

# Primate Incidents in the United States

The following is a partial listing of incidents involving captive primates in the United States since 1990. These incidents have resulted in the deaths of over 50 primates and one human as well as injuries to more than 280 humans. Contact PETA for documentation.

**January 10, 2019/Miami, Florida:** A volunteer at Jungle Island was taken to the hospital after an orangutan bit her hand.

**November 8, 2018/Morrisville, North Carolina:** Willow, an approximately 1-year-old cotton-top tamarin, fled from a hotel parking lot after reportedly being frightened by a plane flying overhead. She and a marmoset named Mikki were kept as “pets” in Easley, South Carolina, and had apparently traveled to Morrisville with their owners for an annual veterinary checkup.

**October 13, 2018/San Antonio, Texas:** Several humans were bitten or scratched during public encounters with lemurs at the San Antonio Aquarium. A lemur scratched a boy’s arm and then “jumped on [his] head grabbing him aggressively.” According to a USDA inspection report, “Three of the six [l]emurs used in public encounters have bitten or scratched the public.”

**June 4, 2018/Okeechobee, Florida:** A Home Depot employee was attacked and bitten multiple times by a spider monkey in the store’s parking lot. The “pet” monkey had been left in a truck while his owner shopped, and he had managed to escape from the vehicle. The employee sustained

bites to her arm and hand along with a scratch on the side of her face.

**April 15, 2018/Waco, Texas:** A customer at Critters Exotic Pets store was bitten by a ring-tailed lemur named Dirk and required immediate medical attention.

**April 14, 2018/San Antonio, Texas:** Four baboons kept at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute propped a 55-gallon barrel against a wall and were able to escape from the enclosure they were confined to. Three of them were recaptured outside the facility’s fencing, while the fourth made it to a public street before being apprehended.

**October 4, 2017/Bend, Oregon:** The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a report of its findings at Chimps Inc. It stated, “Oregon OSHA identified 30 incidents over the years which included, cage doors left opened, chimp escapes and chimp attacks, which have resulted in bites, scratches, bruises, skin de-gloving, maulings, and at least four finger or thumb amputations. None of these events were reported to Oregon OSHA. One worker’s compensation claim was found in 2009 for a worker with multiple injuries, including amputation.” Oregon OSHA issued a proposed penalty of over \$20,000 for the alleged violations.

**July 21, 2017/Terrell, Texas:** A child was bitten and scratched by a “pet” monkey at a Buc-ee’s convenience store. Police were looking for the monkey’s owner to make sure that the animal’s shots were up to date.

**July 21, 2017/South Houston, Texas:** A 16-year-old girl and her grandfather were attacked by a monkey. They had spotted the animal from their vehicle and decided to pull over and open the window in order to get a picture of the primate. The monkey hopped onto the window of the truck and jumped on the teenager, who sustained

scratches on her head, neck, and shoulder. The grandfather hit the animal and knocked him or her out of the window.

**June 27, 2017/Miami, Florida:** A 9-year-old Brazilian tufted capuchin monkey bit a volunteer at the Zoological Wildlife Foundation. The woman went to the hospital and was given antibiotics. She was also barred from returning to the zoo.

**June 16, 2017/San Antonio, Texas:** A juvenile white-cheeked gibbon broke out of an enclosure at the San Antonio Zoo. The animal escaped through a hole in the netting over the enclosure and was recaptured shortly afterward.

**May 14, 2017/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A chimpanzee escaped from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo, prompting an evacuation of patrons. The animal was recaptured and put back in a pen, and the zoo reopened an hour later.

**April 24, 2017/Apopka, Florida:** A rhesus macaque monkey was spotted swinging from trees. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wasn't actively looking for the animal but issued a "be on the lookout" bulletin. While the animal could have been an escaped "pet," the commission thought the monkey was wild, as there's a small wild-monkey population in Florida.

**March 5, 2017/New Orleans, Louisiana:** Praline, a gorilla held at the Audubon Zoo, threw a wood block into a crowd. It hit a pregnant woman in the head, causing her to fall onto her stomach. She was treated at a hospital.

**February 8, 2017/Berkeley, California:** A 10-year-old rhesus macaque monkey sustained a severe toe injury that required amputation. He had escaped from a primary enclosure at the University of California—Berkeley and climbed on top of another

enclosure holding another macaque. The second monkey severely bit the other's toe.

**January 24, 2017/Wichita, Kansas:** Beba, a 19-month-old "pet" marmoset, escaped and went missing overnight. The following morning, she was found unresponsive and taken to a local veterinary clinic, where she was pronounced dead.

**October 27, 2016/Hudson Beach, Florida:** The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission received reports of a rhesus macaque in the area. The commission didn't know where the monkey had come from and warned residents not to approach or feed the animal.

**October 25, 2016/Wichita, Kansas:** Tao, an orangutan held captive at the Sedgwick County Zoo, escaped from an enclosure, causing the facility to lock down temporarily. While loose, she made contact with a zoo patron but didn't harm her. She returned to the enclosure about 10 minutes later.

**September 27, 2016/Nogales, Arizona:** Benji, a 49-year-old capuchin kept as a "pet," was reported missing by her owner, who warned that the monkey was hard of hearing and could bite.

**September 8, 2016/Rotterdam, New York:** Austin, an 11-year-old "pet" black-capped capuchin, went missing from a backyard play enclosure. Five weeks later, he was still missing.

**August 23, 2016/Albany, Georgia:** The Georgia Department of Natural Resources warned residents to be on the lookout for a monkey, possibly a rhesus macaque, who was spotted on the loose in the area several times.

**August 14, 2016/Lancaster, Ohio:** A monkey escaped from a camper in a Walmart parking lot and jumped on an employee standing by a cart rack. His

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owner quickly grabbed the animal and returned him to the camper.

**August 4, 2016/Virginia Beach, Virginia:**

A 9-year-old girl was bitten by a capuchin at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. She was gathered there with a crowd to watch some summer performances. The man holding the monkey ran away with the animal before police and medics arrived. The girl was taken to the emergency room with a bite wound on her hand.

**July 20, 2016/Nederland, Colorado:**

Oliver, a lemur kept illegally as a “pet,” bit a 2-year-old girl. The owner was cited for having an aggressive animal and could possibly be charged with possessing a primate. After successfully completing a 30-day quarantine, Oliver was sent to the Endangered Primate Foundation in Jacksonville, Florida.

**July 18, 2016/Miami, Florida:** A lemur attacked a woman as she was leaving her house. The animal jumped on her and bit her, so she called 911. When help arrived, the lemur started chasing officials. The animal was eventually caught, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission opened an investigation into where the lemur had come from. Some people in the area were licensed to have them.

**July 3, 2016/Kansas City, Missouri:** Kali, a 7-year-old orangutan, escaped from an enclosure at the Kansas City Zoo. The facility was on lockdown for 30 minutes, during which time she was located and returned to the enclosure.

**July 1, 2016/Tampa, Florida:** Luna, an orangutan, escaped from an enclosure at Busch Gardens. Park guests were moved out of the area, and she was shot with a dart and returned to the enclosure. This was the second escape of an orangutan in two

weeks at the theme park. (See the June 16, 2016, entry.)

**June 21, 2016/Springfield,**

**Massachusetts:** Dizzy, an 8-year-old guenon monkey, escaped from an enclosure at The Zoo in Forest Park. It took nearly three days to recapture him.

**June 16, 2016/Tampa, Florida:**

An orangutan escaped from an enclosure at Busch Gardens. According to a spokesperson, the animal was on the loose for more than an hour.

**June 13, 2016/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:**

Two black-and-white lemurs escaped from an enclosure at the Baton Rouge Zoo. They were loose for approximately an hour before they were recaptured.

**May 28, 2016, Cincinnati, Ohio:**

Harambe, a 17-year-old western lowland gorilla, was shot and killed after a child fell into the enclosure at the Cincinnati Zoo. Harambe had carried the 4-year-old boy around the habitat for about 10 minutes before being shot with a rifle. He had turned 17 the day before. Western lowland gorillas are a critically endangered species.

**May 25, 2016/Jacksonville, Arkansas:**

After receiving reports that a monkey was spotted on General Samuel Road, animal control officers searched for the animal, described as being 2 feet tall.

**May 1, 2016/Yemassee, South Carolina:**

Nineteen rhesus macaques escaped from an enclosure at the Alpha Genesis experimentation facility around 1:30 p.m. All had been accounted for by 7:30 p.m., although some had not been recaptured by that time—they had been spotted in trees on the property.

**April 16, 2016/Sanford, Florida:**

A 25-pound black-handed spider monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Central

Florida Zoo, causing the facility to shut down briefly. The monkey was recaptured using a net after about 20 minutes.

**March 19, 2016/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** Tika, a 2-year-old siamang, escaped from an enclosure at the ABQ BioPark Zoo. The park was closed for an hour in order to recapture her.

**February 23, 2016/Yemassee, South Carolina:** During a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection of Alpha Genesis Inc.—a monkey-breeding facility and research laboratory—a female macaque escaped from her primary enclosure and was loose in the room. Her cage had been closed with a clip, not a lock.

**February 4, 2016/Minerva Park, Ohio:** Police were searching for a monkey after receiving a report of what was believed to be a howler monkey running loose in the area.

**January 30, 2016/Jacksonville, Florida:** Potter, a 10-year-old black-and-white ruffed lemur, escaped from an exhibit at the Jacksonville Zoo. He was spotted in a tree, and crews spent a couple of hours trying to recapture him. They eventually had to use a tranquilizer. He was returned to the enclosure that also held his mate and their two babies.

**December 10, 2015/Franklin County, Florida:** A rhesus macaque monkey was spotted on the porch of an Alligator Point resident's house. Other monkey sightings had been noted by Bald Point State Park officials. It's unknown where the monkeys came from.

**December 2015/Yemassee, South Carolina:** A monkey being transferred for treatment at Alpha Genesis Inc., escaped from the cage, hopped over the perimeter fence, and was never found.

**December 2015/Turlock, California:** A resident found a ring-tailed lemur in his backyard. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife caught the lemur and placed him at the Sacramento Zoo. Officials thought that he was likely part of the illegal "pet" trade.

**November 18, 2015/Harlingen, Texas:** A monkey being kept as a "pet" in a backyard cage escaped from the enclosure. Three people were bitten when they tried to capture the animal, including an 84-year-old woman who went to the hospital. Animal control was able to capture the monkey.

**September 29, 2015/Sanford, Florida:** Police were called when a monkey named Zeek started eating the contents of someone's mailbox. When the patrol car arrived, Zeek began pulling the molding off it. The person responsible for Zeek was able to retrieve him and take him home, where he was kept as a "pet."

**September 8, 2015/Bath County, Kentucky:** A macaque who escaped from an unknown location was spotted on the side of the road. The monkey slipped through the fingers of four agencies—the sheriff's office, state police, the state Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, and animal control. Wildlife officials were able to shoot the monkey with a tranquilizer dart the following morning.

**August 8, 2015/Bryant, Arkansas:** A couple took a marmoset into the Target store at the Alcoa Exchange shopping center, and the animal bit an employee. When the couple took the "pet" in for quarantine, animal control officials found that the animal hadn't been registered with the county or the state game commission.

**July 11, 2015/Memphis, Tennessee:** Zimm, a 3-year-old monkey, was recaptured after having escaped from an enclosure at the Memphis Zoo nearly two days earlier.

She was found in the zoo's drainage-ditch system.

**July 2, 2015/Los Angeles, California:**

According to a USDA inspection report, two cotton-top tamarins at the Los Angeles Zoo were discovered to be missing from the open enclosure that they were confined to. The enclosure had access points that would allow entry of unauthorized animals. The remains of one tamarin were found, but there was no evidence of the second, and he was presumed dead. A zoo representative stated that footage from cameras in the area showed a bobcat carrying off one tamarin. The bobcat was still at large.

**June 25, 2015/Elkhart, Texas:** A lemur named Keanu who was running free in a consignment shop bit a woman. She went to the hospital for the 3-inch wound that "was so deep that the doctor could actually put her finger inside it." The business didn't have signs to alert her that there was an animal in the store. The same lemur had previously bitten a postal worker in December 2012.

**June 1, 2015/Yemassee, South Carolina:**

According to a USDA inspection report, two cynomolgus monkeys "escaped from an outdoor chain link enclosure ... by breaking some thin wire attaching the fence to the frame" at Alpha Genesis Inc., a monkey-breeding and research center. One was recaptured. The other one was shot with a dart and later died from injuries sustained during the escape.

**May 21, 2015/Lafayette, Louisiana:** A macaque escaped from an enclosure at the University of Louisiana–Lafayette. (See February 7, April 5, and April 6, 2015, entries.)

**May 10, 2015/Chillicothe, Missouri:**

Harley, a 6-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey, got loose from his owner, Billy Johnston,

while he was on a leash. He was found two days later and returned to Johnston. A year before, another one of Johnston's monkeys got loose and was killed. (See the May 2, 2014, entry.)

**May 1, 2015/Los Angeles, California:**

According to a USDA inspection report, two François' langurs escaped from a holding area at the Los Angeles Zoo after a keeper left the enclosure and secondary containment doors unsecured. The langurs walked into a keepers' bathroom, and a volunteer closed the door behind them. The langurs were netted, sedated, and returned to the holding area.

**April 6, 2015/Lafayette, Louisiana:**

A macaque escaped from an enclosure at the University of Louisiana–Lafayette. (See February 7, April 5, and May 21, 2015, entries.)

**April 5, 2015/Lafayette, Louisiana:**

A macaque escaped from an enclosure at the University of Louisiana–Lafayette. (See February 7, April 6, and May 21, 2015, entries.)

**March 25, 2015/Charlotte, North Carolina:**

According to local media, a capuchin monkey named Carter attacked and scratched a maintenance worker in the parking lot of the Carolinas Medical Center–University. The maintenance worker had tried to contain Carter in a bin until animal control could arrive, but the monkey attacked him and then escaped into a nearby wooded area. He was captured the next day when he returned to the parking lot. Carter was kept as a "pet" and had been involved in an incident the previous year. The owner was to have produced the monkey for seizure following that incident since he was in violation of an ordinance that prohibited exotic animals within city limits, but he failed to do so.



**February 7, 2015/Lafayette, Louisiana:** Eight macaques escaped from the University of Louisiana–Lafayette. (See April 5, April 6, and May 21, 2015, entries.)

**January 19 2015/Albuquerque, New Mexico:** Brian, a siamang in his late 20s, escaped into a neighboring enclosure at the ABQ BioPark Zoo, killing a lemur named Junior and injuring another named Buddy.

**January 2015/San Antonio, Texas:** Louis, a macaque kept as a “pet,” bit a bank employee. He had been taken illegally inside the city limits, was wearing a blue T-shirt and diaper, and was carrying a stuffed animal. According to an animal control field supervisor, the monkey wasn’t restrained properly. The owner was cited for a Class B misdemeanor and faced fines up to \$2,000. Louis was seized and placed in quarantine.

**December 2014/Princeton, New Jersey:** Two marmosets escaped from cages at Princeton University, where they were used for experiments in one of the school’s laboratories. One was quickly recaptured, but the other fought with a marmoset in another cage. Both were injured and required medical attention.

**November 27, 2014/Tampa, Florida:** At least three people reported seeing a monkey running through backyards and woods along the banks of the Hillsborough River. Police also fielded several calls of monkey sightings the same day near the Lowry Park Zoo. Zoo officials insisted that the monkey wasn’t one of theirs.

**August 3, 2014/Riverside County, California:** A woman was attacked by a capuchin monkey outside a pizzeria. She sustained a laceration to her forearm and was taken to a local hospital. The capuchin and two other monkeys were confiscated from the owner since she didn’t have a permit to have them. The capuchin involved

in the attack was placed under a six-month quarantine.

**July 10, 2014/St. Paul, Minnesota:** Three gorillas escaped from an enclosure through an unlatched door, delaying the Como Park Zoo’s opening by 40 minutes. They were found wandering a hall located behind enclosures used to hold orangutans and gorillas.

**June 25, 2014/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Pu’iwa, a 15-year-old chimpanzee, used a barrel to escape from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and moved into sleeping quarters. He had been out of the enclosure for about an hour.

**May 23, 2014/Maiden, North Carolina:** A rhesus macaque named Zander jumped on the back of an employee at Buffalo Beals Animal Park and bit her on both ears when she entered the enclosure to clean it. After Zander was pulled from the employee, another caretaker grabbed the water bowl from the enclosure to change the water, which left a hole big enough for Zander to escape through. The macaque then attacked a 3-year-old, injuring both of the child’s legs and one arm.

**May 17, 2014/Hanover, Pennsylvania:** A capuchin monkey named Bug went missing after a fire destroyed the East Coast Exotic Animal Rescue. He was found two days later and returned to the organization.

**May 14, 2014/Washington, Utah:** A loose monkey was spotted in the Coral Canyon area a day after he went missing. He was captured with the aid of a veterinarian. A search was on for his owner.

**May 2, 2014/Chillicothe, Missouri:** Buster, a capuchin monkey, broke out of a cage and led police on an eight-hour chase. He had been kept by Billy Johnston, who raised and sold monkeys for up to \$7,500 each. After finally cornering Buster in a salvage

yard, Johnston tried five times to shoot him with tranquilizer darts but missed. Police then shot and killed Buster.

**April 29, 2014/Houston, Texas:** Wilson, the capuchin who starred in *Dr. Dolittle*, slapped KHOU-TV host Deborah Duncan when she teased him with a grape during an interview on live television.

**April 10, 2014/Kansas City, Missouri:** Seven chimpanzees escaped from an enclosure at the Kansas City Zoo. They used a large tree branch to access the wall of the exhibit in order to climb out. Patrons were moved into a locked building until all the chimpanzees were lured back into the enclosure with malted milk balls.

**March 25, 2014/Indianapolis, Indiana:** Two orangutans at the Indianapolis Zoo escaped from their holding area and were quickly returned to their enclosure. This escape exposed a vulnerability in the design of the \$26 million International Orangutan Center.

**February 7, 2014/Waterbury, Connecticut:** A 10-year-old girl was scratched on the forehead when she took her mother's marmoset, Aladdin, out of a cage. The mother, Mariantonia Morales, was forced to give the monkey to authorities because Connecticut state law prohibits keeping marmosets as companion animals.

**January 8, 2014/Gentry, Arkansas:** According to a USDA inspection report, at the time of the inspection at least two lemurs were chewing on a live electrical wire outside the enclosure used to confine them.

**January 2014/Palmetto, Florida:** Over the course of about a week, multiple people called the Palmetto Police Department to report that they had spotted a monkey. One family saw him in their yard. Sightings had begun on Snead Island, and he was later

seen in Palmetto. An observer thought that the animal probably weighed 70 or 80 pounds. Police warned the public that he was a wild animal and could be dangerous.

**January 2014/Vermilion, Ohio:** An employee with Pat O'Brien Chevrolet was taken to an area hospital after a customer's "pet" spider monkey, Brodi, bit him. The police investigated and discovered that the owner was in illegal possession of him. Although it was confirmed that Brodi had been vaccinated for rabies, he was euthanized. The rabies test came back negative.

**October 31, 2013/Moyock, North Carolina:** Four "pet" capuchins escaped from a private residence. One monkey bit a man while he was helping to recapture them. One monkey was shot and injured with a "conventional weapon," and another died after being shot with a tranquilizer. The three survivors were taken to the Currituck County Animal Control for quarantine.

**October 23, 2013/Fredericksburg, Texas:** A capuchin monkey escaped from a Birdshots Entertainment travel trailer and bit a neighbor on the elbow.

**October 8, 2013/Lakeland, Florida:** Several people reported that they had seen a monkey on the loose. Fun Bike Sports, a motorcycle dealership in the area, posted on Facebook that it was missing its "pet" monkey, Barnaby.

**August 10, 2013/Oakland, California:** An employee at the Oakland Zoo lost the distal tip of one of her fingers after a chimpanzee bit it off. She was working with seven chimpanzees at the time.

**July 10, 2013/Independence, Kansas:** Two capuchins escaped from the enclosures that they were confined to at the Ralph Mitchell Zoo. One was recaptured

shortly afterward, but the second was found dead two days later on the zoo's property.

**June 24, 2013/Aransas Pass, Texas:** Police Officer Keith Moore was bitten by a monkey during a routine traffic stop when Moore reached into a truck to give the driver a ticket. As the monkey had no teeth, the bite wasn't very severe. Apparently, the monkey was used for photo ops.

**June 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A capuchin monkey bit a teenage patron as the monkey was being exhibited by Birdshots Entertainment. This was the second such incident in two months. (See the April 21, 2013, entry.)

**June 19, 2013/Miami-Dade County, Florida:** Over a period of weeks, residents spotted a loose monkey in various neighborhoods. Police were unable to apprehend the animal, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission warned people not to touch or attempt to recapture the monkey.

**June 18, 2013/Conway, Arkansas:** A "pet" macaque monkey escaped from an animal clinic where he was being treated. Joey broke the lock on his cage and opened the back door, triggering an alarm. Police were able to get him back into the building, but an officer was bitten on his knuckle as he was helping to put Joey back into a steel cage.

**June 7, 2013/Alexandria, Louisiana:** A monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Alexandria Zoological Park. He ran past patrons and climbed a tree, forcing the zoo to shut down until it was able to recapture him later that day.

**June 2, 2013/St. Louis, Missouri:** A 6-year-old boy sustained lacerations and bites to his arm from a "pet" Java macaque. The monkey's guardian had taken the monkey and her dog to a dog event in a public park.

The boy was bitten as he attempted to pet the dog.

**May 18, 2013/Neville, Ohio:** Authorities fatally shot a loose monkey whom residents spotted sitting and eating in a tree. The monkey was believed to have been someone's "pet."

**April 21, 2013/Port Aransas, Texas:** A capuchin monkey being exhibited by Birdshots Entertainment bit a patron on the thumb.

**March 29, 2013/New Orleans, Louisiana:** Kivuli, a colobus monkey at the Audubon Zoo, escaped from an enclosure, causing the zoo to shut down until he was recaptured.

**March 27, 2013/Pawnee County, Oklahoma:** A "pet" capuchin who had been loose for a week was recaptured after being lured with fruit by area residents. The owner had previously told the Pawnee County sheriff's deputies that the capuchin had escaped from a cage and to shoot him if they found him.

**March 19, 2013/Denver, Colorado:** Rose, a howler monkey, chewed through the steel mesh of an enclosure at the Denver Zoo's Tropical Discovery building and escaped. A few guests were escorted out of the building, but none came into contact with her.

**March 3, 2013/Colorado Springs, Colorado:** A 7-year-old howler monkey named Eva escaped from an enclosure at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo by pulling back some of the mesh in it. Visitors spotted her on top of the monkey pavilion and told zoo officials. She was captured with a net after an hour of trying to tempt her back into her enclosure with food.

**January 21, 2013/North Miami Beach, Florida:** Two lemurs escaped from a cage



in which they were kept in the owners' backyard. Before being recaptured, one attacked a 2-year-old girl and scratched her face.

**December 4, 2012/Grapeland, Texas:** A lemur attacked a postal carrier as she was delivering mail to a rural address. As she was stopped at the mailbox, Keanu leapt into her vehicle and bit her on the arm and hand before jumping back out. Authorities took Keanu away to hold him for a 30-day quarantine.

**November 2012:** Sean Kanan, an actor on *General Hospital*, hired a company to bring a monkey and a sloth to a birthday party for his wife, Michele. The monkey jumped out of the handler's arms and bit Michele's arm.

**October 24, 2012/Tampa Bay, Florida:** A rhesus monkey who had eluded authorities for two years was finally recaptured after he bit a woman sitting in her backyard. The monkey was put under quarantine.

**September 29, 2012/Cherokee, North Carolina:** A capuchin named George was able to get off the island and access the barrier surrounding his enclosure at Santa's Land. George then made contact with the public and bit a child. The USDA later fined Santa's Land for this incident.

**September 9, 2012/Sanford, Florida:** A 4-year-old macaque, Zeke, escaped from a backyard cage and ran around a central Florida neighborhood. He jumped on top of cars and trucks, charged at someone's legs, and gave two people minor injuries from scratching and biting. He was loose for about two hours before his owner, Jeff Jacques, got him into his truck.

**September 3, 2012/Paso Robles, California:** A woman went to the hospital with severe wounds after a Java macaque bit her. The owner was likely the woman's boyfriend, and it was believed that he had

raised the monkey since the animal was 2 weeks old. The monkey was being kept as a "pet" illegally and lived in a small dog kennel inside the couple's trailer. The animal weighed twice as much as he or she should have.

**August 18, 2012/Honolulu, Hawaii:** Elvis, a 14-year-old siamang gibbon, escaped from an enclosure at the Honolulu Zoo. He grabbed a volunteer and scratched the man's left leg. Carbon dioxide dispensers were used to direct Elvis back to the cage.

**August 15, 2012/Martin County, Florida:** JayJay, a 9-year-old macaque kept as a "pet," attacked his owner, Jimmy Schwall, ripping the tendons from his hand. Schwall's friend fatally shot JayJay to stop the attack. Schwall sustained bites to his buttocks and thigh in addition to the seven tendons and one nerve, resulting in two three-hour surgeries on his hand.

**August 11, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** C.J., a chimpanzee who had escaped from her home the previous month, escaped again. Police and animal control set up a perimeter in the neighborhood to contain her, and she was eventually shot with a tranquilizer and moved to a facility better equipped to handle her until a plan for her future could be made.

**August 2012/Fort Lauderdale, Florida:** A battalion chief handling a motorcycle accident was bitten by a marmoset who was in a bag attached to the bike. The owner was issued a warning for "failing to label the monkey bag with what was in it."

**July 12, 2012/Las Vegas, Nevada:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their owner's home, which led to a nearly two-hour attempt by police to recapture them in a residential area. During this time, residents were advised to stay indoors or in their vehicles. Police shot and killed Buddy, a male chimpanzee, but were able to

tranquelize and recapture C.J., Buddy's female companion.

**July 10, 2012/Winston-Salem, North Carolina:** The USDA cited Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center for violating the federal Animal Welfare Act after a monkey escaped from the facility. The animal released a double-latch device to escape from the housing unit.

**June 17, 2012/Galveston, Texas:** A woman was bitten and scratched by two cotton-top tamarins at the rainforest attraction of the Moody Gardens Hotel. She was seeking damages and court costs of no more than \$100,000.

**June 2012/Florida:** During filming for the movie *Rock of Ages*, Mickey, who played the part of Tom Cruise's "pet" baboon, ran off during a crowd scene. Mickey's handler yelled, "The monkey is loose, don't move or he'll maul your face." He was lured back to his trainer with food.

**May 24, 2012/New York, New York:** A monkey got out of an enclosure in an Air China airplane's cargo hold. The flight was delayed until workers at the John F. Kennedy International Airport captured the animal, who was part of a shipment of about 50 to 60 animals going to China to be used for medical experiments.

**May 14, 2012/Mission, Texas:** A patas monkey was on the loose for weeks until he was captured by animal control. He was taken to Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville.

**May 12, 2012/Bordentown, New Jersey:** One of three spider monkeys bit a child who was able to get through a split-rail barrier fence around the animals' exhibit at the Animal Kingdom Zoo.

**May 12, 2012/Dexter, Iowa:** A child was scratched on the hand by a "pet" capuchin monkey at a home daycare center. The girl

was taken to the hospital and advised to undergo rabies shots.

**May 4, 2012/Hamilton County, Tennessee:** Residents of Chattanooga spotted Molly, a Brazilian marmoset, on the loose. The Chattanooga police trapped her in a cage and waited for the owner to provide her license and paperwork before releasing Molly back to her.

**May 2012/Asheville, North Carolina:** A marmoset got loose and bit three people in an Asheville neighborhood. Animal control officers found the animal, along with several illegal drug items, in the home of Charles Bradley Winecoff.

**April 29, 2012/Oviedo, Florida:** Two people reported that they saw a monkey near the downtown area, but the animal was gone by the time police arrived. No one had reported missing a monkey.

**April 25, 2012/Boston, Massachusetts:** A monkey escaped from an enclosure at Harvard Medical School and injured another monkey. (See October 7 and December 18, 2011, entries.)

**April 17, 2012/Gainesville, Florida:** A woman's stepson spotted a patas monkey when his ball landed near the animal in a ditch. After that, multiple people saw the monkey behind and between houses. A trap was set up two days later to catch the animal, but he wasn't seen again.

**April 2012/Pender County, North Carolina:** A macaque named Elvis was euthanized by animal control after the owner's neighbor said he had bitten her.

**April 5, 2012/Pasco County, Florida:** A "pet" monkey jumped out of his owner's car at a gas station and ran into the woods.

**April 2012/Rolla, Missouri:** A vervet monkey named Abu bit or scratched a girl at

the Cub Creek Science Camp. The animal was on a leash when he jumped onto the girl, leaving a cut. The girl received stitches and antibiotics. The monkey's owner, Lori Martin, has numerous exotic animals she uses at the camp.

**March 22, 2012/Levy County, Florida:** Residents reported seeing three monkeys. A police lieutenant spent hours attempting to locate the animals but couldn't find them. He asked state wildlife officers to set traps for them.

**March 19, 2012/Buffalo, New York:** A 24-year-old 400-pound male gorilla named Koga escaped from a cage at the Buffalo Zoo and bit a zookeeper on the hand and calf. Police locked down the zoo, and Koga was tranquilized and captured in a zookeepers' lounge.

**March 19, 2012/Ashley, Pennsylvania:** A monkey ran off when his owner, Jeff Arnott, fled into the woods after being chased by police on a stolen ATV. Arnott's father recaptured the monkey on a porch four hours later. Arnott had had the monkey as a "pet" for about 15 years, and according to his neighbor, "He always had it on a leash or in a cage." It was illegal to possess individuals of that species.

**March 2012/Bradenton, Florida:** A capuchin monkey was caught on video going through a dumpster at the Lakewood Business Park. According to a woman who works there, the discovery explained "a lot of mysterious happenings around that park for the past six months." Linda Craig of Manatee Operation Troop Support suspected that the monkey was "squeezing through the mail slot in the door to get to the crackers inside the office." No one had reported a missing monkey. Gary Morse, a spokesperson for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, noted that dealing with the invasive species in the state is costing taxpayers hundreds of

millions of dollars and that one monkey could establish a colony if he or she found another monkey.

**February 19, 2012/Kansas City, Missouri:** Two 19-year-old 400-pound gorillas escaped from enclosures at the Kansas City Zoo. Handlers used ladders to scale the retaining wall in order to escape to safety. Mbundi and Ntongo were guided back to the holding area with water hoses.

**January 2012/Chesapeake, Virginia:** A capuchin escaped from an exotic-animal business, Spellbound, after his enclosure door was left open during feeding. Animal control recaptured the capuchin more than a month later.

**January 2, 2012/Southern Pines, North Carolina:** A 2-year-old "pet" rhesus monkey named Toby ran away from home by squeezing out of a collar and opening a door. His owners had not found him two days later.

**December 30, 2011/San Francisco, California:** A passerby spotted a squirrel monkey in a park, coaxed the animal into his backpack, and called the authorities. The monkey had been stolen from the San Francisco Zoo the day before.

**December 18, 2011/Boston, Massachusetts:** Several monkeys escaped from an enclosure at the Harvard Medical School when a food hopper had not been properly secured. (See October 7, 2011, and April 25, 2012, entries.)

**November 7, 2011/Dallas, Texas:** A spider monkey got out of a primary enclosure at the Dallas Zoo and was outside it for about 20 minutes. This was the second time in less than two weeks that an animal had escaped from the zoo's primate habitat.

**November 2011/Los Angeles, California:** The USDA cited the Los Angeles Zoo for

not having structurally sound enclosures, after a 6-year-old orangutan, Berani, escaped from an exhibit through a small hole in the steel mesh. The animal was shot with a dart and recaptured. A previous escape occurred in an adjacent enclosure in 2008.

**October 25, 2011/Dallas, Texas:** A chimpanzee named Koko escaped from a primary enclosure at the Dallas Zoo. She remained in an area that wasn't open to the public. Authorities closed an area of the zoo and moved visitors elsewhere while zoo workers tranquilized her.

**October 18, 2011/Zanesville, Ohio:** A macaque monkey who was "highly likely" to be infected with herpes B virus went missing when Terry Thompson released over 70 animals from the cages of his preserve. According to the National Primate Research Center, herpes B can lead to fatal brain infections when passed to humans.

**October 15, 2011/Lakehills, Texas:** Obie, a 30-year-old capuchin monkey kept as a "pet," escaped from an enclosure. A nearby homeowner saw him and tried to shoot him, but he evaded the shots. None of his other four cagemates escaped.

**October 7, 2011/Boston, Massachusetts:** A monkey escaped from an enclosure at Harvard Medical School. The animal was recaptured using a hand-held net. (See December 18, 2011, and April 25, 2012, entries.)

**September 29, 2011/St. Cloud, Florida:** A 4-foot-tall monkey who was on the loose for weeks in Osceola County was finally caught after being spotted swinging from trees by a sheriff's helicopter. No one had reported a missing or stolen monkey.

**September 26, 2011/Doniphan, Missouri:** A 10-pound grivet monkey was missing for three days after he escaped through a

doggie door at a home. He had been retired from use as a "therapy" monkey.

**September 14, 2011/Hempstead, Texas:** Ten capuchin monkeys were freed from cages in a sanctuary when a wildfire forced the establishment to evacuate. It was difficult to recapture the elusive monkeys, and one bit a Texas state game warden who was trying to lure him with candy. The warden was hospitalized, and the capuchin was euthanized and tested for rabies. Of the remaining nine, seven returned on their own and two remained on the loose.

**August 12, 2011/Springfield, Missouri:** A macaque monkey named Charlie bit an 8-year-old girl in a Walmart parking lot. Her family had parked next to a vehicle in which Charlie and the humans who kept him as a "pet" were parked. The girl reached in to pet Charlie, and he jumped up and bit her on the head. He was being tested for any diseases while the girl was treated with antibiotics and antivirals.

**August 4, 2011/Shelbyville, Tennessee:** Yoshi, a Japanese snow macaque, bit a woman and a police officer. He had bitten the same officer a year and a half earlier, and the sheriff said that the cage didn't have a lock. The owner was serving a sentence for making methamphetamine and had left her husband to care for five monkeys, including Yoshi. The sheriff said this about Yoshi: "He's not quite as big as a chimp, but he is close, and he is solid muscle, and he has extremely long canines. I mean this is an animal that could very easily kill a person." Yoshi was shot and killed.

**July 30, 2011/Las Vegas, Nevada:** The Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Administration (NVOSHA) noted that the owner of the Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park expected employees to enter the Barbary apes' enclosure to feed, water, and clean them with no protection from a possible attack. When the apes were being



moved from one enclosure to another, an ape scratched an employee. Later, that same employee along with two others “were asked to walk around the interior of the enclosure to simulate the animal’s [*sic*] troop,” again with no protection. In February 2012, NVOSHA marked the direct contact with primates as a serious violation and fined the facility \$4,200, which it ultimately paid.

**July 6, 2011/Elk River, Minnesota:** A 9-year-old girl was bitten by a “service” monkey who had been brought by a park visitor to the Wapiti Park Campground. The girl was bitten when she approached the monkey’s cage.

**July 2, 2011/Jasper, New Jersey:** A baboon claimed by the Six Flags Great Adventure theme park evaded capture by local officials for three days before being caught 10 miles away from the facility on a farm. Police received reports of more than a dozen sightings and warned residents to stay indoors during that time.

**June 22, 2011/Lawrenceville, Georgia:** A 2-year-old monkey went missing from Yerkes National Primate Research Center.

**June 2011/Fremont, Ohio:** A “pet” grivet monkey escaped from his or her the home and scratched two children. The animal was recaptured outside the Fremont police station.

**May 21, 2011/Kansas City, Missouri:** Kansas City Zoo patrons were kept inside a building when a red-capped mangabey escaped from an enclosure. Animal health staff tranquilized and recaptured the monkey.

**April 2011/Surry County, Virginia:** According to local news station WTKR, a Java macaque attacked his owner, injuring the man’s nose and wrist. Authorities were not notified until the man checked himself

into a local hospital. The report also noted that in a separate incident in 2010, another man had lost both of his thumbs after his “pet” capuchin monkey attacked him.

**March 15, 2011/West Knoxville, Tennessee:** Three police officers, an animal control officer, and a crime-scene technician were dispatched to a local residence after a report that a “pet” capuchin monkey had been found in a backyard tree. The 4-pound, 46-year-old monkey was recaptured when her caretaker eventually arrived on the scene.

**March 11, 2011/Salt Lake City, Utah:** All four spider monkeys at the Hogle Zoo escaped from an enclosure and were seen climbing trees and approaching local wildlife, all while in close proximity to the public, before keepers recaptured them.

**March 2, 2011/Fort Madison, Iowa:** Authorities discovered that a 10-year-old child who had been taken to the Fort Madison Hospital for a cat bite had actually been bitten by a “pet” macaque.

**January 14, 2011/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** A keeper at the Riverside Discovery Center was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when she attempted to pet the animal. When the chimpanzee grabbed the woman’s hand, the woman began screaming, which attracted another chimpanzee, who also grabbed her hand. The keeper’s index and ring fingers on one hand were bitten off at the knuckles, and the middle finger was lacerated. She was taken to a hospital for treatment.

**January 10, 2011/Meigs, Georgia:** A capuchin with Brian Staples’ traveling exhibit escaped while he was being transferred from his primary enclosure. Sven was missing for two days in temperatures that ranged from 35 to 43 degrees Fahrenheit.



**December 22, 2010/Miami, Florida:** A “pet” capuchin monkey escaped and bit a person, who was taken to the hospital. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took possession of the monkey to determine if the animal had rabies.

**November 7, 2010/Oneida Castle, New York:** Robert Jones’ 8-year-old “pet” capuchin monkey, Jada, escaped from Jones’ home by opening a screen door. The animal wandered into a neighbor’s yard and attacked a woman who was outside playing with her son. Jada jumped onto the woman’s arm and then bit her finger when she reached out to keep the monkey away from the child. The woman was taken to the hospital for puncture wounds. The fire department, state police, and sheriff were called to the scene. Jada was captured and killed in order to be tested for rabies.

**November 2010/Phoenix, Arizona:** A “pet” rhesus macaque bit a person on the hand and was subsequently killed.

**October 19, 2010/Kansas City, Missouri:** Mark Archigo’s adult “pet” chimpanzee, Sueko, escaped from a cage inside a truck and rampaged through a Kansas City neighborhood for 40 minutes. Sueko charged at two young girls who were out for a morning walk, opened the passenger door of a sport utility vehicle that drove into the neighborhood, broke a gate and a fence, and pounded on parked vehicles, passing cars, and the front door of a house. As authorities attempted to tranquilize the animal, Sueko charged a police car, pushed a trash can against its front bumper, climbed onto the car’s hood, pounded on the roof, and kicked the windshield, breaking it. Sueko was finally recaptured when she walked into Archigo’s van. Archigo has been in and out of legal trouble over Sueko since 1995. (See the “2000/Jackson County, Missouri,” and “1995/Kansas City, Missouri” entries.)

**September 2010/San Antonio, Texas:** A spider monkey escaped from Primarily Primates after an enclosure was damaged by a tropical storm. The monkey traveled at least 6 miles in one day and was on the loose for nine days before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**August 28, 2010/Miami, Florida:** A white-handed gibbon escaped an enclosure at Jungle Island after a worker left the gate open. The gibbon jumped into a tiger enclosure, and a 500-pound tiger jumped over a fence and escaped into the park while chasing the ape. At one point, the tiger came face to face with a 2-year-old toddler. More than 100 park visitors were ushered into a dark barn for protection. Four people were hurt during the chaos and were treated for minor injuries. A fifth person was transported to a hospital after suffering a panic attack. The gibbon was later found on a picnic table and recaptured.

**July 31, 2010/Greenwich, New York:** A lemur at the Ashville Game Farm bit a 7-year-old boy. The boy was petting the lemur as other people were feeding the animal when the boy was bitten on the thumb. The victim received a series of rabies shots, and a judge ordered that three lemurs at the facility be killed and tested for rabies.

**July 21, 2010/Hamilton County, Indiana:** A 40-pound, 3-foot-tall “pet” patas monkey injured a teenage boy and bit a family dog on the ear after escaping from a cage and running through the family’s house for 20 minutes. Someone in the house called 911 and told the dispatcher that the monkey was a dangerous wild animal. A witness to the attack on the boy remarked that he had “never seen any animal jump on top of somebody and just start attacking him.” Family members locked themselves in different rooms to avoid the monkey until police, paramedics, and animal control responded to the 911 call.

**July 21, 2010/Mechanicsville, Virginia:**

Six chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at Windy Oaks Animal Farm when a gate was left open. Two male chimpanzees were still on the loose when animal control received a call about the incident. Upon arriving at the scene, the animal control officer was advised by Curtis Shepperson, owner of Windy Oaks, to stay in his car in order to avoid further agitating the chimpanzees. Windy Oaks did not have knowledgeable staff or equipment on site to tranquilize the escaped chimpanzees. At least two hours after animal control was first called to the scene, a sheriff's deputy shot one of the chimpanzees with a dart, and the animal was returned to the enclosure. Animal control officials and sheriff's deputies searched the compound for the second chimpanzee but could not find him. He was recaptured the next day. According to Windy Oaks' veterinarian, this escape was the third such incident at the facility.

**July 18, 2010/Catskill, New York:** A woman was mauled by a "pet" capuchin monkey who was being kept at the Kaaterskill Lodge. The victim was taking photographs of the monkey when the animal jumped out of the enclosure and attacked her. The woman was left with a scar down her cheek and had to receive rabies shots because Allen Hirsch, the owner of the lodge, disappeared with the monkey after the attack.

**July 17, 2010/Wichita, Kansas:** Nine chimpanzees escaped an enclosure at the Sedgwick County Zoo and were found in a maintenance area when keepers arrived at work in the morning. Eight of the chimpanzees were returned to the enclosure, but one adult male was loose for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**April 25, 2010/Clearwater, Florida:** A 5-year-old girl spotted two ring-tailed lemurs walking down the street. Her mother called

a local wildlife rescue group, which caught the animals and said that a man from the same neighborhood had called the organization earlier and claimed to be their owner.

**March 29, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia:**

Babe Hamerick was attacked for the second time in two weeks by Noah, his "pet" capuchin monkey. The monkey reportedly went "berserk" and attacked Hamerick's legs and bit his left hand, severing his pinky finger. Police, animal control, and paramedics were called to the scene, and the victim was taken to a hospital, where he underwent surgery for his injuries.

**March 17, 2010/Chesapeake, Virginia:**

Babe Hamerick was attacked by his "pet" capuchin monkey, Noah, when he accidentally stepped on the monkey's foot. The man described the attack as worse than war, which he claimed was "a breeze compared to my little fight with [Noah, which] cut the vein, tore ligaments out of my wrists. I'm pumping blood all over." His injuries were treated at a hospital.

**March 4, 2010/St. Petersburg, Florida:**

A rhesus macaque was shot twice with tranquilizer darts but managed to elude wildlife officials who were attempting to capture the animal. The monkey had been on the loose for more than a year.

**February 9, 2010/Carencro, Louisiana:**

A 3-year-old girl was bitten on the hand by a 35-pound Japanese snow macaque while she was visiting a friend's house. The child went to an after-hours clinic to receive treatment, and the macaque was euthanized to be tested for rabies and the herpes B virus.

**February 2010/Palm Harbor, Florida:**

Two chimpanzees at Suncoast Primate Sanctuary, a roadside zoo, escaped from a cage that was not properly secured. One of the animals, described as typically gentle,

relentlessly attacked and chased a female volunteer. The victim, who escaped the attack by locking herself in a bathroom, was hospitalized for treatment of serious injuries, including a deep laceration on the back of her head, damaged tendons in her right hand, and bite wounds on her thigh, back, and abdomen. When a sheriff's deputy responded to the incident, he was denied access and reported that zoo staff were "very uncooperative and intentionally deceptive and evasive."

**2010/Jacksonville, North Carolina:** A pigtail macaque at the Lynnwood Park Zoo was shot to death after biting the roadside zoo's owner.

**November 25, 2009/Hollywood, Florida:** Simon, a 1-year-old marmoset kept as a "pet," disappeared when his owner was preparing to move from the area. He was found two days later by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission after the agency discovered that another man had trapped and sold him. Officials gave him back to the original owner.

**November 22, 2009/LaPorte, Indiana:** A 10-month-old girl was attacked by a "pet" Java macaque belonging to Richard and Laura Burlos. The attack occurred when the girl was held too close to the cage. The monkey grabbed the hood of the infant's coat, as well as her hair, causing the baby's head to strike the metal cage repeatedly. The baby sustained a "rope burn" to her neck that was caused by the drawstring on her coat and had red marks on the back of her head because her head had hit the cage.

**November 22, 2009/Oldsmar, Florida:** A 30-pound monkey was spotted near an apartment complex, and officers unsuccessfully tried to chase the animal down. The authorities called off the search and warned residents that the monkey was likely a macaque and could be aggressive.

**November 12, 2009/Tampa, Florida:** A macaque got loose in a residential neighborhood. It was not known where the monkey escaped from or how the animal got loose.

**November 7, 2009/Foley, Alabama:** A capuchin monkey was spotted by a zookeeper and his wife at their beach house, and the man tried unsuccessfully to capture the animal. Officials with the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo searched but couldn't find the monkey. Someone claiming to be the owner came and searched as well, telling searchers that if he was unsuccessful, he would leave his contact information. The following morning, there was no note from the owner, so zoo officials hoped the owner had located the capuchin, especially as a tropical storm was bearing down on the area.

**October 2009/Pine Mountain, Georgia:** A mangabey at Wild Animal Safari escaped while staff members were moving the animal from one enclosure to another. The monkey was shot and killed by zookeepers after climbing the zoo's perimeter fence.

**September 6, 2009/Scottsbluff, Nebraska:** Four spider monkeys escaped from an enclosure at the Riverside Zoo while they were being fed. One of the monkeys attacked a zookeeper, who sustained bites to her arms and legs. The bites required multiple stitches. Three of the monkeys were quickly recaptured, but the fourth monkey remained loose on zoo grounds for approximately five hours.

**September 1, 2009/Los Angeles, California:** Two chimpanzees escaped from their crates while they were being unloaded at the Los Angeles Zoo following their transfer from Wildlife Waystation, which had been threatened by a wildfire. One chimpanzee climbed over the fence and into Griffith Park, where she was spotted approximately an hour later and secured in

## Primate Incidents in the United States

the back of a truck. The other chimpanzee remained loose on zoo grounds for 20 minutes before being tranquilized.

**August 20, 2009/Denver, Colorado:**

Charlie, a 12-year-old gorilla at the Denver Zoo, broke through the metal mesh of the enclosure that he was confined to and entered a private, behind-the-scenes area of the primate house. He was returned to his enclosure after a few minutes.

**June 20, 2009/Foley, Alabama:** Someone called the county sheriff's office to report seeing a monkey at 6 a.m. near a church. A deputy was sent out but was unable to locate the animal. An official with the sheriff's department said that the deputies probably wouldn't know what to do if they did find a monkey. "I'm not sure how to apprehend a monkey," he said.

**June 12, 2009/Columbia, South Carolina:**

A 390-pound gorilla at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden escaped by grabbing some low-hanging bamboo, scaling the 12-foot-4-inch wall of the enclosure, and climbing over two high-voltage security wires. The animal rushed at two food-service employees, pushing one aside and knocking the other down before jumping back into the enclosure. One of the employees was taken to a hospital, where he was treated for cuts and bruises.

**June 5, 2009/Candia, New Hampshire:** A macaque escaped from an enclosure at Charmingfare Farm when a worker left two doors unlocked. The worker was bitten on his calf as he tried to recapture the animal. As a result of his injuries, the worker required medical attention.

**May 26, 2009/Columbus, Ohio:** A gorilla at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium escaped from an enclosure through a door that was improperly secured and walked into a hallway used by zookeepers. Visitors were evacuated from the area, and the zoo's

entrance was closed for approximately 45 minutes. While the entrance was closed, the gorilla was coaxed back into the enclosure.

**May 8, 2009/Pleasant Hope, Missouri:**

Two monkeys escaped from enclosures at a refuge when a tree limb fell on the cage during a storm. One was quickly recaptured, but the other was found dead nearly a month later after apparently having been hit by a car.

**May 2009/Calabasas, California:** Two 10-year-old boys spotted a lemur running loose in one of their backyards. The animal ran off and wasn't seen again.

**April 21, 2009/Corpus Christi, Texas:** A squirrel monkey bit a man who was transporting the animal to Michigan. Animal control officers planned to quarantine the monkey for three months to test for diseases.

**April 18, 2009/Salem, Oregon:** A man's "pet" monkey bit a 6-year-old girl at a park. The monkey lunged at the girl, grabbed her hair, scratched her, and bit her under the left eye, leaving two puncture marks. The man left the park before authorities arrived. The girl was taken to an urgent-care facility, where she was treated.

**April 14, 2009/Springfield, Missouri:** A rhesus macaque escaped from an exotic-animal menagerie owned by Debby Rose. The macaque went to a nearby home, and when the homeowner knocked on a window to scare the animal off, the macaque lunged at the window.

**April 3, 2009/Portland, Oregon:** Nine macaques escaped from the Oregon Health & Science University when a worker left the cage unlocked. It took almost three days to recapture all the monkeys.

**March 30, 2009/Winston, Missouri:** A 9-year-old chimpanzee named Timmy



escaped from a cage (which measured 10 feet by 6 feet) at a private residence and ran loose on a nearby state highway. Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to help recapture the chimpanzee, who at one point opened a deputy's patrol car door, grabbed the deputy's leg, and tried to strike him. When the chimpanzee attempted to attack the man again, the chimpanzee was shot and killed. The deputy sustained minor injuries, and the owners of the chimpanzee sustained cuts and scratches.

**March 13, 2009/Fruitland Park, Florida:** A spider monkey named Reggie escaped from the Liebling Family Circus when the circus owner failed to latch a leash correctly. The monkey fled into nearby woods and was not recaptured until nearly five weeks later.

**February 25, 2009/East Ridge, Tennessee:** An obese "pet" spider monkey was found wandering through someone's yard and was captured by animal control officials.

**February 25, 2009/Athens, Georgia:** An animal-care technician at the University of Georgia suffered a severe bite to her thumb while cleaning the cage of a capuchin monkey. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital and later transferred to a hand specialist in Atlanta for additional treatment.

**February 19, 2009/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** An orangutan named Elok escaped from an enclosure at the Oklahoma City Zoo by climbing into the moat and then over the exhibit wall. Twenty zoo visitors were ushered into buildings until Elok was recaptured approximately 100 feet from the enclosure.

**February 19, 2009/Seattle, Washington:** A De Brazza's monkey at the Woodland Park Zoo escaped from an enclosure by swimming across a moat and climbing a rock wall. The zoo was evacuated, and the monkey was on the loose for approximately

25 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured. Other monkeys had previously escaped from the same enclosure.

**February 16, 2009/Stamford, Connecticut:** Sandra Herold's 200-pound, 14-year-old "pet" chimpanzee named Travis escaped from the house and attacked a woman, inflicting massive injuries to her face and hands. The woman required more than seven hours of stabilizing surgery by four teams of doctors. She reportedly lost her hands, nose, lips, and eyelids in the attack. The bone structure of her face was also damaged, and she might have lost her vision and suffered brain damage. In 2011 she had a face transplant. At least three other people—including two police officers—were injured during the fracas. In an effort to stop the attack, Herold stabbed the chimpanzee repeatedly with a butcher knife. Police officers shot him numerous times before he made his way back into the house where he died. Neighbors reported that they often saw Travis roaming the streets in the neighborhood, sometimes unleashed, and that he frequently rode around in trucks with his owners. Travis had been involved in at least two previous incidents. (See the October 19, 2003, and "1996/Stamford, Connecticut" entries

**February 2, 2009/Flour Bluff, Texas:** An escaped or abandoned ring-tailed lemur was discovered when children were seen playing with the animal outdoors. The animal, who had a hurt arm and reportedly had possibly gotten a little nippy with the children, was seized by authorities, and the owners were ticketed for illegally possessing an exotic animal.

**January 30, 2009/New Orleans, Louisiana:** An orangutan named Berani escaped from an enclosure at the Audubon Zoo by stretching a T-shirt to help him scale a 10½-foot wall. He then wrapped the shirt around an electric wire surrounding the exhibit and finally swung out of the exhibit.



The orangutan stood on a boardwalk with zoo visitors nearby for approximately 10 minutes before returning to the exhibit.

**January 24, 2009/Naples, Florida:** A worker at Gary's Paradise Gardens was attacked by a capuchin monkey. The monkey escaped through a space that was created when the worker removed the food bowl from the side of the cage. The woman was bitten on her right leg, lower arm, and hand and required stitches for some of the wounds.

**2009/Mechanicsville, Virginia:** Chimpanzees at Windy Oaks Animal Farm broke some welds on an enclosure, and two male chimpanzees pushed through a wire panel, opened a door, and escaped.

**November 10, 2008/Carbon County, Montana:** A woman was taken to a hospital for treatment after a chimpanzee named Conner latched on to her arm with his teeth. The woman lost 6 to 8 inches of skin. Conner was one of two chimpanzees who escaped from the home of Jeanne Rizzotto and ran to a neighbor's yard, where they were seen chasing cats up trees, swinging from the roof of the house, and getting into cars and trucks. One of the chimpanzees was also seen crossing a highway. The bite victim had been trying to prevent Conner from entering a home. The animals were recaptured, and Conner was quarantined at Rizzotto's home.

**September 24, 2008/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** An 18-pound macaque monkey bit and then mauled the hand of a University of Pittsburgh laboratory technician. The macaque grabbed a pole that the technician was using to test the animal's water system, pulled the woman's hand into the cage, and bit her palm. "My hand was in its mouth," the woman said. "It was clamping down on it and munching on it for up to a minute. I had no choice but to pull my hand out in shreds." The animal's

teeth penetrated to the bone, and the woman sustained bone, tendon, and nerve damage. She underwent three surgeries to treat recurring infections and was released from the hospital after eight days, at which time she still had no feeling in two fingers and was awaiting results of blood tests on the monkey to determine if she had been exposed to hepatitis B or other infections.

**August 8, 2008/Bend, Oregon:** A 120-pound chimpanzee at Chimps, Inc., escaped from an unlocked enclosure and bit an intern. The intern was treated at the scene by firefighters and then driven to a hospital.

**August 14, 2008/Michigan City, Indiana:** Police responded to a call that a baboon was running at large. Upon arriving at the scene, the officer learned that the escaped animal wasn't a baboon but a monkey kept at a house near the complainant's. The monkey had learned how to unlock a window, and by the time police arrived, the animal had returned home and was sitting in an open second-floor window.

**August 2008/Cincinnati, Ohio:** A white-handed gibbon escaped from a cage at the Cincinnati Zoo and made his way to the parking lot where he bit a visitor on the leg. The gibbon was quarantined, and the zoo decided that he would no longer be allowed outdoors.

**July 17, 2008/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A teller at Washington Mutual invited a man inside the bank with his "pet" spider monkey. The animal "scaled an employee, ran across tables, dangled off a room divider, and clung to the chair of a customer." According to the owner, the only way to remove the monkey without risking being bitten was to wait until the animal got bored.

**July 2008/Orange Park, Florida:** A Japanese macaque was spotted running loose in a subdivision. Wildlife officials

attempted to capture the animal with a trap and warned the public that macaques have sharp teeth and are prone to biting.

**July 4, 2008/Richmond, Virginia:** A “pet” monkey bit a teenage girl during Fourth of July festivities at Byrd Park. The owner or anyone who had knowledge of the monkey was asked to contact the Richmond Public Health Department so that a course of treatment could be planned for the victim.

**July 4, 2008/Columbia, Missouri:** A young woman was bitten on the hand by a “pet” Japanese macaque who was owned by an acquaintance. She went to the hospital for treatment. Although she and her friends refused to provide the name of the monkey’s owner, the animal was eventually surrendered to a veterinarian for testing.

**June 27, 2008/Devore, California:** A chimpanzee named Moe escaped from a cage at Jungle Exotics, surprised construction workers when he wandered into a house next-door, and then continued on into the San Bernardino National Forest. After more than a month, search efforts were called off because of mounting expenses. Eight months later, Moe had still not been found.

**June 11, 2008/Michigan City, Indiana:** A spider monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Washington Park Zoo by using a garden hose to scale the wall of the moat. The moat had been emptied of water and was being cleaned by workers. The monkey was recaptured at a nearby boat dealership.

**June 5, 2008/Queens, New York:** A 22-month-old girl had her finger bitten off by a neighbor’s “pet” capuchin monkey when she stuck her fingers through her backyard fence and into the pen of the monkey who was caged next to the fence. Doctors worked for 12 hours attempting to reattach the girl’s finger but were unsuccessful. The

monkey was euthanized in order to be tested for rabies.

**May 17, 2008/Los Angeles, California:** A 29-year-old orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo punched a hole in the mesh of an exhibit and escaped into a holding area behind a cage. Zoo officials ushered visitors to the zoo exit while the orangutan was sedated by zookeepers.

**May 17, 2008/Tampa, Florida:** A 10-year-old orangutan escaped from an enclosure at Busch Gardens by scaling a 12-foot wall and climbing onto the roof of an exhibit, where she was just feet away from zoo visitors. The public, including a group of nearby children, was evacuated from the area. The orangutan was lured back to the enclosure nearly one hour after she escaped.

**April 21, 2008/Polk County, Florida:** Fifteen patas monkeys escaped from Safari Wild by swimming across a 60-foot-wide moat and then climbing a 28-foot fence. One monkey was shot to death, and it took nearly eight months to recapture the rest of them.

**April 11, 2008/Trenton, Michigan:** A 6-year-old girl was bitten on the finger by a “pet” Java macaque who was being walked on a leash near the church where the girl was playing. The girl had to undergo several tests as a result of the bite, and the monkey was expected to be euthanized.

**April 5, 2008/Addison, Texas:** Two lemurs at the Trager Snake Farm were quarantined after biting or scratching a child.

**April 4, 2008/Orlando, Florida:** Prada, a diaper-wearing 4-year-old “pet” brown-and-gray capuchin, escaped from a cage, entered a condominium through a window, and chased after residents at the complex. They fled, running into the street and oncoming traffic. The police department

trapped the animal by luring her into a cage with a banana. Her future was uncertain since her owner didn't have a permit to have a capuchin.

**March 21, 2008/Fresno, California:** A black-and-white colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. The eastern portion of the zoo was closed to the public as zoo staff members attempted to recapture the monkey. Two and a half hours after the escape, he was shot with a tranquilizer dart and taken to the zoo hospital to recover.

**March 14, 2008/Virginia:** A 6-year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, injured a woman by biting and/or scratching her face and shoulder. Mikey had bitten another woman five months earlier. (See the October 23, 2007, entry.)

**March 12, 2008/Bastrop, Texas:** Tony, an 18-year-old chimpanzee used in experiments, was shot and killed after he escaped from an enclosure at the MD Anderson Cancer Center facility. A team wasn't able to capture him for 45 minutes. This was the second escape within a year. In November, another chimpanzee, Jake, escaped and was sedated after a search that lasted several hours.

**March 8, 2008/Spokane, Washington:** Chico, a "pet" Java macaque, bit three people after escaping from his owner's home. The victims had been walking in the area when they were attacked. They were treated for bite wounds by medics. Three years earlier, officers had visited the same house for another matter, and Chico had thrown feces at them. An animal shelter held him while his fate was being determined.

**March 2008/New Albany, Indiana:** A child visiting a home was bitten by the owner's

"pet" capuchin monkey. The monkey was quarantined while county officials worked to obtain information about the animal's health.

**February 29, 2008/Gilbert, Arizona:** A 3-year-old boy was bitten on the wrist by his family's "pet" lemur. According to a local official, the emergency crew that responded to the incident reported that the bite was down to the bone. The boy was taken to a hospital for treatment.

**February 28, 2008/Spokane, Washington:** A "pet" macaque monkey who escaped from his owners' home chased some boys who were walking a dog and bit one of the boys on the thumb; charged at a woman, grabbed her leg, and bit it; and bit an 18-year-old girl on the leg. The monkey was quarantined to be monitored for disease and ultimately euthanized to be tested for rabies.

**2008/Los Angeles, California:** During filming of the movie *Speed Racer*, Kenzie, a chimpanzee playing Chim-Chim, was startled by a loud sound, leapt across a table, and grabbed hard onto actor Christina Ricci's left breast. Another actor, Kick Gurry, said that Willy, another chimpanzee on the set "looked at us like he was ready to beat our [butts]" after Gurry laughed at him for wearing a diaper and carrying a bottle.

**December 2, 2007/Rutherford College, North Carolina:** A grocery store clerk was bitten by a customer's 18-inch-tall "pet" monkey when she reached out to pet the animal. The monkey bit and scratched her right cheek just below the eye. The victim was treated at a local hospital for the bite and put on strong antibiotics.

**November 8, 2007/Columbia County, Georgia:** A 17-month-old boy was bitten by a baboon with the Eudora Farms petting zoo at the Columbia County Fair. The boy's father lifted him to feed the animal through the cage, and the baboon bit the child's hand.

**November 6, 2007/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A worker at Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility, was bitten by a chimpanzee named Ginny while she was handing blankets to the animals through a feeding tray. Ginny reached through a rusted hole in the tray and grabbed the worker's hand. When the woman was able to pull her hand out of the cage, one of her fingers was gone and two others were nearly severed. After multiple surgeries, including transplants and skin grafts, her hand is still disfigured and curls into a ball. The victim amassed more than \$100,000 in medical bills.

**November 2007/Glen St. Mary, Florida:** Multiple residents heard and saw a loose ape that some believed was an orangutan. The animal was last seen when a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission investigator tried to lure him down from a tree with doughnuts. Officials said that no one in Baker County was licensed to own an orangutan.

**October 23, 2007/Maryland:** A 5½ -year-old chimpanzee named Mikey, taken by Party Safari Zoo to a studio to appear in a commercial, bit a woman's arm while posing for photographs with studio employees.

**September 28, 2007/Dallas, Texas:** An elderly spider monkey escaped the enclosure that she shared with two other monkeys at the Dallas Zoo. The monkey was loose for approximately 20 minutes.

**September 22, 2007/Columbia, Missouri:** A woman known for carrying her "pet" rhesus macaque into stores and to public events took the animal to a local park where the macaque bit a 7-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. The woman quickly left the park and was sought by local health officials for questioning.

**September 2, 2007/Nashville, Tennessee:** Dixon, a gibbon held at the Nashville Zoo,

escaped from an exhibit by jumping off a railing, landing on a zookeeper's shoulders, and leaping into a wooded area. The zoo called a "code red," and visitors were hurried to shelter. He was recaptured 45 minutes later. Zoo officials placed him in lockdown while zookeepers attempted to find a way to prevent another escape.

**August 13, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** For the second time in two weeks, a white-faced capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo. He was found the following day, approximately 4 miles from the park, and returned to the zoo. One man was bitten on the hand during the attempt to capture Oliver. This was Oliver's third escape. (See the July 31, 2007, and 2001 entries.)

**August 8, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A 1-year-old "pet" capuchin monkey bit a 21-year-old woman on the thumb at a beer garden and then eluded police for an hour before being recaptured. The monkey was declared dangerous by the Madison Environmental Health Services Department and was quarantined to be monitored for disease, and the owner was ordered to remove the animal from the city upon release from quarantine. The monkey had previously bitten at least one other person. (See the July 11, 2007, entry.)

**July 31, 2007/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped from a cage at Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo and eluded capture for nearly a week before being recaptured. Zoo staff warned the public that Oliver would bite. This was Oliver's second escape. (See the 2001 entry.)

**July 11, 2007/Madison, Wisconsin:** A "pet" capuchin monkey was placed under home quarantine after biting someone.

**June 30, 2007/Cherokee, North Carolina:** A capuchin monkey at Santa's Land theme



park escaped from the island where the monkeys were kept and was loose overnight before being recaptured the next evening. It was believed that the animal used low-hanging tree limbs to scale the wall and the high-voltage wire that surrounded the island.

**June 19, 2007/St. Charles County, Missouri:** Tobi, a 42-year-old “pet” capuchin monkey, escaped from her owner’s home and was roaming around a residential neighborhood. She was still missing six days later. She had escaped once before around eight or nine years prior and didn’t come back for three months.

**June 5, 2007/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A colobus monkey escaped from an enclosure at the Metrolina Wildlife Park by running past a worker as she entered the cage. The monkey was chased around the zoo grounds by the zoo owner before being recaptured.

**April 24, 2007/Rankin County, Mississippi:** A “pet” macaque monkey attacked an IRS agent. Although the monkey’s canine teeth had been removed, the agent sustained bites and scratches on her face and arms.

**April 8, 2007/Otis, Oregon:** A 12-year-old “pet” capuchin monkey escaped from a cage, ran through the neighborhood, attempted to attack residents, and cornered one man in his garage before being recaptured.

**March 6, 2007/San Diego, California:** An employee at the San Diego Zoo lost the tip of his index finger when a chimpanzee reached through the cage bars, grabbed his wrist, and bit off the tip of his finger.

**January 16, 2007/Little Rock, Arkansas:** Judy, a 37-year-old, 120-pound chimpanzee, escaped from an enclosure at the Little Rock Zoo. She raided a kitchen

cupboard, opening and drinking juice and soft drinks, then she went into a bathroom and cleaned the toilet with a toilet brush. She was sedated and recaptured.

**2007/Olmsted Falls, Ohio:** A rhesus macaque scratched a girl at Burnette’s Pet Farm. According to Inspector Stacey Short of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, 80 to 90 percent of macaque monkeys carry the herpes simian B virus, a disease that can be spread through scratches and is almost always fatal to humans.

**December 25, 2006/French Settlement, Louisiana:** An 8-year-old boy was bitten twice on the arm and shoulder and suffered cuts and bruises when a “pet” ring-tailed lemur leapt from a roof and attacked him. The lemur was kept on a large estate, where the animal roamed freely and could not be located after the attack. The boy underwent four rounds of injections to prevent rabies and more than two weeks after the incident still had a fever and periodic headaches.

**December 1, 2006/Nahunta, North Carolina:** A “pet” Japanese macaque belonging to Frankie Piscopo escaped from Piscopo’s home and was on the loose for almost two months before being recaptured more than 11 miles away.

**October 30, 2006/Liberty Township, Ohio:** After a 12-hour flight from Idaho, a monkey named Jake bit his new owner instead of a marshmallow. Officials with Butler County, where the county health regulation forbids people from owning exotic animals, became aware of Jake’s existence because of the incident, so the new owner planned to move to an area that didn’t have a ban.

**October 28, 2006/Marquette County, Wisconsin:** A woman was taken to the hospital after being bitten by a lemur at an exotic animal farm.



**September 22, 2006/Horn Lake, Mississippi:** A “pet” bonnet macaque knocked out the window frame of a cage and escaped into the neighborhood. He ran for one and a half blocks and attacked an animal control officer before being recaptured.

**August 28, 2006/Chicago, Illinois:** A 15-year-old girl was hospitalized in serious condition after being attacked by a “pet” rhesus macaque monkey. The girl’s arm was reportedly “bitten to the bone.” The agitated monkey attempted to escape from the house as animal control officers worked to recapture him.

**August 8, 2006/Brownsville, Texas:** Two spider monkeys escaped from an island exhibit at Gladys Porter Zoo when keepers were trying to capture them for annual physicals. One was captured shortly afterward. The other, Pita, dog-paddled to shore, leapt onto the visitor walkway, scaled the Macaw Canyon fence, ran through the exhibit, and disappeared. She got to the zoo’s perimeter road and was recaptured more than two hours after her initial escape. A primate keeper said, “We completely lost control.”

**July 30, 2006/Orange County, California:** Gucci, a capuchin monkey, escaped from the Orange County Fairgrounds. He was from a small circus that was part of the annual fair. He was recaptured after he was lured back by the smell of food.

**July 2, 2006/Roanoke, Virginia:** Oops, an 11-year-old Japanese macaque, “slipped through an unlocked door ... during cage-cleaning time at Mill Mountain Zoo.” The animal was recaptured a week later.

**June 27, 2006/East Palo Alto, California:** A tufted-ear marmoset ran loose through a residential neighborhood. Animal control was able to capture him, and he was taken to the humane society. It was assumed that

he was kept as a “pet,” even though it was illegal to have exotic animals.

**June 1, 2006/Naples, Florida:** A mustached guenon at the Naples Zoo swam from the island where she and a male companion were housed and escaped to a wooded area of the zoo.

**June 2006/Sikeston, Missouri:** Residents of the Aspen Trace neighborhood presented a petition with 51 names to the Sikeston City Council. They alleged that a neighbor had a monkey she took outside and was unable to control, and they were tired of putting up with attacks. A shirt was also presented that had belonged to a resident’s grandson—it had been damaged during one of the attacks.

**March 8, 2006/Bell County, Texas:** A person bitten by a “pet” rhesus macaque was taken to the hospital for treatment. The monkey was killed to be tested for rabies.

**February 3, 2006/Columbus, Ohio:** A zookeeper at the Columbus Zoo was bitten while feeding a grape to an adult bonobo, also known as a “pygmy chimpanzee.” The zookeeper lost the tip of her finger and was treated at a hospital. All the zoo’s bonobos were isolated for 14 days to be monitored for health issues.

**December 29, 2005/unknown location:** A capuchin monkey who was being exhibited by Patricia Dawdy bit and/or scratched an 8-year-old boy, causing one or more injuries that required ongoing medical attention.

**December 2, 2005/Davis, California:** An employee at the UC-Davis California National Primate Research Center was bitten by a rhesus monkey while unstrapping the animal from a chair. Although the employee was treated that day, he went to the hospital the following day because he was suffering from finger pain. Two days later during a re-

examination, it was discovered that the wound had become infected. He was hospitalized for four days and underwent two surgeries.

**December 1, 2005/Covington, Kentucky:** A “pet” monkey escaped and led authorities on a two-day chase through the neighborhood before being recaptured. A primate expert was concerned that the animal might suffer from frostbite while on the loose, and an animal control officer noted that the animal appeared to suffer from a cough. A monkey had been loose on the same block one year earlier.

**November 14, 2005/Arizona:** Several children were attacked and two were bitten when a “pet” monkey escaped from a cage and tore through a neighbor’s birthday party.

**October 6, 2005/Eureka, California:** Bill, the solitary chimpanzee at the Sequoia Park Zoo, escaped from a cage and wandered one and a half blocks from the zoo before it was discovered that he was missing. Bill was coaxed back to the cage by one of the zookeepers. This was Bill’s second escape from the zoo—about 10 years previously, the door to Bill’s cage was left open and he wandered off.

**September 10, 2005/Royal, Nebraska:** Workers at Zoo Nebraska failed to properly lock a chimpanzee cage after cleaning, and all four animals in the cage made a break for freedom. The chimpanzees confronted zoo visitors, and at least one of the animals—possibly all four—walked into the town of Royal, where they attempted to enter businesses and where one chimp allegedly chased a 15-year-old boy into his home and another threw a grill at a van. When the animals tried to enter the building where zoo visitors and employees had taken refuge, three of the four chimpanzees were shot and killed. The surviving

chimpanzee was transferred to an exotic-animal dealer in Missouri.

**August 29, 2005/Springdale, Ohio:** A monkey with the Hendricks Bros. Circus was frightened by a train whistle and fled into a nearby wooded area. He was found the next day, damp and hungry, huddled in the roof area of a picnic pavilion at a park.

**August 27, 2005/San Antonio, Texas:** A young chimpanzee escaped through a hole in the chain-link fencing of a cage at Primarily Primates, where many of the cages for the more than 600 primates were secured with only a small piece of wire.

**July 20, 2005/Racine, Wisconsin:** Max, a 19-year-old orangutan at the Racine Zoo, escaped into a hallway that connected to other zoo exhibits and three hours later was lured back to a cage with food.

**July 11, 2005/Caldwell, Ohio:** Two “pet” monkeys belonging to Hollis McIntiurff escaped their cage. One was recaptured after running loose for several hours. The second, a rhesus macaque, attacked a 20-year-old man who stopped his truck in order to avoid hitting the monkey on the road. The monkey jumped in the truck and bit him on the leg. The man was treated at a hospital and received a tetanus shot. Ten days after escaping, the monkey remained on the loose.

**July 5, 2005/Chicago, Illinois:** A 350-pound male silverback gorilla attacked an intern working in a habitat at the Lincoln Park Zoo. The gorilla shoved the woman down and “mouthed” her, pressing his lips and teeth against her back. She sustained puncture wounds and scratches as well as a sprained ankle and was treated by paramedics before being taken to the hospital.

**July 2005/Elgin, Illinois:** At least four people reported seeing a monkey on the

loose. Police searched but didn't find the animal.

**June 2005/Morehead, Kentucky:** A monkey reached through a car window and grabbed and bit a clerk's hand at the drive-thru window of a Viking BP Mart while his owner, Jamie Dehart, was picking up an order.

**May 7, 2005/Huntington, West Virginia:** A leashed "pet" monkey who had been taken to a shopping center bit a 13-year-old girl in the parking lot. A woman holding the leash had indicated that the animal was friendly, but when the girl and her father approached to pet the monkey, the monkey jumped on the girl's leg and bit her kneecap and finger. She was treated at a hospital.

**March 18, 2005/Wichita, Kansas:** Alley, a colobus monkey at the Sedgwick County Zoo, escaped from a cage through a small hole in the roof of the netting surrounding her outdoor area. She was tranquilized and returned to the enclosure.

**March 3, 2005/Caliente, California:** Four adult chimpanzees escaped from their cage at Animal Haven Ranch. The two male chimpanzees attacked a couple who were visiting their "pet" chimpanzee at the facility. The woman's thumb was bitten off, and her husband was severely mauled. The chimpanzees bit off his nose, an eye, part of his cheek, lips, most of his fingers, both testicles, and much of the flesh from his buttocks, face, and left foot. According to a medic at the scene, "His face was gone." The chimpanzees who attacked, both former "show biz" chimps raised at Bob Dunn's Animal Services, were shot and killed. The gunfire frightened the two female chimpanzees who ran into the hills and were on the loose for several hours before being recaptured. Three months and a dozen surgeries later, the man was pulled out of a medically induced coma.

**December 9, 2004/Detroit, Michigan:** A student was bitten by a cinnamon ringtail cebus monkey at a wildlife show-and-tell at Wayne State University. The monkey was part of a menagerie brought by Chicago-based Bill Hoffman's Animal Rentals.

**November 26, 2004/Evansville, Indiana:** An ambulance was called to the Hadi Shrine Circus at Roberts Stadium after a circusgoer was bitten on the cheek by a chimpanzee belonging to Zoppe-Rosaire Chimpanzees while posing for pictures. The patron was treated at the hospital for a puncture wound.

**November 12, 2004/Palm Springs, California:** A 16-year-old chimpanzee from Dan Westfall's private menagerie escaped and ran loose in a residential neighborhood, banging on windows and pounding on doors. Police steered him back to Westfall's home.

**November 11, 2004/Houston, Texas:** A pregnant baboon escaped while being loaded onto an airplane at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. She was being shipped to a zoo in the San Francisco area. She climbed into the rafters below a terminal concourse, and airport workers were able to contain her.

**October 14, 2004/Fresno, California:** The Chaffee Zoo evacuated visitors after an orangutan unraveled the netting on a cage and crawled out. She was loose for 10 minutes.

**October 9, 2004/Gentry, Arkansas:** A woman feeding animals at the Wild Wilderness Drive-Thru Safari was bitten by a chimpanzee who reached through the bars of the cage, grabbed her, and bit off much of her hand, including two fingers.

**August 1, 2004/Brooklyn, New York:** A 5-year-old macaque, used as a so-called "service animal," attacked and bit a 2-year-

## Primate Incidents in the United States

old boy being wheeled by his grandparents in a shopping cart at a grocery store.

**July 14, 2004/St. Louis, Missouri:** A zookeeper at the Saint Louis Zoo was taken to the hospital after she was bitten by an orangutan while feeding the animal.

**July 6, 2004/St. Charles, Minnesota:** Two people agreed to undergo a series of rabies shots after they were bitten by a capuchin monkey who escaped from the Staples Safari Zoo during an appearance at the Winona County fairgrounds. The monkey was quarantined for 28 days.

**July 3, 2004/Columbus, Ohio:** Seven gorillas escaped from an enclosure at the Columbus Zoo when a door was accidentally left open. They wandered around the ape house for several hours and were coaxed back into the enclosure.

**May 26, 2004/Rochester, New York:** A baboon at the Seneca Park Zoo escaped from a cage and climbed into nearby trees before he was tranquilized.

**March 18, 2004/Dallas, Texas:** A 300-pound gorilla named Jabari escaped from an enclosure surrounded by a 16-foot concave wall at the Dallas Zoo and attacked four people. A 3-year-old boy was critically injured as a result of multiple bites to his head and chest. The gorilla bit the boy's mother on her legs and threw her and the toddler against the wall. Another woman suffered injuries to her arms when she shielded several children from the gorilla. The fourth injured person was a child who was treated at the scene. Police evacuated 300 people and fatally shot the gorilla after he charged at officers. Some children had reportedly been teasing Jabari before the incident.

**January 19, 2004/Los Angeles, California:** The Los Angeles Zoo evacuated 9,000 visitors after an 80-pound

chimpanzee named Gracie escaped from her enclosure for the fifth time. She was loose for 45 minutes before being tranquilized and recaptured.

**January 8, 2004/Denver, Colorado:** A gorilla named Evelyn escaped from an enclosure at the Denver Zoo and entered the keepers' area, where she spent 45 minutes before being tranquilized. Evelyn was originally from the Los Angeles Zoo and had escaped several times while at that facility.

**December 27, 2003/St. Leonard, Maryland:** A man was taken to the hospital for treatment after being bitten on the thumb by a pigtailed macaque who was being kept as a house "pet."

**October 30, 2003/Savannah, Georgia:** Exhibitor Brian Staples was cited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the escape of a spider monkey at the Georgia Coastal Fair. The monkey ran through the fair midway, a public area, before being recaptured.

**October 19, 2003/Stamford, Connecticut:** A 170-pound "pet" chimpanzee bolted from his owner's sport utility vehicle in a busy downtown street. A dozen police cruisers were called to the scene as the chimpanzee charged officers and the crowds. He was recaptured two hours later.

**September 30, 2003/Miami, Florida:** Thelma, an orangutan held at Miami MetroZoo who was being treated for a small wound, bit a veterinarian's forearm and hand. The veterinarian went to the hospital, where she was listed in stable but serious condition and underwent surgery on her arm.

**September 28, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts:** A gorilla named Little Joe escaped from an enclosure in Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, grabbed a toddler from a



young woman's arms, then threw the child to the ground and jumped on her. Little Joe led more than 50 police officers and zoo staff members on a massive two-hour chase through darkened woods and along a nearby street outside the zoo. He finally collapsed after being shot repeatedly with tranquilizer darts and was returned to the zoo. The toddler required several stitches for a gash in her head. The gorilla also bit a zoo visitor on the back and attempted to attack other zoo staff members who were huddled in fear inside the ticket booth. Little Joe had also escaped during the previous month.

**August 26, 2003/Rochester, New York:**

The Seneca Park Zoo evacuated visitors after a 300-pound orangutan escaped from a cage. During his 15-minute escape, the orangutan picked up a zoo volunteer, carried him into the cage, and then pushed him back out.

**August 13, 2003/Boston, Massachusetts:**

Little Joe, a gorilla at Boston's Franklin Park Zoo, scaled a 20-foot rock wall and escaped from the ape enclosure. He was recaptured 10 minutes later.

**August 8, 2003/Chicago, Illinois:** A "pet" monkey who escaped from her home was chased for much of the day by police and animal control officers before being cornered in a stairwell and captured in a net. An animal control officer was bitten by the monkey during the capture.

**July 27, 2003/Fort Wayne, Indiana:** While trying to feed two spectacled langurs at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, an employee was bitten by one of them. The employee was treated at a hospital and released.

**July 11, 2003/Southborough, Massachusetts:** A squirrel monkey escaped from the New England Primate Research Center and was found 17 days

later having been struck and killed on a road 10 miles away.

**July 2003/Buckhannon, West Virginia:** A lemur escaped from a residence while the owner was out of state. The animal was spotted near West Virginia Wesleyan College, and an animal control officer caught the animal with a noose.

**May 3, 2003/Fountain Hills, Arizona:** A "pet" capuchin monkey broke out of a cage, turned the key on the front door, and took off on a three-day rampage. He was spotted by neighbors in the trees, in garages, and inside several cars.

**April 19, 2003/Green Bay, Wisconsin:** A "pet" capuchin monkey purchased on the Internet escaped when the owner brought him, perched on her shoulder, into a tavern.

**January 9, 2003/Raceland, Louisiana:** Ebi, a capuchin monkey, escaped from a cage when his caretaker was getting food for him. He had been given to this current caretakers by a couple who claimed to have had him for a "pet" for eight years but could no longer keep him because they had children and were concerned for their safety. They said they'd shoot him if the people wouldn't take him. The current caretakers contacted Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary and planned for him to go there. Two volunteers from the center headed to Raceland to help with the search.

**September 20, 2002/Alexandria, Alabama:** Skipper, a 6-year-old black-capped monkey, escaped from a home where he was kept as a "pet."

**September 10, 2002/Northwest Montana:** A "pet" macaque taken to malls bit at least three people. One incident occurred at a restaurant, a second at a fruit stand, and a third at the owner's residence. The monkey was quarantined, and two victims went for medical treatment.



**September 8, 2002/Hillsboro, Oregon:** A female rhesus macaque escaped from the Oregon National Primate Research Center while being transferred between buildings. Police warned area residents not to approach the animal. She was recaptured two days later.

**August 7, 2002/Racine, Minnesota:** A volunteer at BEARCAT Hollow animal park was attacked by a monkey as she entered the cage. The monkey grabbed her hair and bit her on the finger. The volunteer needed five stitches and rabies shots.

**August 4, 2002/Davenport, Iowa:** A monkey with the Texas-based Gerald Eppel's Monkey Business act performing at the Mississippi Valley Fair went berserk and jumped on a woman, hitting her head and biting her as she posed for a photograph. The woman filed a \$5,000 lawsuit against the fair and the animal exhibitor.

**June 23, 2002/Magnolia, Texas:** A "pet" Java macaque attacked and bit a 9-year-old boy and a woman and severely scratched a firefighter, sending all three to the hospital for treatment.

**May 13, 2002/Frankfort, Indiana:** A lemur jumped on and scratched a keeper's arm as she retrieved a food dish from a cage at a petting zoo at the TPA park. The keeper needed seven stitches in her arm, and the monkey was quarantined.

**April 3, 2002/Honolulu, Hawaii:** A Honolulu Zoo employee was attacked by a Siamang gibbon as she cleaned the animal's sleeping area. The woman suffered cuts and bites to both legs and received 45 stitches.

**March 23, 2002/Boynton Beach, Florida:** Jake, a capuchin monkey, was missing for four days after he escaped from his foster family. The family worked for Helping Hands, an organization that breeds and

trains monkeys as helpers for people who need help with tasks such as picking up out-of-reach items. Jake was found in someone's treehouse a mile away.

**March 2002/Thorntown, Indiana:** Rascal, a spider monkey kept as a "pet," escaped. He was spotted by a passerby who called the police. Officers tried to lure him with Girl Scout cookies, but he snatched the box and fled into a wooded area. Three days later, he took shelter in a garage. The owner of the garage contacted authorities, and Rascal was caught.

**January 10, 2002/Knox County, Tennessee:** A "pet" Japanese snow macaque escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a neighbor, biting his back and hand.

**November 23, 2001/Cleveland, Ohio:** A "pet" capuchin monkey who had been taken to a restaurant attacked, bit, and scratched a patron, inflicting 16 puncture wounds. A subsequent lawsuit seeking more than \$25,000 in damages for injuries and anxiety described the monkey as mischievous, ferocious, and/or vicious.

**September 10, 2001/Danville, New Hampshire:** A search party was organized after at least 10 monkey sightings were reported, including by the fire chief. The monkey, believed to be an escaped "pet," was seen running across streets and into bushes and was described as being 8 feet long from his tail to his hands. Experts feared that the monkey would perish if not captured before winter.

**August 18, 2001/London, Kentucky:** An 8-month-old Mandarin monkey on display at a county fair bit a 6-year-old girl. The monkey was killed to be tested for rabies, and the results came back negative.

**July 27, 2001/Martinsburg, West Virginia:** A "pet" monkey kept in a trailer park,

believed to be a rhesus macaque, escaped and bit two children and a teenager. The bite victims underwent testing for herpes, tuberculosis, HIV, and other conditions.

**June 14, 2001/Seattle, Washington:** Woodland Park Zoo officials euthanized a 20-year-old lion-tailed macaque who tested positive for the herpes B virus.

**June 9, 2001/Omaha, Nebraska:** A squirrel monkey roaming freely and mingling with zoo visitors in an exhibit at Henry Doorly Zoo bit a woman's finger, causing an infection, after she offered the animal a cookie.

**June 7, 2001/Los Angeles, California:** A crested capuchin monkey at the Los Angeles Zoo squeezed through a small opening in a cage and was in a public area for about an hour. Patrons had to leave the area until the animal was recaptured.

**May 12, 2001/Lakeland, Florida:** Health officials searched in vain for a woman who brought a "pet" monkey on a leash to a festival after the monkey bit and scratched a man on the arm. The man was treated for herpes B for fear that he might have contracted the deadly virus.

**April 22, 2001/Ventura, California:** According to a Ventura County Animal Bite Record, a 2½-year-old male chimpanzee named Mr. P belonging to Sid Yost's Amazing Animal Actors was ordered to be quarantined for 30 days after lunging at and biting a 12-year-old boy on the left hand.

**April 19, 2001/Jefferson County, Missouri:** Three chimpanzees with Chimparty, a company owned by Connie and Mike Casey that supplies primates for parties and TV commercials, escaped from an unlocked cage. A teenage boy shot and killed one of the chimpanzees.

**February 4, 2001/Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:** A crowd of 250 people cowered for 45 minutes inside a building at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium after a 150-pound female gorilla crossed a moat, scaled a 14-foot wall, and began to wander around the zoo. Zookeepers lured the gorilla into a restroom and tranquilized her.

**January 30, 2001/Las Vegas, Nevada:** A 1-year-old female chimpanzee named C.J., belonging to Monica Riddell's Xotic Stars of Las Vegas, bit a person on the finger during a public exhibition.

**2001/Tupelo, Mississippi:** A capuchin monkey named Oliver escaped and ran amok on the grounds of Tupelo Country Club before being captured and returned to the Tupelo Buffalo Park and Zoo.

**December 2, 2000/Oklahoma City, Oklahoma:** A 5-year-old "pet" capuchin, who was taken on a shopping trip to Home Depot, attacked and bit a teenage shopper on the leg.

**October 11, 2000/Los Angeles, California:** Evelyn, a 300-pound, 24-year-old gorilla, escaped from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. A zookeeper yelled, "Please leave as quickly as possible! There's a serious safety condition here!" Everyone in the zoo was ushered into the parking lot. Evelyn wandered around the zoo for about an hour and 15 minutes.

**September 29, 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A 4-year-old girl required hospital treatment after she was bitten or scratched on the cheek by a monkey who had been brought to a motel.

**September 25, 2000/Maryville, Tennessee:** A girl was treated at a hospital for a bite wound to her arm inflicted by her stepfather's "pet" Japanese snow macaque.

**September 23, 2000/Jarratt, Virginia:**

Three escaped monkeys threw fruit at vehicles traveling the interstate. After police arrived at the scene, the monkeys dashed across the interstate and disappeared into the woods.

**August 29, 2000/Washington, D.C.:**

A 260-pound orangutan, Junior, climbed down a tower at the National Zoo and wandered the zoo grounds for 45 minutes while nearly 100 zoo visitors were herded into buildings. He was shot with a tranquilizer dart and recaptured.

**August 15, 2000/Sprague, West Virginia:**

A “pet” chimpanzee escaped from a cage for three hours, biting a teenager on the hand and biting a neighbor who had tried to restrain the 150-pound animal. The same chimpanzee had escaped in July 1998 and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.

**August 12, 2000/Jessamine County,**

**Kentucky:** A woman who was eight months pregnant was hospitalized after one of her two “pet” rhesus macaques suddenly turned violent while a cage was being cleaned and bit the woman’s nose. The woman was given an anti-viral medication, which was a hazard to her pregnancy, in case the monkey tested positive for herpes B. She had been inspired to purchase “pet” monkeys when, as a child, she saw monkeys riding bicycles in a circus.

**August 8, 2000/San Angelo, Texas:**

A capuchin “went crazy” and bit his owner. The owner shot the monkey seven or eight times, killing him. This is the same monkey who bit a neighbor on January 9, 1998.

**August 3, 2000/Southwest Ranches,**

**Florida:** A “pet” spider monkey escaped from a cage and attacked two teenage girls. The girls were treated at the hospital for scratch and bite wounds to their faces, heads, and arms. The monkey was

captured the next day. The same monkey had attacked a woman six months earlier.

**August 1, 2000/Dover, Wisconsin:**

A “pet” Japanese macaque got loose and attacked two people. The monkey grabbed a neighbor around the waist and inflicted four bite wounds to the leg. Moments later, the monkey bit a postal carrier on the hand. The monkey was captured and killed.

**July 24, 2000/Dallas, Texas:**

A chimpanzee was electrocuted after escaping from a habitat at the Dallas Zoo. She scratched a zookeeper, who required hospital treatment, and climbed a telephone pole. The zookeeper fired at the great ape with a shotgun, and a veterinarian fired a tranquilizer at the animal, causing her to fall. She was electrocuted as she grabbed for a power line.

**July 18, 2000/Jefferson City, Missouri:**

A 7-year-old boy, riding his bicycle, was attacked by a neighbor’s “pet” rhesus macaque, who jumped from a tree and bit the boy’s arm. The child was subjected to a two-month ordeal involving doctors, needles, tests, and the fear of contracting the deadly herpes B virus. The boy later received a \$148,000 settlement from a lawsuit filed by his family.

**July 2000/Los Angeles, California:**

Jim, a 350-pound 12-year-old gorilla, jumped across the 12-foot moat in an exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo. He started to walk toward a group of schoolchildren and was squirted with water to steer him into another enclosure.

**June 1, 2000/Columbia, Maryland:**

An escaped 2½-foot-tall spider monkey chased a woman who had just stepped outside her home and bit her on the thigh, then ran away.

**May 31, 2000/Pensacola, Florida:**

An orangutan at The Zoo escaped from an

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unlocked cage and attacked a zookeeper. The keeper was treated at a hospital for bruises and five bite wounds. The orangutan was lured back to the cage 45 minutes later with food.

**May 2000/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** A monkey bit a boy in a pet store.

**Summer 2000/Chicago, Illinois:** Oliver, a “pet” monkey, emptied perfume bottles onto his hands, flung the contents of a dresser all over the room, and grabbed a knife and ran around with it. At one point, he held a knife while he jumped on his owner’s daughter’s neck. He grabbed a gallon of deck sealant, and when the owner told him to put it down, the animal leapt on him and bit his stomach, making him bleed. Oliver was eventually placed in a sanctuary in Texas.

**April 9, 2000/Franklin, Tennessee:** A chimpanzee named Angel, brought by Sid Yost (also known as Ranger Rick Kelly) to Blockbuster Video for photo ops and to promote a *Critter Gitters* movie, fiercely bit a 9-year-old girl on the hand after posing for a photograph. The girl’s hand swelled and required stitches. Yost left the state before the chimpanzee could be quarantined and was issued a citation for violating Tennessee’s exotic-animal law. Yost failed to show up in court and never paid the fine. The girl’s parents filed a \$50,000 lawsuit against Yost, *Critter Gitters*, and Blockbuster, claiming that the defendants should have been aware of the danger inherent in subjecting Angel to a crowded area with so many children. None of the parties named in the lawsuit offered to pay for medical expenses.

**February 13, 2000/Lansing, Illinois:** A “pet” Java macaque attacked his owner, inflicting 6-inch-deep bites and cuts on her head, arms, and legs and causing her to lose 1½ pints of blood. She underwent three hours of surgery and 12 weeks of physical

therapy. The monkey was killed for rabies tests.

**January 14, 2000/Palm Harbor, Florida:** A “pet” spider monkey escaped from a backyard cage and attacked a dog who was being walked by a neighbor. The dog went into shock and suffered serious artery and tendon damage.

**2000/Jackson County, Missouri:** Mark Archigo’s adult “pet” chimpanzee, Sueko, injured a teenage girl by lifting her by the ankles and tossing her to the ground.

**December 28, 1999/Des Moines, Iowa:** A rhesus macaque found wandering the streets on November 23, 1999, bit an animal control officer.

**December 15, 1999/Rancho Bernardo, California:** An escaped 3-foot-tall spider monkey led police on a two-hour chase, frightened residents, and bit a police officer.

**November 1, 1999/Euless, Texas:** A “pet” capuchin monkey attacked and bit an elderly woman.

**October 4, 1999/Evansville, Indiana:** A child was bitten on his finger by a macaque at Mesker Park Zoo. Two of the zoo’s six macaque monkeys selected at random tested positive for the herpes B virus.

**September 1, 1999/West Covina, California:** A “pet” chimpanzee bit off the fingertip of a woman visiting the owner’s home. This is the same chimpanzee who attacked four people on August 19, 1998.

**August 5, 1999/Bellevue, Nebraska:** A police officer was sent to the hospital after a macaque with a history of biting people bit him on the leg.

**September 1999/Los Angeles, California:** A chimpanzee named Gracie broke out of



an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. This was the third time she had escaped.

**July 31, 1999/Kissimmee, Florida:** A “pet” capuchin escaped and attacked a boy, scratching his leg. The monkey bit one police officer on the leg and pulled the hair of another before he was recaptured.

**June 20, 1999/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** An orangutan at the Philadelphia Zoo escaped from the exhibit he was in and ran loose in the zoo for 25 minutes before he was tranquilized by a veterinarian.

**June 2, 1999/Mesa, Arizona:** A monkey escaped from a residence and lunged at a neighbor. Animal control officers tranquilized and returned the animal to the owner.

**May 11, 1999/Idaho Falls, Idaho:** A woman went to the hospital after a caged “pet” monkey bit her.

**April 15, 1999/Punta Gorda Isles, Florida:** A police officer used a 12-gauge shotgun to shoot and kill a 2-foot-tall rhesus macaque. The monkey had been running loose and acting aggressively toward residents for a month.

**April 1, 1999/Glen Burnie, Maryland:** A 2-year-old bonnet macaque bit a woman on the lip at a tavern, touching off a brawl in which two other people were bitten. Animal control had instances on file in which seven other people had been bitten or scratched by the 9-pound “pet” monkey. The owners ignored animal control orders not to take the monkey out in public. One of the injured parties filed a \$25,000 lawsuit.

**February 27, 1999/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Chip, Happy, and Tammy, chimpanzees at Hogle Zoo, escaped from a cage and attacked two zoo staff members. One employee, who was in serious condition,

was hospitalized for nearly four weeks after one finger, part of a second finger, and part of his nose were bitten off. His left ear was also partially severed, and he suffered severe lacerations on his face, head, arms, and chest. A second employee was treated for cuts and scrapes. Chip and Happy were shot with shotguns by zoo employees and later euthanized. The USDA issued an official warning against the zoo for failure to securely contain primates. The zoo later settled a lawsuit brought by the seriously injured employee.

**January 13, 1999/Hillsborough, Florida:** A “pet” capuchin attacked her owner, biting her 50 times on the hands and legs.

**December 7, 1998/Kansas City, Missouri:** A male orangutan, Joe, used a tire to climb over the wall of an outdoor pen and escape from an exhibit at the Kansas City Zoo. Zoo visitors noticed him after he made his way to the sheep barn. He was tranquilized and recaptured.

**November 28, 1998/Dallas, Texas:** A 340-pound gorilla, Hercules, escaped from an open cage at the Dallas Zoo and attacked a zookeeper, dragging her down a hallway and biting her on her arm and side. Hercules was shot with a tranquilizer dart, and the zookeeper was hospitalized. The USDA fined the zoo \$25,000 for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

**November 1, 1998/Euless, Texas:** A spider monkey bit a student at an elementary school.

**October 4, 1998/Slidell, Louisiana:** An escaped “pet” vervet ran wild in a house, knocking over a lamp and attacking two women, biting one on the arm and slashing the legs of the other with teeth and claws. A police officer who responded to the frantic 911 call was also attacked. The monkey threw a picture frame at him, then jumped

on him and bit him. Both women needed stitches. The monkey was killed.

**August 19, 1998/West Covina, California:**

A “pet” chimpanzee escaped from a cage and went berserk, biting four people and denting a police car with his fists during a three-hour rampage. One officer required three surgeries on his hand at a cost of \$250,000.

**July 6, 1998/Sprague, West Virginia:**

A “pet” chimpanzee escaped from an enclosure and attacked a postal truck, forcing the driver to flee and causing the truck to crash.

**May 1, 1998/Wichita, Kansas:** A macaque bit a child and a teenager at a store during a promotional event.

**April 13, 1998/Atlanta, Georgia:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that four lab workers who handled monkeys had become infected with monkey viruses.

**January 28, 1998/Los Angeles,**

**California:** An employee was bitten by an orangutan at the Los Angeles Zoo. As the keeper stooped down to speak to the animal, she held onto the chain-link fence between them. The orangutan grabbed her finger and bit the tip, which subsequently required amputation.

**January 9, 1998/San Angelo, Texas:** A “pet” capuchin bit a 19-year-old neighbor, who underwent rabies shots.

**January 5, 1998/Madison, Wisconsin:** Henry Vilas Zoo announced that its 150 macaques had been exposed to herpes B. One-third of them were infectious carriers and were considered to pose a public health risk.

**December 28, 1997/Charlotte County, Florida:** A 6-year-old girl visiting Octagon

Exotics was attacked by a caged baboon, who pulled out chunks of her hair and attempted to bite her.

**December 10, 1997/Atlanta, Georgia:** A Yerkes primate researcher died of herpes B after she was splashed in the eye with bodily fluids from a rhesus macaque.

**October 6, 1997/South Barrington, Illinois:** A baboon at a petting zoo bit a 4-year-old girl.

**August 15, 1997/Elburn, Illinois:** A baboon with a traveling zoo scratched a 15-year-old girl’s leg during a parade.

**August 7, 1997/Salt Lake City, Utah:** Tino, a 450-pound male western lowland gorilla, attacked and bit a worker at Utah’s Hogle Zoo. The victim sustained five puncture wounds and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. Tino had gained access to the area where the worker was cleaning.

**August 8, 1997/Hartford, Connecticut:** A “pet” Java macaque got away while being taken for a walk and attacked an elderly neighbor, grabbing her hair and biting her arm.

**July 12, 1997/Glen Burnie, Maryland:** A 6-year-old girl who had been bitten in the face by a “pet” bonnet macaque while at a carnival was treated at a nearby hospital for her wound and received six shots to her face, arms, and legs.

**July 7, 1997/Bridgton, Maine:** State game wardens seized a “pet” squirrel monkey after the animal bit and scratched a woman standing in a supermarket checkout line. This same monkey had bitten a child the previous year. (See the February 1, 1996, entry.)

**June 29, 1997/Bourbonnais, Illinois:** A vervet with a traveling zoo bit a 3-year-old girl’s face at a festival.

**May 27, 1997/Little Rock, Arkansas:** A 375-pound gorilla, Rocky, and a 180-pound gorilla, Tammy, escaped from a cage and entered a work area at the Little Rock Zoo.

**April 24, 1997/Rockwell, North Carolina:** A chimpanzee named Sydney pried back a steel bar on a cage and escaped from the Charlotte Metro Zoo, scaring neighbors as he roamed free for a week. Animal control officers spent 115 hours searching for the great ape. Sydney was finally captured in a neighbor's yard and taken back to the zoo, but as he was being returned to the cage, he broke free and bit a television news camera operator twice on the arm. The bite went through the man's wrist to the bone, severing tendons and damaging nerves; the photographer was permanently injured and suffered excruciating pain for a year.

**March 1, 1997/Houston, Texas:** An 8-year-old capuchin turned on his owner and nearly killed her, severing her thumb and part of her index finger and cutting her legs.

**September 28, 1996/Los Angeles, California:** Actor Elizabeth Hurley reeled back in shock when she was bitten on the ear by a chimpanzee while appearing on Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*.

**September 22, 1996/Palm Beach, Florida:** A pigtailed macaque who tested positive for herpes B bit a 4-year-old girl on the shoulder while he was being taken for a walk. The "pet" monkey had been kissed and held by hundreds of people. Authorities confiscated the animal.

**August 1996/Wichita, Kansas:** Two orangutans escaped from mesh cages at the Sedgwick County Zoo. They returned to the exhibit on their own.

**June 6, 1996/Manorville, New York:** Barney, a 19-year-old chimpanzee, escaped from a cage at the Long Island Game Farm after workers accidentally left one of the

three locks unfastened. He grabbed a child's leg, and a zoo worker hit him with a piece of wood to get him away from the child. The zoo's owner tried to lure him with milk and cookies, but Barney bit him on the head and arms, leaving a 3-inch laceration. The chimpanzee scratched two teachers and was eventually shot and killed. There were 500 children in the zoo at the time.

**May 18, 1996/Staten Island, New York:** Four heavily armed emergency service police officers chased a capuchin monkey through a residential neighborhood for 45 minutes. The monkey escaped, fleeing into woods near the Staten Island mall.

**April 1996/Dahlonega, Georgia:** A zoo visitor was bitten by a lemur after being allowed to enter the enclosure that was holding lemurs at the Chestatee Wildlife Preserve.

**April 6, 1996/Alice, Texas:** Two monkeys imported into a research facility were infected with the deadly Ebola virus. One monkey died, and the other was killed.

**March 24, 1996/Gainesville, Florida:** Residents were warned not to catch, feed, or touch a rhesus macaque who had been exposed to the herpes B virus. The macaque had escaped from a research farm.

**February 28, 1996/Metairie, Louisiana:** A "pet" vervet was impounded after biting an animal control officer during a home inspection. The monkey had earlier scratched the owner's 2-year-old son.

**February 12, 1996/Tulsa, Oklahoma:** Six chimpanzees at the Tulsa Zoo escaped by scaling a wall, forcing an evacuation of the zoo that lasted five hours.

**February 1, 1996/Bridgton, Maine:** A squirrel monkey bit a child during a school demonstration.

**1996/Stamford, Connecticut:** Sandra Herold's "pet" chimpanzee, Travis, bit a woman and tried to pull her into a car. The woman had to get rabies shots.

**November 14, 1995/Acadiana, Louisiana:** A zoo worker at the Zoo of Acadiana was attacked and bitten on the leg by a monkey who escaped during a medical exam. The employee was off work for several days with an infected leg.

**September 8, 1995/Royal Oak, Michigan:** The owner of a 3-year-old spider monkey received 17 stitches in his lower lip after the monkey attacked him.

**July 16, 1995/Los Angeles, California:** A Los Angeles Zoo volunteer was placing popcorn in the monkey exhibit when a monkey mauled her. She sustained lacerations, puncture wounds, and deep cuts, leaving her disfigured and permanently disabled. A lawsuit was filed against the zoo.

**July 1995/Hauppauge, New York:** Two rhesus monkeys, Jennifer and Clyde, escaped from a house where they were illegally kept as "pets." Clyde bit an animal control officer on the arm during an attempt to capture him.

**June 3, 1995/Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania:** An escaped "pet" monkey grabbed a kitchen knife and cigarette lighter, holding police at bay for nearly two hours. The monkey ran through the house and bit two women. Animal control caught the monkey with a snare. The monkey later died in a cage.

**April 10, 1995/Asheboro, North Carolina:** Tammy, a chimpanzee at the North Carolina Zoological Park, escaped from an enclosure that was surrounded by moats and a 12-foot concrete wall. The zoo was evacuated as Tammy walked around for 20 minutes before being coaxed back to the enclosure.

**January 7, 1995/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** A chimpanzee, Reggie, escaped by pulling a wire on a cage at the Baton Rouge Zoo. Reggie was being transferred to another exhibit after he had been attacked and injured by another chimpanzee. He was tranquilized and recaptured.

**January 1, 1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** A "pet" chimpanzee bit a 7-year-old girl, causing her to have to undergo rabies treatment. Authorities had received numerous complaints that the chimpanzee ran loose and had attacked several people.

**1995/Kansas City, Missouri:** Mark Archigo's "pet" chimpanzee, Sueko, was taken into custody by Kansas City animal control officials after they investigated reports that she had bitten humans.

**November 30, 1994/Boca Raton, Florida:** A 5-inch "pet" marmoset, smuggled into a restaurant in a bag, escaped and bit a diner on the ear.

**November 11, 1994/San Francisco, California:** The San Francisco Zoo alerted area residents to be on the watch for an escaped patas monkey.

**Fall of 1994/Festus, Missouri:** A chimpanzee escaped from James Michael "Mike" and Connie Casey's chimpanzee-breeding compound and attacked a dog before entering a home in which four adults and three children were sitting on a couch looking at photos. The chimpanzee grabbed a 2-year-old girl by her ponytail and dragged her across the floor. A man who attempted to retrieve the girl from the chimpanzee resorted to beating the animal on the head with a skillet. The man and the girl were both scratched and bruised and were treated at the hospital.

**August 20, 1994/Covington, Louisiana:** Residents began calling authorities after spotting monkeys near their homes. The



monkeys were among 28 pigtailed macaques who had escaped from the Delta Regional Primate Research Center.

**August 9, 1994/Surprise, Arizona:** A 4-year-old boy developed an eye infection after being bitten and scratched by two macaques. The boy's mother had obtained the monkeys as "pets" three weeks earlier.

**August 2, 1994/Knoxville, Tennessee:** Residents were warned that an escaped "pet" spider monkey might bite. The animal got loose in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**August 2, 1994/New Smyrna Beach, Florida:** Five Japanese macaques donated to Ashby Acres Wildlife Park by the Pittsburgh Zoo were found to be infected with herpes B.

**June 30, 1994/Phoenix, Arizona:** A "pet" Java macaque escaped from a backyard cage and ran throughout a residential neighborhood for 17 hours before he was recaptured.

**May 13, 1994/St. Paul, Minnesota:** Casey, a 400-pound gorilla, scaled a 15-foot concrete wall and wandered around the Como Zoo for 45 minutes while a group of kindergarten students were ushered to safety. Casey was shot with a tranquilizer and returned to the enclosure.

**February 1, 1994/Kansas City, Missouri:** A "pet" chimpanzee jumped on a man and bit him, causing injuries that needed medical treatment.

**July 11, 1993/Rolling Meadows, Illinois:** A leashed guenon grabbed an 11-year-old girl's leg and inflicted three bite wounds that required stitches. Animal control had tried unsuccessfully to confiscate the monkey years earlier after police alleged that the animal had bitten several people.

**July 9, 1993/Niagara, New York:** A man was taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, where he received stitches to close bite wounds from his "pet" patas monkey.

**June 18, 1993/San Diego, California:** An orangutan, Indah, climbed a wall in an enclosure and entered a viewing deck containing about 30 zoo visitors at the San Diego Zoo. Indah was tranquilized and recaptured 30 minutes later.

**May 17, 1993/Seattle, Washington:** A 300-pound orangutan, Towan, escaped from an enclosure at the Woodland Park Zoo and remained in a holding area. He was recaptured nearly two hours later, after being shot with a tranquilizer dart.

**January 21, 1993/Los Angeles, California:** Three chimpanzees, Toto, Bonnie, and Gracie, escaped from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo by scaling a moat using a rope that had been tossed into the enclosure by a visitor. Frightened zoo visitors fled to safety. Two of the chimpanzees were coaxed back into their cage within 45 minutes, and the third was tranquilized and recaptured.

**October 12, 1992/Dripping Springs, Texas:** A 180-pound chimpanzee bent the bars of a cage and escaped from Sunrise Exotic Ranch, a chimpanzee-breeding facility. The animal bit a 15-year-old boy and threw a 77-year-old woman to the ground. Sheriff's deputies and an animal control officer returned the chimpanzee to the ranch. The boy was treated for a bite to the hand at a minor-emergency clinic, and the elderly woman suffered facial injuries.

**September 28, 1992/Bronx, New York:** Kongo, a 500-pound gorilla at the Bronx Zoo, escaped while he was being transferred from one cage to another. He bit one keeper on the thigh and a second on the shoulder. Both keepers required

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hospitalization. The gorilla was tranquilized and dragged back into the cage.

**September 28, 1992/Miami, Florida:** A 400-pound gorilla named Jimmy at the Miami Metrozoo unlatched a lock on a cage, entered a holding area, and harassed and bit a keeper, who required hospital treatment.

**August 24, 1992/Welford, South Carolina:** A 78-year-old woman hanging sheets on a clothesline in her backyard was attacked twice by one of three chimpanzees who had escaped from Hollywild Animal Park. The woman was repeatedly knocked to the ground and rolled around by the 100-pound chimp. She was treated for minor injuries at a medical center.

**July 15, 1992/New York, New York:** A leashed monkey slapped and scratched a subway clerk on the head when a man attempted to bring him into the subway station.

**July 6, 1992/Miami, Florida:** Police warned area residents of rogue rhesus and Java macaques who had bitten a toddler, attacked a police officer, and terrorized a suburban parking lot. One monkey was shot and killed.

**June 22, 1992/San Diego, California:** Mema, a 400-pound gorilla, escaped from an enclosure through a door that had been left open at the San Diego Zoo and roamed free for two and a half hours before he was tranquilized.

**May 8, 1992/Norcross, Georgia:** A 2-year-old squirrel monkey kept in a cage at a pet shop bit a teenager.

**March 23, 1992/Los Angeles, California:** For the second time in three days, chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, Gerrard, and Bonnie used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los

Angeles Zoo. The chimps were recaptured within an hour.

**March 21, 1992/Los Angeles, California:** Chimpanzees Pandora, Tota, Judeo, and Gerrard used a tree limb to escape from an enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo. The zoo was closed for an hour while the chimps were recaptured.

**February 1, 1992/Fashion Island, California:** A man's "pet" monkey bit a woman. The man was accused of trying to sell tiger and lion cubs from the back of a convertible.

**1992/Festus, Missouri:** James Michael "Mike" Casey was attacked by an adult chimpanzee when he entered a cage at his chimpanzee-breeding compound. The chimpanzee grabbed the back of Casey's head, hit him twice on the shoulders, and bit off a good portion of his nose. Casey was treated at a hospital, where his nose had to be reconstructed by grafting part of his forehead onto it.

**December 29, 1991/Baton Rouge, Louisiana:** An 80-pound chimpanzee named Candy escaped from a local amusement park for an hour, disrupted traffic, and injured two people. She was shot with a tranquilizer gun.

**October 24, 1991/Seattle, Washington:** Three frightened Woodland Park Zoo volunteers were trapped for 40 minutes in an exhibit with a 300-pound male orangutan named Towan after he, three female orangutans, and a baby orangutan escaped from a pen. The volunteers escaped, and the five orangutans climbed onto the roof of the exhibit, where they stayed for two hours before being tranquilized and recaptured. Zoo visitors, including 55 children from a local elementary school, were evacuated.

**July 25, 1991/Jefferson, Arkansas:** An animal handler filed a \$100 million claim

against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services because he allegedly contracted a deadly virus when he was scratched by a macaque while working at the National Center for Toxicological Research.

while staff members attempted to recapture her.

**June 26, 1991/Tampa, Florida:** Nearly 100 spectators were evacuated from the Lowry Park Zoo after Rudy, an 80-pound orangutan, scaled the wall of an exhibit, bounded over a ledge, crossed a sidewalk, and climbed to a nearby rooftop during an escape that lasted 10 minutes. Zookeepers coaxed her from the roof.

**June 10, 1991/Little Rock, Arkansas:** At the Little Rock Zoo, two chimpanzees named Kim and Jodie escaped from a cage through an unlocked door. About 800 zoo visitors had to be evacuated from the premises for an hour.

**October 23, 1990/St. Petersburg, Florida:** An escaped “pet” capuchin ran into a neighbor’s home, grabbed food in the kitchen, darted outside, and bit a woman as she grabbed him.

**July 7, 1990/Southeast Portland, Oregon:** Two leashed and collared chimpanzees went out of control during a Circus Gatti performance. They dragged the trainer into the stands and pulled a child from her seat and onto the arena floor, then mauled her.

**June 6, 1990/Kansas City, Missouri:** A 127-pound orangutan named Cheyenne unscrewed four bolts to escape from a cage at the Kansas City Zoo. Visitors screamed as mothers pushed their children in strollers to safety. Cheyenne was tranquilized and taken back to the cage 20 minutes later.

**June 1990/Detroit, Michigan:** A chimpanzee escaped from an exhibit at the Detroit Zoo. Zoo visitors had to be evacuated from the premises for an hour