

Do not encourage wild animal trade



Caring for a wild animal

For the animal, the suffering is not over when he comes to your house. He is already deeply traumatised because of the horrific events he has been through. You might think you are giving him a wonderful home, but it will never be as good as the real thing - the wild. Also, primates need to live in a social group which has a complex structure: do not think you can resolve this by randomly putting a second animal in the cage. Nor should you underestimate how big and strong primates can get: he will not be cute and cuddly when he grows up! Above all, please do not think that your pet primate is happy to live with you. There is only one place that makes a suitable home for wild animals, and that is in the wild. They cannot be happy anywhere else.

Diseases

Wild primates often carry diseases when they are captured which can be transmitted to humans and there is always a risk of contracting a disease when you keep primates as pets. Diseases the animals carry include Parasitosis, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis and Herpes, to name but a few. Many of the diseases have not even been identified yet. Not only can wild animals infect people, people can also infect the animals. Primates also become ill through living in captivity. It is very difficult to care for a wild animal because they have specific needs that you might not understand. They usually do not get all the natural food sources they would find in the wild and they are living in a completely unnatural environment: this stress makes them more susceptible to diseases. This causes high mortality rates among captive primates.

Will you end up in captivity yourself?

Under Indonesian law, selling and buying protected animals is a crime.

According to The Indonesian Republic Act No 5, Article 21, part 2 (1990), anyone who catches, trades, or possesses a protected animal will be punished with a 5 year jail sentence and a fine of 100 million Rupiahs (approximately \$10,000). This means you could end up in captivity yourself for keeping an endangered animal at your home. And this seems only fair.

What can you do?

If you want the wild animal trade to stop, you should avoid the wild animal markets. Also, you should not buy animals or perpetuate the trade in any other way. You can share your views with other people, thereby increasing awareness of this issue. Also, talk to people who own a wild animal or are interested in buying one. Convince them that wild animals do not make suitable pets.

Let's take responsibility for the suffering the cruel animal trade causes!

International Animal Rescue Indonesia

International Animal Rescue Indonesia is active in Bogor, Java and in Ketapang, Kalimantan. In Bogor IAR focuses on the rescue, rehabilitation and release of captive primates, primarily macaque monkeys and slow lorises. Macaque monkeys go through an extensive rehabilitation process and are released back into the wild in National Parks in Java and Sumatra. Slow lorises usually cannot return to the wild because they have lost their teeth. International Animal Rescue is currently financing and hosting scientific research into the survival chances in the wild of slow lorises whose teeth have been extracted in the markets. In Ketapang, IAR Indonesia operates an orangutan rehabilitation centre. IAR Indonesia is seriously concerned about primate trafficking and works to raise awareness of this cruel trade.



International Animal Rescue Indonesia

Jl. Curug Nangka, Kp. Sinarwangi, Ciapus-Bogor, Indonesia
Tel: +62 (0)251 8389232 / +62(0)8121 0035481, Fax: +62 (0)25 138 9232
info@internationalanimalrescue.org | www.internationalanimalrescue.org

Dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of suffering animals



**International
Animal Rescue**
internationalanimalrescue.org



Buying and keeping me is a crime!

Have you ever been tempted to buy a primate in the market? Admittedly, they look very cute. However, please take some time to read this leaflet. If the horrendous practices of the trade and the extensive suffering of the animals don't convince you to stay away from the pet markets, then please note that keeping a wild protected animal as a pet is a crime in Indonesia, for which you can end up in prison for years.

The primate

Do you know what a primate is? We are primates! And so are monkeys, such as slow lorises and macaques, and apes, such as gibbons and orangutans. Primates live in the forests of Indonesia, usually in social groups characterised by complex structures. Many Indonesian primates are on the brink of extinction. Their survival is threatened by human activities, one large aspect of which is the pet trade. If you have ever been to the animal markets, you must have seen primates for sale, such as macaques and slow lorises. Were you tempted to buy these cute creatures, or did you even buy one? Please continue reading, and think again...

Capture

Primates in the markets have invariably been caught in the wild. Usually only young animals are sold in the market. In the wild, these infants are taken by force from their mother, often killing their whole family in the process. Being torn from their families is very distressing for these babies. The rest of their life they are usually forced to live completely alone, which is very stressful for these social animals who are supposed to live in family groups and causes serious psychological damage.

Transport

After going through the stress of being taken from their mother, the babies are loaded into small cages for a long, exhausting and hot journey. During transport they are not given any food or drink, and sometimes they die as a result of their confinement. Most primates do not survive. It has been estimated that for every animal you see in the market, one has died during transport. Add to this the adults who have been killed during the capture, and the animals that die in the market, and please consider the extremely high price nature pays for your cute pet monkey.

In the market

Primates are wild animals that will bite if they are stressed or scared. The babies in the market have sharp teeth which will hurt prospective buyers – and the seller too. Therefore the traders habitually cut the animals' front teeth with pliers, without using any anaesthesia. Of course, this is extremely painful and stressful for these animals. Indeed, many die a slow and painful death from this procedure after contracting mouth



abscesses or pneumonia. Since the teeth are only broken off, not extracted, the animals that survive are left with painful and infected teeth and gums. They have difficulty eating and cannot be returned to the wild because teeth are essential for obtaining food and therefore are vital for survival. It is impossible to imagine the trauma of capture, transport and the painful procedure of cutting the teeth.

Sold in the market

The animal trade only exists because people choose to buy animals in the market.

Perhaps you think you can give the animal better living conditions, perhaps you just want to own an exotic pet? But the animal must come first: think about what it has been through and act responsibly. If you buy an animal in the market, you are encouraging the trade and are also responsible for the suffering of the next animal that is caught to replace the one you bought.

And don't forget the other victims - the animals that die during transport or in the market, and the mothers that are killed trying to protect their young. It is the buyers who are ultimately responsible for the animal trade, since the number of dealers will keep increasing as long as there is a growing demand.

So buying an animal is not saving an animal: it is merely perpetuating the suffering.