



humane research australia

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
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MORE THAN 10,000 AUSTRALIANS CALL FOR AN END TO THE IMPORTATION OF PRIMATES FOR RESEARCH

Humane Research Australia's petition calling for an immediate ban on the importation of primates for medical and scientific research purposes was tabled in Federal Parliament by the member for Deakin, Mike Symon MP.

<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/senate/dailys/ds231111.pdf> (Page 97)

The campaign has also been supported by Federal Member for Chisholm, Anna Burke, who has requested that the Minister for Trade investigates HRA's concerns, and that the necessary steps be taken to ensure Australia is not supporting an unethical trade.

Despite the existence of three government funded primate breeding facilities (questionable in itself) – the National Baboon Colony in Sydney and the National Marmoset and Macaque facilities in Churchill Victoria - eight permits have been granted to import primates into Australia for research since 2000.

Data obtained from CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species), to which Australia is a signatory, showed that in the period 2000 to 2009 a total of 324 pigtail macaques (*Macaca Nemestrina*) were imported from Indonesia - all for research purposes.

Please see www.humanereseach.org.au/campaigns/ban-primates for full details of this cruel and unnecessary practice Australia is engaged in.

Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston said today *"Until Australia imposes a complete ban on the importation of primates for research purposes, it is only a matter of time until another import permit is granted thereby subjecting more innocent animals to the traumatic and distressing process of importation"*

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Supporting material available upon request:

BUAV report - Indonesia the trade in primates for research

BUAV DVD (6 minutes)

HRA briefing paper - Importation of primates for research