

Malaysia Has a “♥” for Primates:  
No Monkey Exports After All!

February 11, 2008

Dear E-Friend,

I am delighted to report that the Malaysian government has withdrawn its proposed plan to export its native monkeys! Earlier this month, an announcement by Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid confirmed that Malaysia will not be exporting its long-tailed macaque monkeys (also known as crab-eating macaques) to restaurants and research labs in Asia and the West. The government has determined that only 20 percent of urban-dwelling monkeys, who were to be the primary victims in this scheme, were healthy enough to be exported: Azmi stated that about 80 percent of Malaysia's approximately 250,000 urban monkeys are infected with diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and hepatitis.

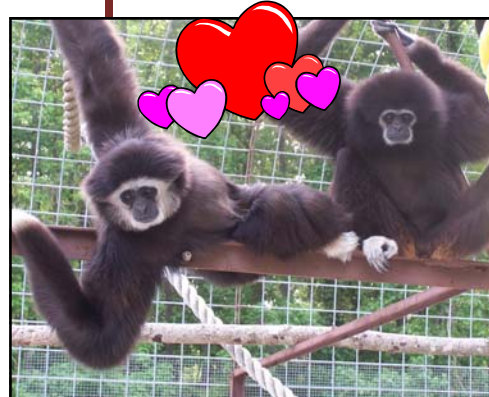
In fact, no monkeys have apparently been exported since Malaysia first announced its intentions to begin capturing and exporting its monkeys last August, as reported in the [September](#) and [December](#) 2007 issues of *IPPL News*. This means that Malaysia's monkeys have enjoyed continuous protection since 1984, when the Malaysian government implemented a primate export ban. IPPL had strongly encouraged this move, pointing out the cruelty suffered by Malaysia's exported monkeys at that time in U.S. bio-warfare labs.

I would like to congratulate Malaysia's ROAR coalition of animal protection groups as well as all IPPL members who wrote to Malaysian officials to protest the proposed lifting of the export ban. Your efforts have been well rewarded!

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In other exciting news, I am personally moved to share with you the news that I have been awarded the Order of the British Empire in recognition of the work I have done on behalf of the world's primates. Our local paper published a lovely [article](#) following the official announcement this past January, as well as a flattering [editorial](#). I will be going to London in June for the investiture—a wonderful opportunity to meet with fellow-British members of IPPL and even (I hope) the Queen! A heartfelt “thank you” to all IPPL members who shared my vision over the years!

Sincerely,

Dr. Shirley McGreal, OBE, IPPL Founder



▲ IPPL's Michelle (right) and Louie-Louie (left) share a peaceful moment at IPPL's Headquarters gibbon sanctuary; the pair have been lovebirds less than a year but are very fond of each other.



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