



Official statement on the BBC monkey torture investigation by Council of the Primate Society of Great Britain (PSGB)

23rd June 2023

The PSGB is shocked and saddened to read the [BBC's recent article](#) covering their year long investigation into monkey torture rings. What the investigation revealed is extremely distressing and disturbing. As a society dedicated to the conservation and welfare of primates, we wholeheartedly condemn the cruel acts covered within the investigation and call for swift action against those involved.

It is vital perpetrators at all levels are held accountable and face full legal ramifications for their abuse. This issue extends from those supplying the animals, those performing such hideous cruelty, those commissioning content, to those that consume it online. It is also important to note these abuse rings highlight a bigger welfare and conservation issue (such as the removal of individuals from the wild). As such there is no easy single action to bring the abuse to an end but instead it will take a lot of hard work from many different agencies and groups. We are committed to doing our part and will be discussing as a council what the society can do.

We would also like to offer our gratitude to those involved with the investigation. It must have been, undoubtedly, very hard and emotionally distressing work, but it has been also crucial for bringing this crime ring to the public eye.

After reading such upsetting news, we may all be left asking ourselves, 'What can I, as an individual, do?'

We encourage our members (and others) to firstly be well informed of the issue and to be aware when using social media. We would like to point you in the direction of [Asia for Animals' Social Media Animal Cruelty Coalition \(SMACC\)](#) for excellent resources on how to report online cruelty appropriately. The key points are to not engage with such cruel content and to report it to the platform. You can also report content directly to SMACC.

We also encourage researchers to engage in positive outreach concerning primates. We can begin to better educate the wider public on why primates matter and thus combat potential exploitation and abuse. We can also look at our own research and assess whether what we are working on can further the fight against such animal abuse. We can also engage with initiatives that combat these torture rings, call for stronger policies regarding abuse and online content, and encourage action from others. Collectively, we can begin to create positive change.

If you have feedback or questions, or are keen to see how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to get in contact with either the council or our subcommittees. Contact details are available on our website.