

H.R. 5534 - Bear Protection Act of 2008
H.R. 2964 - Captive Primate Safety Act
March 11, 2008

Questions for Dr. Sian Evans, DuMond Conservancy

Questions from Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU)

1. Dr. DuMond, thank you for your testimony. In your statement, you noted that your organization makes sure that nonhuman primate owners are willing and able to make a lifelong commitment to the nonhuman primates in their care.

- Can you describe how you can assure this commitment?
- What happens when an owner can no longer care for his or her nonhuman primate pet?

2. You also state that you are not an advocate of primate pet ownership. Can you elaborate more on this point?

3. Is the point that you raise about pet primates being susceptible to human diseases another reason to limit unnecessary additional contact between people and nonhuman primates?

4. Can you further explain the reason why infant macaques need to be removed from their mothers shortly after birth?

5. Of the potential 15,000 pet primates in the United States, do you have an estimate of what percentage are cared for well and in a healthy environment?

6. Are there other possible ways for private owners to get veterinary care if there are no veterinarians in their state of residence? Could veterinarians make house calls?

7. You mention the unnecessary burden that H.R. 2964 places on nonhuman primate owners. Can you think of other ways in which the balance between the burden to responsible owners and the societal burden of irresponsible owners can be better achieved?