By jungle path, by sea, and by air, they travel the long, grueling trail from steamy, lush Asian jungles to cold, sterile American research laboratories. Netted, caged, boxed, and shipped, these captives never again know life in the wild or freedom in the forest's canopy. For thousands upon thousands of wild primates, life shatters into a caged existence dominated by fear and suffering the day they're captured and become prisoners of the international wild-primate trade.

Ten to twenty thousand such prisoners are brought into the United States every year for laboratory research; double or even triple that number may be shipped to the United States each shipment of wild primates being ferried to holding facilities, where they're left in larger cages with unfamiliar monkeys from other groups. Weeks may pass before exporters' agents come and pick the ones they want. Monkeys judged too large, too aggressive, or too old for research are discarded like the unwanted merchandise they've become—either sold as food or killed. While they wait, these intelligent animals, frightened and terrified, fill the air with the harsh cries of distressed primates. Monkeys breed in captivity. They then face a grueling trip through hell and are shipped out of Indonesia, an estimated eight others have died along the way. If 10,000 make it, 4,000 may have died. research laboratory. But it is a tragic irony that wild-caught primates are poor subjects for research. Indeed, wild-caught primates may carry diseases that could skew test results. Yet wild primates continue to be in high demand as research subjects. Another alarming fact is that wild-caught primates may carry diseases or viruses that can infect humans. In 1989 a virus broke out in a group of more

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Wills's investigations began at the source, deep in the jungles of Indonesia. In the last five years, Indonesia has exported more than 50,000 primates worldwide—50,000 frightened individuals torn from their families and wild homes and forced on a nightmare journey. Their ordeal begins with a scene of terror and mayhem as, early in the morning, unwary primates wake from their peaceful sleep in the trees and descend into nets set during the night. They're grabbed by their tails, their arms are pinned, and they're crammed together into small cages, as many as fifteen to a cage. Their panicked shrieks fill the air, those who attempt to bite may have their teeth smashed with a stone before being stuffed into a cage with other stunned and terrified members of the communal group. The prisoners are taken to holding facilities, where they are left in larger cages with unfamiliar monkeys from other groups. Weeks may pass before exporters' agents come and pick the ones they want. Monkeys judged too large, too aggressive, or too old for research are discarded like the unwanted merchandise they've become—either sold as food or killed. While they wait, these intelligent animals, frightened and in shock from being wrenched from their wild homes, are fed little or nothing and lack raindrops from the bars of their cages. Their cages are exposed to the elements, and the captives endure the scorching sun and torrential downpours, as well as filth and neglect. Some are driven to bite and attack cagemates, while others cringe in corners, curled up and trembling. Monkeys who survive until the next stage of the journey are transported by boat or truck to yet another facility, where they are quarantined and screened. They then face a grueling trip by air to the United States. Once locked into individual compartments with food and water, they receive little further attention until they reach their destination, a trip that can take several days. Tragic consequences can result. In August 1992 a shipment of 110 monkeys left Indonesia via an international airline; upon arrival in the United States, all the monkeys were dead. As these gentle animals are snatched from the wild, dragged from camp to camp, and shipped thousands of miles around the globe, they die. They die from stress, fear, poor food, exposure, and neglect. They die by the thousands, while traveling those jungle, sea, and air trails that lead to American research laboratories. For every two wild primates who survive their journey through hell and are shipped out of Indonesia, an estimated eight others have died along the way. If 10,000 make it, 4,000 may have died.

The suffering of thousands of animals, the deaths of thousands more, the dangers the animals pose to humans, the poor research results that may occur from using these animals as subjects—all one of these would be reason enough to stop importing wild-caught primates. Taken together, they leave no room for doubt, compounded by the CDC's best efforts, risk may still exist. And it's chilling to note that a prominent current theory holds that humans were first infected with the AIDS virus through direct contact with wild monkeys.

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Covering the corner of her pen at a holding facility, a terrified mother clutches her baby. Wild-primate families are ripped apart when taken by the trade to be sold as research subjects. A journey through hell.

Crowded together in a cage at a holding facility, captured wild primates await their fate (left). Weeks may pass before their future is decided. Conditions are horrendous; they may be fed little or nothing, and their drinking water is a fetid pool (above).
portation of wild-caught primates into the United States must stop!

**WHAT THE HSUS/HSI IS DOING**

The HSUS/HSI is calling for a ban on the importation into the United States of all wild-caught primates. This cruel, wasteful trade, along with the loss of precious wild habitat, is contributing to the decline of wild populations of primates. And it is unnecessary. If primates are absolutely vital for research, enough primates could be bred for the purpose to meet researchers’ needs. As it is, so many primates are bred in the United States as well as imported into the country that it is currently the world’s third-largest exporter of primates.

We are working intently on several fronts to have this cruel trade stopped. We’ve written to the parent companies of the major U.S. importers to urge them to stop importing wild-caught primates, and we’ve already received a response from Charles River Laboratories, the biggest U.S. importer, stating that it intends to “. . . exit the feral [wild] primate business by the end of this year.” We’ve contacted the airlines that ship primates, asking that they stop this traffic. Such requests were crucial to our success in protecting wild birds; they can be crucial in our fight for wild-primate protection, too.

We’re also documenting the numbers of wild-caught primates who die during air travel and after their arrival in the United States, while they are in quarantine. Although health records on monkeys are kept during this period, the U.S. Department of Agriculture doesn’t collect the information, and it’s inaccessible to the public.

We’re also working for enforcement of U.S. laws that cover the importation of wildlife into the United States. The Lacey Act stipulates reasonable shipping conditions for primates entering the country, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

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vice is able to inspect only 25 percent of all wildlife shipments. With such a low inspection rate, violations of the law may easily go undetected.

Now we need your help as we demand action from the Clinton administration to ban the importation of wild-caught primates. Please sign and mail the enclosed postcard today to let our government know that this torturous traffic must be stopped. Wild primates do not belong in laboratories; they belong in the wild!

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**Wild primates belong in the wild, not in research laboratories. These animals desperately need your help.**

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We need your help!

- **Rush the enclosed postcard to President Bill Clinton, asking him to support a ban on the importation into the United States of wild-caught primates and to do everything within his power to stop this cruel trade.** Order extra packs of postcards and distribute them to family and friends. We need to flood the administration with as many cards as possible to let them know we want this trade stopped!

- **The CDC has the authority to ban the importation of wild-caught primates to protect human health.** Write to Dr. William L. Roper, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30333. Tell him you are concerned about the risks to human health and ask him to ban the importation of wild-caught primates into the United States to protect the American public.

- **Lufthansa Airlines is the largest carrier of wild-caught primates out of Indonesia.** Lufthansa stopped shipping wild birds in 1990; it can extend that concern to wild-caught primates, too. Please write to Mr. Joachim Haas, Vice President, Cargo USA, Lufthansa Airlines, 1640 Hempstead Tpk., E. Meadow, NY 11554. Ask him to stop the shipment of wild primates on Lufthansa flights.

- **Finally, please help our efforts to end this cruel and needless trade.** Your donations help us to continue our work on behalf of wild primates—and help us in our work on behalf of all animals who suffer at the hands of humankind. Please use the enclosed postage-paid envelope to send your contribution today.