area behind his cage for about 20 minutes. Zoo officials ushered visitors to the zoo exit while the orangutan was sedated by zookeepers.

May 17, 2008/Tampa, Florida: A 10-year-old orangutan escaped from her enclosure at Busch Gardens by scaling a 12-foot wall and climbing onto the roof of her exhibit, where she was just feet away from zoo visitors. The public, including a group of nearby children, was evacuated from the area. The orangutan was lured back to her enclosure nearly one hour after she escaped.

April 21, 2008/Polk County, Florida: Fifteen patas monkeys escaped from Safari Wild by swimming across a 60-foot-wide moat and then climbing a 28-foot fence. One monkey was shot to death and it took nearly eight months to recapture the rest of them.

April 11, 2008/Trenton, Michigan: A 6-year-old girl was bitten on the finger by a pet Java macaque who was being walked on a leash near the church where the girl was playing. The girl had to undergo several tests as a result of the bite, and the monkey was expected to be euthanized.

April 5, 2008/Addison, Texas: Two lemurs at the Trager Snake Farm were quarantined after biting or scratching a child.

April 4, 2008/Orlando, Florida: A pet capuchin monkey wearing a diaper escaped from his cage, fled through an open window, and was running loose outside a condominium complex. The monkey charged at residents who fled into oncoming traffic and jumped on a woman’s back before he was finally captured.

March 21, 2008/Fresno, California: A black-and-white colobus monkey escaped from his enclosure at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The eastern portion of the zoo was closed to the public as zoo staff members attempted to recapture the monkey. Two and a half hours after the escape, he was shot with a tranquilizer dart and taken to the zoo hospital to recover.

WELFARE CONCERNS

October 1, 2009/Independence, Kentucky: Acting on a tip, Kenton County authorities found a 24-year-old baboon—kept in a cage located in a dark corner of the family’s garage—suffering with serious health issues including diabetes, sores, and bad teeth. The owners said they bought the animal from an Ohio dealer when she was 5½ months old. The baboon became aggressive and spent most of her life in a cage located either in the basement or the garage. The baboon was placed in a sanctuary.
“It’s awful when your son can’t ride his bike without this monkey jumping on him and taking a chunk out of his arm.”

Missouri mother after her 7-year-old son was attacked by a neighbor’s escaped rhesus macaque

March 14, 2008/Virginia: A 6-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, injured a woman by biting and/or scratching her face and shoulder. Mikey had bitten another woman five months earlier [see October 23, 2007].

March 12, 2008/Bastrop, Texas: A 140-pound, 17-year-old chimpanzee named Tony escaped from a research center by jumping more than 15 feet to a perimeter wall. Tony lunged at an attendant and snatched his tranquilizer dart gun and was eventually shot and killed as he charged a police officer in a threatening manner. This was one of three chimpanzee escapes at the facility in five months.

March 2008/New Albany, Indiana: A child visiting a home was bitten by the owner’s pet capuchin monkey. The monkey was quarantined while county officials worked to obtain information about the animal’s health.

February 29, 2008/Gilbert, Arizona: A 3-year-old boy was bitten on the wrist by his family’s pet lemur. According to a local official, the emergency crew that responded to the incident reported that the bite was down to the bone. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment.

February 28, 2008/Spokane, Washington: A pet macaque monkey who escaped from his owners’ home chased some boys who were walking a dog and bit one of the boys on the thumb; charged at a woman, grabbed her leg, and bit it; and bit an 18-year-old girl on the leg. The monkey was quarantined to be monitored for disease and ultimately euthanized to be tested for rabies.

December 2, 2007/Rutherford College, North Carolina: A grocery store clerk was bitten by a customer’s 18-inch-tall pet monkey when she reached out to pet the animal. The monkey bit and scratched her right cheek just below the eye. The victim was treated at a local hospital for the bite and put on strong antibiotics.

November 18, 2007/Jefferson County, Alabama: A 14-year-old was bitten on the forearm by a lemur.

November 9, 2007/Bastrop, Texas: A 17-year-old chimpanzee named Jake escaped from an enclosure at a research center and was loose on the property for several hours before being tranquilized and captured.

November 8, 2007/Columbia County, Georgia: A 17-month-old boy was bitten by a baboon with the Eudora Farms petting zoo at the Columbia County Fair. The boy’s father lifted him to feed the animal through the cage and the baboon bit the child’s hand.
**November 6, 2007/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A worker at Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility, was bitten by a chimpanzee named Ginny while she was handing blankets to the animals through a feeding tray. Ginny reached through a rusted hole in the tray and grabbed the worker’s hand. When the woman was able to pull her hand out of the cage, one of her fingers was gone and two others were nearly severed. After multiple surgeries, including transplants and skin grafts, her hand is still disfigured and curls into a ball. The victim amassed more than $100,000 in medical bills. \(^{222}\)

**October 23, 2007/Maryland:** A 5½-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, bit a woman’s arm while posing for photographs with studio employees. \(^{223}\)

**September 28, 2007/Dallas, Texas:** An elderly spider monkey escaped the enclosure she shared with two other monkeys at the Dallas Zoo. The monkey was loose for approximately 20 minutes. \(^{224}\)

**September 22, 2007/Columbia, Missouri:** A woman known for carrying her pet rhesus macaque into stores and to public events took the animal to a local park where the macaque bit a 7-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. The woman quickly left the park and was sought by local health officials for questioning. \(^{225}\)

**August 13, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** For the second time in two weeks, a white-faced capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo. He was found the following day, approximately 4 miles from the park, and returned to the zoo. One man was bitten on the hand during the attempt to capture Oliver. This was Oliver’s third escape [See July 31, 2007 and 2001]. \(^{226}\)

**August 8, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A 1-year-old pet capuchin monkey bit a 21-year-old woman on the thumb at a beer garden and then eluded police for an hour before being recaptured. The monkey was declared dangerous by the Madison Environmental Health Services Department and was quarantined to be monitored for disease, and the owner was ordered to remove the animal from the city upon release from quarantine. The monkey had previously bitten at least one other person [see July 11, 2007]. \(^{227}\)

**July 31, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from his cage at Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo and eluded capture for nearly a week before being recaptured. Zoo staff warned the public that Oliver would bite. This was Oliver’s second escape [see 2001]. \(^{228}\)

**July 23, 2007/Hayward, Wisconsin:** An employee at Weber’s Wilderness Walk was bitten on the hand by a primate when he/she entered the animal’s cage. \(^{229}\)

**July 11, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A pet capuchin monkey was placed under home quarantine after biting someone. \(^{230}\)
“You cannot take a wild animal and make it into a baby.”

North Carolina woman who was attacked by a friend’s pet capuchin monkey

**June 30, 2007/Cheerkee, North Carolina:** A capuchin monkey at Santa’s Land theme park escaped from the island where the monkeys were kept and was loose overnight before being recaptured the next evening. It was believed that the animal used low-hanging tree limbs to scale the wall and the high-voltage wire that surrounded the island.  

**June 19, 2007/St. Louis County, Missouri:** Animal control officers, neighbors, and the owners spent five days searching for a 40-year-old escaped pet capuchin monkey who had been left unsecured in her family’s backyard. The monkey was spotted a mile from home and was eventually captured near the St. Charles Family Arena. The animal had also wandered off several years previously and was on the loose for several months before being recaptured.

**June 5, 2007/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Metrolina Wildlife Park by running past a worker as she entered the cage. The monkey was chased around the zoo grounds by the zoo owner before being recaptured.

**May 16, 2007/Leetown, West Virginia:** Animal control officers searched for, but failed to locate, a loose monkey described as black with a white face and 3-feet tall. A resident had spotted the monkey drinking from a pond, then escaping into nearby woods.

**April 24, 2007/Rankin County, Mississippi:** A pet macaque monkey attacked an IRS agent. Although the monkey’s canine teeth had been removed, the agent sustained bites and scratches on her face and arms.

**April 8, 2007/Otis, Oregon:** A 12-year-old pet capuchin monkey escaped from a cage, ran through the neighborhood, attempted to attack residents, and cornered one man in his garage before being recaptured.

**April 2007/Kincheloe, Michigan:** An 11-year-old girl was bitten twice on the hand and twice on the arm by her grandparents’ rhesus macaque. The monkey became agitated and attacked while she was sitting on a bed with her grandmother. One of the bite wounds became severely infected. Appropriate treatment was delayed because her grandparents instructed her to lie to health officials and say her injuries were caused by a bike accident. The girl was eventually treated with three different antibiotics and had to undergo periodic blood testing. Another child, a boy, had previously been bitten by the monkey. The monkey was confiscated.

**2007/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A girl was scratched by a rhesus macaque at Burnette’s Pet Farm. According to Inspector Stacey Short of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, 80 to 90 percent of macaque monkeys carry the Herpes Simian B virus, a disease that can be spread through scratches and is almost always fatal to humans.
December 25, 2006/French Settlement, Louisiana: An 8-year-old boy was bitten twice on the arm and shoulder and suffered cuts and bruises when a pet ringtail lemur leapt from a roof and attacked him. The lemur was kept on a large estate, where the animal roamed freely and could not be located after the attack. The boy underwent four rounds of injections to prevent rabies and more than two weeks after the incident still had a fever and periodic headaches.\textsuperscript{240}

December 1, 2006/Nahunta, North Carolina: A pet Japanese macaque escaped from a home and was on the loose for almost two months before being recaptured more than 11 miles away.\textsuperscript{241}

November 5, 2006/Bradley County, Tennessee: A woman was buckling her 3-year-old granddaughter into a car seat when a neighbor’s “helper” monkey jumped into the car and attacked the girl, who needed stitches for bite wounds on her face.\textsuperscript{242}

October 30, 2006/Liberty Township, Ohio: A man was seriously injured when he was bitten on the hand while feeding a 6-year-old Rhesus macaque he had just purchased from an Idaho woman who advertised the animal for sale on the Internet.\textsuperscript{243,244}

October 28, 2006/Marquette County, Wisconsin: A woman was taken to the hospital after being bitten by a lemur at an exotic animal farm.\textsuperscript{245}

September 22, 2006/Horn Lake, Mississippi: A 14-year-old pet bonnet macaque knocked out the window frame of his cage and escaped into the neighborhood. He ran for one and a half blocks and attacked an animal control officer before being recaptured.\textsuperscript{246}

August 28, 2006/Chicago, Illinois: A 15-year-old girl was hospitalized in serious condition after being attacked by a pet rhesus macaque monkey. The girl’s arm was reportedly “bitten to the bone.” The agitated monkey attempted to escape from the house as animal control officers worked to recapture him.\textsuperscript{247}

July 18, 2006/Pewaukee, Wisconsin: A woman called police after seeing a monkey on the edge of her lawn at her condominium complex. The monkey, believed to be an escaped pet, disappeared into a nearby marsh when a responding officer attempted to capture the primate.\textsuperscript{248}

July 2, 2006/Roanoke, Virginia: A Japanese snow macaque escaped from an unlocked cage during cage cleanings at the Mill Mountain Zoo and was recaptured a week later. The monkey was found in the backyard of a home more than a mile from the zoo.\textsuperscript{249}

June 7, 2006/Sikeston, Missouri: Residents presented a petition with more than 50 signatures asking the Sikeston City Council to look into monkey attacks after a neighbor’s pet vervet monkey had attacked several people. One neighbor reported that the monkey attacked her grandson and another neighbor stated she had been attacked after the monkey got loose.\textsuperscript{250,251,252}
NASPHV/CSTE recommends federal and state legislation prohibiting:
1) private ownership of NHP [non-human primates]
2) future commerce in NHP for the pet trade
3) privately owned ‘grandfathered’ NHP from all public areas …”

Position statement on the private possession of non-human primates (NHP), National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

June 1, 2006/ Naples, Florida: A mustached guenon at the Naples Zoo swam from the island where she and a male companion were housed and escaped to a wooded area of the zoo. 

March 8, 2006/Bell County, Texas: A person bitten by a pet rhesus macaque was taken to the hospital for treatment. The monkey was killed to be tested for rabies.

March 2006/Walker, Louisiana: A pet bonnet macaque escaped from a cage, charged across the street, and severely bit a 2-year-old boy who had to undergo rabies prevention shots.

February 3, 2006/Columbus, Ohio: A zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo was bitten while feeding a grape to an adult bonobo, also known as a “pygmy chimpanzee.” The zookeeper lost the tip of her finger and was treated at a hospital. All the zoo’s bonobos were isolated for 14 days to be monitored for health issues.

December 1, 2005/Covington, Kentucky: A pet monkey, believed to be a capuchin, escaped and led authorities on a two-day chase through the neighborhood before being recaptured. A primate expert was concerned that the animal might suffer from frostbite while on the loose, and an animal control officer noted that the animal appeared to suffer from a cough. A monkey had been loose on the same block one year earlier.

November 17, 2005/Gulfport, Florida: A woman having her car serviced at an automobile repair shop suffered a severe scratch wound to her arm requiring 12 stitches after she was injured by a leashed lemur displayed at the business. The woman subsequently filed a $15,000 lawsuit.

November 14, 2005/Phoenix, Arizona: Several children were attacked and two were bitten when a pet monkey escaped from a cage and tore through a neighbor’s birthday party.

October 6, 2005/Eureka, California: Bill, the solitary chimpanzee at the Sequoia Park Zoo, escaped after vandals cut a hole in the cage and wandered one and a half blocks from the zoo before it was discovered that he was missing. A neighbor discovered the chimpanzee in his backyard at 10:45 p.m. and called police. Bill was coaxed back to his cage by one of the zookeepers. This was Bill’s second escape from the zoo—about 10 years previously, the door to Bill’s cage was left open and he wandered off.
Workers at Zoo Nebraska failed to properly lock the chimpanzees’ cage after cleaning, and all four made a break for freedom. The chimpanzees confronted zoo visitors, and at least one of the animals—possibly all four—walked into the town of Royal, where they attempted to enter businesses and where one chimp allegedly chased a 15-year-old boy into his home and another threw a grill at a van. When the animals tried to enter the building where zoo visitors and employees had taken refuge, three of the four chimpanzees were shot and killed. The surviving chimpanzee was transferred to an exotic-animal dealer in Missouri.263,264

A capuchin monkey belonging to trainer Phil Dolci (a.k.a. Hendricks) with the Hendricks Bros. Circus was frightened by a train whistle and fled into a nearby wooded area. He was found the next day, damp and hungry, huddled in the roof area of a picnic pavilion at a park.265,266

A young chimpanzee escaped through a hole in the chain-link fencing of his cage at Primarily Primates, where many of the cages for the more than 600 primates were secured with only a small piece of wire.267

A 35-year-old woman required surgery to her mouth after she was bitten by a caged ring-tailed lemur.268

A child was bitten by a capuchin monkey who had been brought to a festival for photo ops with the public. The boy was treated on site by medics and later went to the hospital and underwent rabies prevention shots. Health officials were unable to quarantine the monkey because the owner took the primate to a different county a few days after the incident.269

A woman underwent anti-viral treatment after being bitten by her pet macaque. A county health official stated, “she got really ripped up” during the attack.270

Max, a 19-year-old orangutan at the Racine Zoo, escaped into a hallway that connected to other zoo exhibits and three hours later was lured back to his cage with food.271

The state game commission warned residents that a loose monkey could be very aggressive and carry diseases. The monkey was spotted by several residents, including a 6-year-old, swinging from trees, making a nest, and running down streets.272

Two pet monkeys escaped from their cage. One was recaptured after running loose for several hours. The second, a rhesus macaque, attacked a 20-year-old man who stopped his truck in order to avoid hitting the monkey on the road. The monkey jumped in the truck and bit him on the leg. The man was treated at a hospital and received a tetanus shot. Ten days after escaping, the monkey remained on the loose.273,274,275
“He went wild and ran all over the room knocking over a lamp ... he attacked me and I ended up in the emergency room.”

Louisiana woman shortly after she acquired a pet vervet monkey for $1,400

July 5, 2005/Chicago, Illinois: A 350-pound male silverback gorilla attacked an intern working in the animals’ habitat at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The gorilla shoved the woman down and “mouthed” her, pressing his lips and teeth against her back. She sustained puncture wounds and scratches as well as a sprained ankle and was treated by paramedics before being taken to the hospital.

June 2005/Morehead, Kentucky: A long-tailed macaque reached through a car window and grabbed and bit a clerk’s hand at the drive-thru window of a Viking BP Mart while his owner, Jamie Dehart, was picking up an order.

May 7, 2005/Huntington, West Virginia: A leashed pet monkey who had been taken to a shopping center bit a 13-year-old girl in the parking lot. A woman holding the monkey’s leash had indicated that the animal was friendly, but when the girl and her father approached to pet the monkey, the monkey jumped on the girl’s leg and bit her kneecap and finger. She was treated at a hospital.

March 3, 2005/Caliente, California: Four adult chimpanzees escaped from their cage at Animal Haven Ranch. The two male chimpanzees attacked a couple who were visiting their pet chimpanzee at the facility. The woman’s thumb was bitten off and her husband was severely mauled. The chimpanzees bit off his nose, an eye, part of his cheek, lips, most of his fingers, both testicles and much of the flesh from his buttocks, face, and left foot. According to a medic at the scene, “His face was gone.” The chimpanzees who attacked, both former “show biz” chimps raised at Bob Dunn’s Animal Services, were shot and killed. The gunfire frightened the two female chimpanzees who ran into the hills and were on the loose for several hours before being recaptured. Three months and a dozen surgeries later, the man was pulled out of a medically induced coma.

December 9, 2004/Detroit, Michigan: A student was bitten by a cinnamon capuchin monkey at a wildlife show-and-tell at Wayne State University. The monkey was part of a menagerie brought by the Chicago-based Bill Hoffman’s Animal Rentals.

November 26, 2004/Evansville, Indiana: An ambulance was called to the Hadid Shrine Circus at Roberts Stadium after a circusgoer was bitten on the cheek by a chimpanzee belonging to by Zoppe-Rosaire Chimpanzees while posing for pictures. The patron was treated at the hospital for a puncture wound.

November 12, 2004/Palm Springs, California: A 16-year-old chimpanzee from Dan Westfall’s private menagerie escaped from an unsecured cage and ran loose in a residential neighborhood, banging on windows and pounding on doors. Police steered him back to Westfall’s home.
“My first thought was, ‘Can this monkey get through this window?’ When he did get through, my thought was, ‘I have to get out of here.””

West Virginia mail carrier who encountered an escaped pet chimpanzee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 6, 2004</td>
<td>Girard, Ohio</td>
<td>A woman was picking something up from a restaurant when her pet capuchin monkey escaped from the car and bolted through woods, across rooftops, and up utility poles. The monkey’s journey took her through a township and a city. Firefighters and police officers were called to help capture the animal who at one point was shocked by an electrical wire and fell 75 feet from a power line. The monkey had recently been purchased at an auction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14, 2004</td>
<td>Fresno, California</td>
<td>The Chaffee Zoo evacuated visitors after an orangutan unraveled the netting on her cage and crawled out. She was loose for 10 minutes.</td>
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<td>October 9, 2004</td>
<td>Gentry, Arkansas</td>
<td>A woman feeding animals at the Wild Wilderness Drive-Thru Safari was bitten by a chimpanzee who reached through the bars of the cage, grabbed her, and bit off much of her hand, including two fingers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20, 2004</td>
<td>Shueyville, Iowa</td>
<td>A capuchin monkey belonging to Susan Rae Kriz was seized and quarantined after the monkey bit a utility worker on the arm. Kriz was arrested for interference with official acts when she refused to turn over the monkey to authorities. The monkey was returned to Kriz two weeks later. In 1995, 50 malnourished and dehydrated monkeys living in filthy conditions were seized from Kriz.</td>
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<td>August 1, 2004</td>
<td>Brooklyn, New York</td>
<td>A 5-year-old macaque, used as a so-called “service animal,” attacked and bit a 2-year-old boy being wheeled by his grandparents in a shopping cart at a grocery store.</td>
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<td>July 14, 2004</td>
<td>St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>A zookeeper at the Saint Louis Zoo was taken to the hospital after she was bitten by an orangutan while feeding the animal.</td>
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<td>July 6, 2004</td>
<td>St. Charles, Minnesota</td>
<td>Two people agreed to undergo a series of rabies shots after they were bitten by a capuchin monkey who escaped from the Staples Safari Zoo during an appearance at the Winona County fairgrounds. The monkey was quarantined for 28 days.</td>
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<td>May 26, 2004</td>
<td>Rochester, New York</td>
<td>A baboon at the Seneca Park Zoo escaped from his cage and climbed into a nearby tree. After more than two hours, and a failed attempt to tranquilize the baboon, he returned to the exhibit area on his own.</td>
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</table>
March 18, 2004/Dallas, Texas: A 300-pound gorilla named Jabari escaped from an enclosure surrounded by a 16-foot concave wall at the Dallas Zoo and attacked four people. A 3-year-old boy was critically injured as a result of multiple bites to his head and chest. The gorilla bit the boy’s mother on her legs and threw her and the toddler against the wall. Another woman suffered injuries to her arms when she shielded several children from the gorilla. The fourth injured person was a child who was treated at the scene. Police evacuated 300 people and fatally shot the gorilla after he charged at officers. Some children had reportedly been teasing Jabari before the incident. 296, 297

January 19, 2004/Los Angeles, California: The Los Angeles Zoo evacuated 9,000 visitors after an 80-pound chimpanzee named Gracie escaped from the enclosure for the fifth time. She was loose for 45 minutes before being tranquilized and captured. 298

January 8, 2004/Denver, Colorado: A gorilla named Evelyn escaped from an enclosure at the Denver Zoo and entered the keepers’ area, where she spent 45 minutes before being tranquilized. Evelyn was originally from the Los Angeles Zoo and had escaped several times while at that facility. 299

December 27, 2003/St. Leonard, Maryland: A man was taken to the hospital for treatment after being bitten on the thumb by a pigtailed macaque who was being kept as a house pet. 300

October 30, 2003/Savannah, Georgia: Exhibitor Brian Staples was cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the escape of a spider monkey at the Georgia Coastal Fair. The monkey ran through the fair midway, a public area, before being recaptured. 301

October 19, 2003/Stamford, Connecticut: A 170-pound pet chimpanzee named Travis bolted from his owner’s sport utility vehicle in a busy downtown street. The chimp chased a passerby, a dozen police cruisers were called to the scene, and police ordered residents with children back into their homes. As police tried to get Travis under control, he charged officers and bystanders, and chased police around a parked car. It took two hours to get him back into his owners’ car. Two police officers were bruised during the ordeal and one of Travis’ owners was scratched. 302

September 28, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts: A 300-pound gorilla named Little Joe escaped from an enclosure at the Franklin Park Zoo, grabbed a toddler from a young woman’s arms, threw the child to the ground and jumped on her, bit the woman on the back, and attempted to attack zoo staff members who were huddled in fear inside a ticket booth. Little Joe led more than 50 city, state, and environmental police officers, as well as zoo and Animal Rescue League staff members on a massive two-hour chase through darkened woods and along a nearby street outside the zoo. He finally collapsed after being shot repeatedly with tranquilizer darts and was returned to the zoo. The toddler required several stitches for a gash in her head. Little Joe had also escaped during the previous month. 303
“Her finger was just hanging there.”

New York mother of a toddler whose finger was bitten off by a neighbor’s capuchin monkey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 26, 2003/Rochester, New York</td>
<td>The Seneca Park Zoo evacuated visitors after a 300-pound orangutan escaped from a cage. During his 15-minute escape, the orangutan picked up a zoo volunteer, carried him down a passageway and into the cage, then pushed him back out.</td>
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<td>August 13, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts</td>
<td>Little Joe, a gorilla at Franklin Park Zoo, scaled a 20-foot rock wall and escaped from the ape enclosure. He was recaptured 10 minutes later.</td>
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<td>August 8, 2003/Chicago, Illinois</td>
<td>A pet monkey who escaped from her home was chased for much of the day by police and animal control officers before being cornered in a stairwell and captured in a net. An animal control officer was bitten by the monkey during the capture.</td>
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<td>July 11, 2003/Southborough, Massachusetts</td>
<td>A squirrel monkey escaped from the New England Primate Research Center and was found 17 days later having been struck and killed on a road 10 miles away.</td>
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<td>July 5, 2003/Buckhannon, West Virginia</td>
<td>A pet lemur who had escaped while the owner was out of town was found asleep in a tree and recaptured by police and an animal control officer. The lemur was taken to the animal shelter where it escaped from two separate cages before being moved to a plastic kennel.</td>
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<td>May 3, 2003/Fountain Hills, Arizona</td>
<td>A pet capuchin monkey broke out of his cage, turned the key on the front door, and took off on a three-day rampage. He was spotted by neighbors in the trees, in garages, and inside several cars.</td>
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<td>April 19, 2003/Green Bay, Wisconsin</td>
<td>A pet capuchin monkey purchased on the Internet escaped when the owner brought him, perched on her shoulder, into a tavern.</td>
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<td>October 6, 2002/Ocala, Florida</td>
<td>The Marion Nature Park was asking for the public’s help in locating a Patas monkey who had escaped from the zoo. The escape was blamed on human error.</td>
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<td>September 10, 2002/Northwest Montana</td>
<td>A pet macaque taken to malls bit at least three people. One incident occurred at a restaurant, a second at a fruit stand, and a third at the owner’s residence. The monkey was quarantined and two victims went for medical treatment.</td>
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<td>September 6, 2002/Hillsboro, Oregon</td>
<td>A female rhesus macaque escaped from the Oregon National Primate Research Center while being transferred between buildings. Police warned area residents not to approach the animal. She was recaptured two days later.</td>
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<td>August 7, 2002/Racine, Minnesota</td>
<td>A volunteer at BEARCAT Hollow animal park was attacked by a spider monkey as she entered the cage. The monkey grabbed her hair and bit her on the finger. The volunteer needed five stitches and rabies shots.</td>
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### primate incidents

“She had some nightmares last night. She just said the monkey was getting her.”

Aunt commenting on her 6-year-old niece following an attack by a caged baboon in Florida

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<tr>
<td>August 4, 2002</td>
<td>Davenport, Iowa</td>
<td>A monkey with the Texas-based Gerald Eppel’s Monkey Business act performing at the Mississippi Valley Fair went berserk and jumped on a woman, hitting her head and biting her as she posed for a photograph. The woman filed a $5,000 lawsuit against the fair and the animal exhibitor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 23, 2002</td>
<td>Magnolia, Texas</td>
<td>A pet Java macaque attacked and bit a 9-year-old boy and a woman and severely scratched a firefighter, sending all three to the hospital for treatment.</td>
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<td>May 13, 2002</td>
<td>Frankfort, Indiana</td>
<td>A lemur jumped on and scratched a keeper’s arm as she retrieved a food dish from the monkey’s cage at a petting zoo at the TPA park. The keeper needed seven stitches in her arm and the monkey was quarantined.</td>
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<td>April 3, 2002</td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii</td>
<td>A Honolulu Zoo employee was attacked by a Siamang gibbon as she cleaned the animal’s sleeping area. The woman suffered cuts and bites to both legs and received 45 stitches.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 10, 2002</td>
<td>Knox County, Tennessee</td>
<td>A pet Japanese snow macaque escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a neighbor, biting his back and hand. The monkey was later euthanized to test for diseases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23, 2001</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio</td>
<td>A pet capuchin monkey who had been taken to a restaurant attacked, bit, and scratched a patron, inflicting 16 puncture wounds. A subsequent lawsuit seeking more than $25,000 in damages for injuries and anxiety described the monkey as mischievous, ferocious, and/or vicious.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10, 2001</td>
<td>Danville, New Hampshire</td>
<td>A search party was organized for a monkey after at least ten sightings were reported, including by the fire chief. The monkey, believed to be an escaped or abandoned pet, was seen running across streets and into bushes and was described as being 8 feet long from his tail to his hands. Experts feared that the monkey would perish if not captured before winter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27, 2001</td>
<td>Martinsburg, West Virginia</td>
<td>A pet monkey kept in a trailer park, believed to be a rhesus macaque, escaped and bit two children and a teenager. The bite victims underwent testing for herpes, tuberculosis, HIV, and other conditions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9, 2001</td>
<td>Omaha, Nebraska</td>
<td>A squirrel monkey roaming freely and mingling with zoo visitors in an exhibit at Henry Doorly Zoo bit a woman’s finger, causing an infection, after she offered the animal a cookie.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“It was worse than war … [The monkey] cut the vein, tore ligaments out of my wrists. I’m pumping blood all over. … I’m sitting there thinking I’m going to die.”

Vietnam veteran who was attacked by a so-called “helper” monkey in Virginia

May 12, 2001/Lakeland, Florida: Health officials searched in vain for a woman who brought a pet monkey on a leash to a festival after the monkey bit and scratched a man on the arm. The man was treated for herpes B for fear that he might have contracted the deadly virus.  

April 22, 2001/Ventura, California: According to a Ventura County Animal Bite Record, a 2½-year-old male chimpanzee named Mr. P belonging to Sid Yost’s Amazing Animal Actors was ordered to be quarantined for 30 days after lunging at and biting a 12-year-old boy on the left hand.

April 19, 2001/Jefferson County, Missouri: Three chimpanzees with Chimparty, a company owned by Connie and Mike Casey that breeds chimpanzees and supplies primates for parties and TV commercials, escaped from an unlocked cage and ran to the front yard of a neighbor two houses away. A teenage boy shot and killed one of the chimpanzees.

February 6, 2001/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: A crowd of 250 people cowered for 45 minutes inside buildings at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium after a 150-pound female gorilla crossed a moat and scaled a 14-foot wall to escape from an enclosure. The gorilla rummaged through trash cans at the concession stand before zookeepers lured her into a restroom and tranquilized her.


2001/Tupelo, Mississippi: A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped and ran amok on the grounds of Tupelo Country Club before being captured and returned to the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo.

December 2, 2000/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: A 5-year-old pet capuchin, who was taken on a shopping trip to Home Depot, attacked and bit a teenage shopper on the leg.

September 29, 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma: A 4-year-old girl required hospital treatment after she was bitten or scratched on the cheek by a monkey who had been brought to a motel.

September 25, 2000/Maryville, Tennessee: A girl was treated at a hospital for a bite wound to her arm inflicted by her stepfather’s pet Japanese snow macaque.

September 23, 2000/Jarratt, Virginia: Three escaped monkeys threw fruit at vehicles traveling the interstate. After police arrived at the scene, the monkeys dashed across the interstate and disappeared into the woods.

August 29, 2000/Washington, D.C.: An orangutan named Junior climbed 40 feet down a tower at the National Zoo and wandered approximately 200 feet on zoo grounds for 45 minutes while zoo visitors were ushered away from the area. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.
“Veterinarians have told us it’s not the rabies I’d be worried about. It’s the other diseases that these animals may be carrying that I’d be worried about.”

Animal control official in Indiana investigating an incident where a pet monkey bit a child

August 15, 2000/Sprague, West Virginia: A pet chimpanzee escaped from his cage for three hours, biting a teenager on the hand and biting a neighbor who had tried to restrain the 150-pound animal. The same chimpanzee had escaped in July 1998 and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.  

August 12, 2000/Jessamine County, Kentucky: A woman who was eight months pregnant was hospitalized after one of her two pet rhesus macaques suddenly turned violent while her cage was being cleaned and bit the woman’s nose. The woman was given an anti-viral medication, which was a hazard to her pregnancy, in case the monkey tested positive for herpes B. She had been inspired to purchase pet monkeys when, as a child, she saw monkeys riding bicycles in a circus.  

August 8, 2000/San Angelo, Texas: A capuchin “went crazy” and bit his owner. The owner shot the monkey seven or eight times, killing him. The monkey was originally acquired as a “helper” monkey. This is the same monkey who bit a neighbor on January 9, 1998.  

August 3, 2000/Southwest Ranches, Florida: A pet spider monkey escaped from his cage and attacked two teenage girls. The girls were treated at the hospital for scratch and bite wounds to their faces, heads, and arms. The monkey was captured the next day. The same monkey had attacked a woman six months earlier.  

August 1, 2000/Dover, Wisconsin: A pet Japanese macaque got loose and attacked two people. The monkey grabbed a neighbor around the waist and inflicted four bite wounds to the leg. Moments later, the monkey bit a postal carrier on the hand and then jumped in the postal truck and tried to attack the carrier again. The monkey was captured and killed. The owner also had a wolf hybrid penned in her backyard.  

July 24, 2000/Dallas, Texas: A chimpanzee was electrocuted after escaping from her habitat at the Dallas Zoo. She scratched a zookeeper, who required hospital treatment, and climbed a telephone pole. The zookeeper fired at the great ape with a shotgun, and a veterinarian fired a tranquilizer at the animal, causing her to fall. She was electrocuted as she grabbed for a power line.  

July 18, 2000/Jefferson City, Missouri: A 7-year-old boy, riding his bicycle, was attacked by a neighbor’s pet rhesus macaque, who jumped from a tree and bit the boy’s arm. The child was subjected to a two-month ordeal involving doctors, needles, tests, and the fear of contracting the deadly herpes virus. The boy later received a $148,000 settlement from a lawsuit filed by his family.  

July 2000/Los Angeles, California: Jim, a 13-year-old gorilla, jumped across the 12-foot moat in an exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo. He started to walk toward a group of schoolchildren and was squirted with water to steer him away from the children.
“Grandma, it hurts! It hurts.”

2-year-old toddler who was bitten by a man’s “service” macaque monkey in a New York grocery store

June 1, 2000/Columbia, Maryland: An escaped 2½-foot-tall spider monkey chased a woman who had just stepped outside her home and bit her on the thigh, then ran away.  

May 30, 2000/Pensacola, Florida: An orangutan at The Zoo escaped from an unlocked cage and attacked a zookeeper. The keeper was treated at a hospital for bruises and five bite wounds. The orangutan was lured back to her cage 45 minutes later with food.

May 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma: A monkey bit a boy in a pet store.

April 9, 2000/Franklin, Tennessee: A chimpanzee named Angel, brought by Sid Yost (also known as Ranger Rick Kelly) to Blockbuster Video for photo ops and to promote a Critter Gitter movie, fiercely bit a 9-year-old girl on the hand after posing for a photograph. The girl’s hand swelled and required stitches. Yost left the state before the chimpanzee could be quarantined and was issued a citation for violating Tennessee’s exotic animal law. Yost failed to show up in court and never paid the fine. The girl’s parents filed a $50,000 lawsuit against Yost, Critter Gitters, and Blockbuster, claiming that the defendants should have been aware of the danger inherent in subjecting Angel to a crowded area with so many children. None of the parties named in the lawsuit offered to pay for medical expenses.

April 2000/Hueytown, Alabama: A man required medical attention after he was bitten on both hands by a rhesus macaque.

February 13, 2000/Lansing, Illinois: A pet Java macaque attacked his owner, inflicting 6-inch-deep bites and cuts on her head, arms, and legs and causing her to lose 1½ pints of blood. She underwent three hours of surgery and 12 weeks of physical therapy. The monkey was killed for rabies tests.

January 14, 2000/Palm Harbor, Florida: A pet spider monkey escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a dog who was being walked by a neighbor. The dog went into shock and suffered serious artery and tendon damage.

2000/Jackson County, Missouri: Mark Archigo’s adult pet chimpanzee, Sueko, injured a teenage girl by lifting her by the ankles and tossing her to the ground.

December 28, 1999/Des Moines, Iowa: A rhesus macaque found wandering the streets on November 23, 1999, bit an animal control officer.

December 15, 1999/Rancho Bernardo, California: An escaped 3-foot-tall spider monkey led police on a two-hour chase, frightened residents, and bit a police officer.

November 1999/Euless, Texas: A pet capuchin monkey attacked and bit an elderly woman.
“Some animals, such as certain nonhuman primates including certain monkeys, pose a direct threat; their behavior can be unpredictably aggressive and violent without notice or provocation.”

Department of Justice explaining its decision to not recognize nonhuman primates as a “service animal” under the Americans with Disabilities Act

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October 4, 1999/Evansville, Indiana: A child was bitten on his finger by a macaque at Mesker Park Zoo. Two of the zoo’s six macaque monkeys selected at random tested positive for the herpes B virus.

September 1, 1999/West Covina, California: A pet chimpanzee bit off the fingertip of a woman visiting the owner’s home. This is the same chimpanzee who attacked four people on August 19, 1998.

August 3, 1999/Bellevue, Nebraska: A police officer was sent to the hospital after a macaque with a history of biting people bit him on the leg.

July 31, 1999/Kissimmee, Florida: A pet capuchin escaped and attacked a boy, scratching his leg. The monkey bit one police officer on the leg and pulled the hair of another before he was recaptured.

June 20, 1999/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: An orangutan at the Philadelphia Zoo escaped from the exhibit he was in and ran loose in the zoo for 25 minutes before he was tranquilized by a veterinarian.

May 11, 1999/Idaho Falls, Idaho: A woman went to the hospital after a caged pet monkey bit her.

April 15, 1999/Punta Gorda Isles, Florida: A police officer used a 12-gauge shotgun to shoot and kill a 2-foot-tall rhesus macaque. The monkey had been running loose and acting aggressively toward residents of a mobile home park for a month.

April 1, 1999/Glen Burnie, Maryland: A 2-year-old Bonnet macaque bit a woman on the lip at a tavern, touching off a brawl in which two other people were bitten. Animal control had instances on file in which seven other people had been bitten or scratched by the 9-pound pet monkey. The owners ignored animal control orders not to take the monkey out in public. One of the injured parties filed a $25,000 lawsuit.

February 27, 1999/Salt Lake City, Utah: Chip, Happy, and Tammy, chimpanzees at Hogle Zoo, escaped from a cage and attacked two zoo staff members. One employee, who was in serious condition, was hospitalized for nearly four weeks after one finger, part of a second finger, and part of his nose were bitten off. His left ear was also partially severed, and he suffered severe lacerations on his face, head, arms, and chest. A second employee was treated for cuts and scrapes. Chip and Happy were shot with shotguns by zoo employees and later euthanized. The USDA issued an official warning against the zoo for failure to securely contain primates. The zoo later settled a lawsuit brought by the seriously injured employee.

January 13, 1999/Hillsborough, Florida: A pet capuchin attacked her owner, biting her 50 times on the hands and legs.
“She was told to lie and say it was a bike accident.”

The aunt of an 11-year-old Michigan girl whose treatment for bite wounds inflicted by her grandparents’ pet rhesus macaque was delayed because she was instructed to lie to health officials about the cause of her injuries.

**December 7, 1998/Kansas City, Missouri:** A male orangutan named Joe used a tire to climb over the wall of an outdoor pen and escape from an exhibit at the Kansas City Zoo. Zoo visitors noticed him after he made his way to the sheep barn. He was tranquilized and recaptured. 371

**November 28, 1998/Dallas, Texas:** A 340-pound gorilla named Hercules escaped from an open cage at the Dallas Zoo and attacked a zookeeper, dragging her down a hallway and biting her on her arm and side. Hercules was shot with a tranquilizer dart, and the zookeeper was hospitalized. The USDA fined the zoo $25,000 for alleged violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. 372,373

**November 1998/Euless, Texas:** A spider monkey bit a student at an elementary school. 374

**October 4, 1998/Slidell, Louisiana:** An escaped pet vervet ran wild in a house, knocking over a lamp and attacking two women, biting one on the arm and slashing the legs of another with teeth and claws. A police officer who responded to the frantic 911 call was also attacked. The monkey threw a picture frame at him, then jumped on him and bit him. Both women needed stitches. The monkey was killed. 375

**August 19, 1998/West Covina, California:** A pet chimpanzee escaped from his cage and went berserk, biting four people and denting a police car with his fists during a three-hour rampage. One officer required three surgeries on his hand at a cost of $250,000. 376

**July 6, 1998/Sprague, West Virginia:** A pet chimpanzee escaped from his enclosure and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash. The chimp followed the postal worker out of the truck and the two grappled until the chimp’s owner intervened. 377

**May 1998/Wichita, Kansas:** A macaque monkey from Safari Zoological Park bit a teen-age girl at a store’s promotional event. 378,379

**April 13, 1998/Atlanta, Georgia:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that four lab workers who handled monkeys had become infected with monkey viruses. 380

**January 28, 1998/Los Angeles, California:** An employee was bitten by an orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo. As the keeper stooped down to speak to the animal, she held onto the chain-link fence between them. The orangutan grabbed her finger and bit the tip, which subsequently required amputation. 381

**January 9, 1998/San Angelo, Texas:** A pet capuchin bit a 19-year-old neighbor man, who underwent rabies shots. 382

**January 5, 1998/Madison, Wisconsin:** Henry Vilas Zoo announced that its 150 macaques had been exposed to herpes B. One-third of them were infectious carriers and were considered to pose a public health risk. 383
“The thought of having a monkey sitting in somebody’s lap or renting a chimpanzee, which has the potential to literally kill you, is not a reasonable thing to do.”

Environmental supervisor for the Jefferson County, Missouri, health department after a child and a woman were attacked by primates in two separate incidents

December 28, 1997/Charlotte County, Florida: A 6-year-old visiting Octagon Exotics was attacked by a caged baboon, who pulled out chunks of her hair and attempted to bite her.

December 10, 1997/Atlanta, Georgia: A Yerkes primate researcher died of herpes B after she was splashed in the eye with bodily fluids from a rhesus macaque.

October 6, 1997/South Barrington, Illinois: A baboon at a petting zoo bit a 4-year-old girl.


August 6, 1997/Hartford, Connecticut: A pet Java macaque escaped while being taken for a walk and attacked a neighbor. The monkey jumped on her head, grabbed her hair and bit her arm, taking out a small bit of flesh.

July 12, 1997/Glen Burnie, Maryland: A 6-year-old girl who had been bitten in the face by a pet bonnet macaque while at a carnival was treated at a nearby hospital for her wound and received six shots to her face, arms, and legs.

July 7, 1997/Bridgton, Maine: State game wardens seized a pet squirrel monkey after the animal bit and scratched a woman standing in a supermarket checkout line.

June 29, 1997/Bourbonnais, Illinois: A vervet monkey with a traveling zoo bit a 3-year-old girl in the face at a festival.

May 27, 1997/Little Rock, Arkansas: A 375-pound gorilla named Rocky and a 180-pound gorilla named Tammy escaped from a cage and entered a zoo keepers’ work area at the Little Rock Zoo.

April 24, 1997/Rockwell, North Carolina: A chimpanzee named Sydney pried back a steel bar on his cage and escaped from the Charlotte Metro Zoo, scaring neighbors as he roamed free for a week. Animal control officers spent 115 hours searching for the great ape. Sydney was finally captured in a neighbor’s yard and taken back to the zoo, but as he was being returned to his cage, he broke free and bit a television news camera operator twice on the arm. The bite went through the man’s wrist to the bone, severing tendons and damaging nerves; the photographer was permanently injured and suffered excruciating pain for a year.

March 1997/Houston, Texas: An 8-year-old capuchin turned on his owner and nearly killed her, severing her thumb and part of her index finger and slicing her legs.

September 28, 1996/Los Angeles, California: Actor Elizabeth Hurley reeled back in shock when she was bitten on the ear by a chimpanzee while appearing on Jay Leno’s Tonight Show.
The complainant advised two (2) unknown monkeys jumped out of a near by tree and began attacking his daughter.

North Miami Beach, Florida, police report describing two lemurs who attacked a 2-year-old girl

September 22, 1996/Palm Beach, Florida: A pigtailed macaque who tested positive for herpes B bit a 4-year-old girl on the shoulder while he was being taken for a walk. The pet monkey had been kissed and held by hundreds of people. Authorities confiscated the animal. 396

June 5, 1996/Manorville, New York: While 500 children were visiting the Long Island Game Farm, a 140-pound chimpanzee named Barney opened an unlocked cage, climbed a fence, and ran amok. Barney bit the owner on the head and arm, severing a vein in his arm, and threw him in the air. When Barney grabbed a child’s leg, a zoo worker hit him on the head with a wooden fence post. Barney then jumped on the back of an assistant teacher and scratched and hit another woman as they were huddled together trying to protect a group of children. As children were screaming, falling down, and running for safety towards the parking lot, a park employee shot Barney in the chest three times, killing him. One 5-year-old girl was so paralyzed with fright, “she had to have her hands removed from the netting [on a jungle gym], finger by finger.” 397, 398, 399

May 18, 1996/Staten Island, New York: Four heavily armed emergency service police officers chased a capuchin monkey through a residential neighborhood for 45 minutes. The monkey escaped, fleeing into woods near the Staten Island mall. 400

April 15, 1996/Alice, Texas: Two monkeys imported into a research facility from the Philippines were infected with the deadly Ebola virus. One monkey died and the other was killed. 401

March 22, 1996/Gainesville, Florida: Residents were warned not to catch, feed, or touch a rhesus macaque who had been exposed to the herpes B virus. The macaque had escaped from a research farm. 402

February 28, 1996/Metairie, Louisiana: A pet vervet was impounded after biting an animal control officer during a home inspection. The monkey had earlier scratched the owner’s 2-year-old son. 403

February 12, 1996/Tulsa, Oklahoma: Six chimpanzees at the Tulsa Zoo escaped from their enclosure by scaling a wall, forcing an evacuation of the zoo that lasted five hours. 404

February 1996/Bridgton, Maine: The same squirrel monkey who attacked a woman on July 7, 1997, in a supermarket bit a child during a school demonstration. 405

1996/Stamford, Connecticut: Sandra Herold’s pet chimpanzee named Travis bit a woman and tried to pull her into a car. The woman had to get rabies shots. 406

November 14, 1995/Acadiana, Louisiana: A zoo worker at the Zoo of Acadiana was viciously attacked and bitten on the leg by a monkey who escaped during a medical exam. The employee was off work for several days with an infected leg. 407
"From a public health standpoint, these wild animals never make good pets."

Louisiana State Public Health Veterinarian after a 3-year-old girl was bitten by a pet macaque

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**September 8, 1995/Royal Oak, Michigan:** The owner of a 3-year-old spider monkey received 17 stitches in his lower lip after the monkey attacked him.  

**July 16, 1995/Los Angeles, California:** A Los Angeles Zoo volunteer was placing popcorn in the monkey exhibit when a monkey mauled her. She sustained lacerations, puncture wounds, and deep cuts, leaving her disfigured and permanently disabled. A lawsuit was filed against the zoo.  

**July 1995/Hauppauge, New York:** Two pet rhesus macaques escaped from a home and one of the monkeys bit an animal control officer on the arm.  

**June 21, 1995/Birmingham, Alabama:** A female jogger was attacked by a neighbor’s pet monkey who had escaped. The monkey jumped on her back, scratched her neck, then “chewed up her legs pretty bad” as she attempted to run away. The woman received 23 stitches to her legs and hand.  

**June 3, 1995/Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania:** An escaped pet capuchin monkey grabbed a kitchen knife and cigarette lighter, holding police at bay for nearly two hours. The monkey ran through the house and bit two women. Animal control caught the monkey with a snare. The monkey later died in a cage.  

**April 10, 1995/Asheboro, North Carolina:** Tammy, a chimpanzee at the North Carolina Zoological Park, escaped from an enclosure that was surrounded by moats and a 12-foot concrete wall. Tammy chased a zoo employee into a restroom and hundreds of zoo visitors were evacuated as the chimpanzee walked around for 20 minutes before being coaxed back to the enclosure.  

**January 7, 1995/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A chimpanzee named Reggie escaped by pulling a wire on a cage at the Baton Rouge Zoo. Reggie was being transferred to another exhibit after he had been attacked and injured by another chimp. He was tranquilized and recaptured.  

**January 1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** A pet chimpanzee bit a 7-year-old girl, causing her to have to undergo rabies treatment. Authorities had received numerous complaints that the chimpanzee ran loose and had attacked several people.  

**November 30, 1994/Boca Raton, Florida:** A 5-inch pet marmoset, smuggled into a restaurant in a bag, escaped and bit a diner on the ear.  

**November 11, 1994/San Francisco, California:** Five patas monkeys used a fallen tree to escape from an enclosure at the San Francisco Zoo. One of the monkeys escaped over an exterior zoo fence, prompting zoo officials to alert area residents to be on the watch for the monkey.
Fall of 1994/Festus, Missouri: A chimpanzee escaped from Mike and Connie Casey’s chimpanzee breeding compound and attacked a dog before entering a home in which four adults and three children were sitting on a couch looking at photos. The chimpanzee grabbed a 2-year-old girl by her ponytail and dragged her across the floor. A man who attempted to retrieve the girl from the chimpanzee resorted to beating the animal on the head with a skillet. The man and the girl were both scratched and bruised and treated at the hospital. 418

August 20, 1994/Tulane, Louisiana: Residents began calling authorities after spotting monkeys near their homes. The monkeys were among 28 pigtailed macaques who had escaped from the Delta Regional Primate Research Center. 419

August 9, 1994/Surprise, Arizona: A 4-year-old boy developed an eye infection after being bitten and scratched by two macaques. The boy’s mother had obtained the monkeys as pets three weeks earlier. 420

August 1, 1994/New Smyrna Beach, Florida: Five Japanese macaques donated to Ashby Acres Wildlife Park by the Pittsburgh Zoo were infected with Herpes B. One of the monkeys had earlier escaped from the zoo and was loose for six months while eluding authorities in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. He was recaptured 60 miles west of Pittsburgh. 421

July 29, 1994/Knoxville, Tennessee: A pet spider monkey escaped in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Park visitors were warned that the animal might bite. 422

June 30, 1994/Phoenix, Arizona: A pet Java macaque escaped from his backyard cage and ran throughout a residential neighborhood for 17 hours before he was recaptured. 423

May 13, 1994/St. Paul, Minnesota: Casey, a 400-pound gorilla, scaled a 15-foot concrete wall and wandered around the Como Zoo for 45 minutes while a group of kindergarten students were ushered to safety. Casey was shot with a tranquilizer and returned to the enclosure. 424

February 1994/Kansas City, Missouri: A pet chimpanzee jumped on a man and bit him, causing injuries that needed medical treatment. 425

July 11, 1993/Rolling Meadows, Illinois: A leashed guenon grabbed an 11-year-old girl’s leg and inflicted three bite wounds that required stitches. Animal control had tried unsuccessfully to confiscate the monkey years earlier after police alleged that the animal had bitten several people. 426

July 9, 1993/Niagara, New York: A man was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, where he received stitches to close bite wounds from his pet patas monkey. 427

November 17, 2012/Boise, Idaho: A drunken man broke into Zoo Boise and violently beat to death a Patas monkey. The 22-year-old man pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven years in prison for grand theft and six months for animal cruelty.
“The thing that really got me was the lady just tried to leave.”

Mother of an Illinois boy describing the irresponsible actions of the owner of a macaque monkey who had just attacked her child at a dog park

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**June 18, 1993/San Diego, California:** An orangutan named Indah climbed a wall in an enclosure and entered a viewing deck containing about 30 zoo visitors at the San Diego Zoo. Indah was tranquilized and recaptured 30 minutes later.  

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**May 17, 1993/Seattle, Washington:** A 300-pound orangutan named Towan escaped from an enclosure at the Woodland Park Zoo and into a holding area. He was recaptured nearly two hours later, after being shot with a tranquilizer dart.

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**January 21, 1993/Los Angeles, California:** Three chimpanzees named Toto, Bonnie, and Gracie escaped from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo by scaling a moat using a rope that had been tossed into the enclosure by a visitor. Frightened zoo visitors fled to safety. Two of the chimpanzees were coaxed back into their cage within 45 minutes, and the third was tranquilized and recaptured after wandering through much of the zoo.

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**October 12, 1992/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A 180-pound chimpanzee bent the bars of his cage and escaped from Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility. The animal bit a 15-year-old boy and threw a 77-year-old woman to the ground. Sheriff’s deputies and an animal control officer returned the chimpanzee to the ranch. The boy was treated for a bite to the hand at a minor emergency clinic, and the elderly woman suffered facial injuries.

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**September 28, 1992/Miami, Florida:** A 400-pound gorilla named Jimmy at the Miami Metrozoo unlatched a lock on a cage, entered a holding area, and harassed and bit a keeper, who required hospital treatment.

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**September 28, 1992/Bronx, New York:** Kongo, a 500-pound gorilla at the Bronx Zoo, escaped while he was being transferred from one cage to another. He bit one keeper on the thigh and a second on the shoulder. Both keepers required hospitalization treatment. The gorilla was tranquilized and dragged back into the cage.

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**August 24, 1992/Inman, South Carolina:** A 78-year-old woman hanging sheets on a clothesline in her backyard was attacked twice by one of three chimpanzees who had escaped from Hollywild Animal Park. The woman was repeatedly knocked to the ground and rolled around by the 100-pound chimp. She was treated for minor injuries at a medical center.

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**July 15, 1992/New York, New York:** A leashed monkey slapped and scratched a subway clerk on the head when a man attempted to bring him into the subway station.

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**July 6, 1992/Miami, Florida:** Police warned area residents of rogue rhesus and Java macaques who had bitten a toddler, attacked a police officer, and terrorized a suburban parking lot. One monkey was shot and killed.

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**June 22, 1992/San Diego, California:** Memba, a 400-pound gorilla, escaped from an enclosure at the San Diego Zoo through a door and security gate that had been left open and roamed free for two and a half hours before he was tranquilized.
May 8, 1992/Norcross, Georgia: A 2-year-old squirrel monkey kept in a cage at a pet shop bit a teenager. 438

March 23, 1992/Los Angeles, California: For the second time in three days, chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, Gerrard used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. A fifth chimpanzee, named Bonnie, also escaped. The chimps were recaptured within an hour. 439

March 21, 1992/ Los Angeles, California: Chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, and Gerrard used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. The zoo was closed for an hour while the chimps were recaptured. 440

February 1, 1992/Fashion Island, California: A man’s pet monkey bit a woman. The man was accused of trying to sell tiger and lion cubs from the back of a convertible. 441

1992/Festus, Missouri: Mike Casey of Chimparty was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when he entered a cage at his chimpanzee breeding compound. The chimpanzee grabbed the back of Casey’s head, hit him twice on the shoulders, and bit off a good portion of his nose. Casey was treated at a hospital, where his nose had to be reconstructed by grafting part of his forehead onto it. 442

December 29, 1991/Baton Rouge, Louisiana: An 80-pound chimpanzee named Candi escaped from a local amusement park for an hour, disrupted traffic, and injured two people. She was shot with a tranquilizer gun. 443

October 24, 1991/Seattle, Washington: Three frightened Woodland Park Zoo volunteers were trapped for 40 minutes in an exhibit with a 300-pound male orangutan named Towan after he, three female orangutans, and a baby orangutan escaped from a pen. The volunteers were able to escape by using a catwalk, and the five orangutans climbed onto the roof of the exhibit, where they stayed for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured. Zoo visitors, including 55 children from a local elementary school, were evacuated. 444

July 25, 1991/Jefferson, Arkansas: An animal handler filed a $100 million claim against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services because he allegedly contracted a deadly virus when he was scratched by a macaque while working at the National Center for Toxicological Research. 445

June 26, 1991/Tampa, Florida: Nearly 100 visitors were evacuated from the Lowry Park Zoo after Rudy, an 80-pound orangutan, scaled the wall of an exhibit, crossed a sidewalk, and climbed to a nearby rooftop during an escape that lasted 10 minutes. Zookeepers coaxed her from the roof. 446

June 10, 1991/Little Rock, Arkansas: At the Little Rock Zoo, two chimpanzees named Kim and Jodie escaped from a cage through an unlocked door. About 800 zoo visitors were evacuated from the premises for 1½ hours. 447

WELFARE CONCERNS

December 16, 1995/Shueyville, Iowa: Authorities seized 50 malnourished and dehydrated monkeys, including squirrel monkeys, owl monkeys, and capuchins, from Sue Kriz. The severely neglected monkeys were living in filthy conditions. The monkeys were cared for at the University of Iowa Animal Care Unit and some required treatment for salmonella and shigella. Three died shortly after they were seized. The university had spent $27,479 caring for the monkeys until they could be relocated to sanctuaries and zoos. The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a license to Kriz fifteen months after her monkeys were seized.
April 23, 1991/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: A pet monkey was killed for rabies testing after biting a 5-year-old child.  

October 23, 1990/St. Petersburg, Florida: An escaped pet capuchin ran into a neighbor’s home, grabbed food in the kitchen, darted outside, and bit a woman as she grabbed him.  

July 7, 1990/Southeast Portland, Oregon: Two leashed and collared chimpanzees went out of control during a Circus Gatti performance. They dragged the trainer into the stands and pulled a child from her seat and onto the arena floor, then mauled her.  

June 6, 1990/Kansas City, Missouri: A 127-pound orangutan named Cheyenne unscrewed four bolts to escape from a cage at the Kansas City Zoo. Visitors screamed and mothers with children in strollers rushed to exit the building. Cheyenne was tranquilized and taken back to the cage 20 minutes later.  

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