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NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

WHEREAS, the nation's sheriffs, the highest constitutional law enforcement officers in many jurisdictions throughout the nation should not be confronted with dangerous non-human primates kept in unsafe and abusive circumstances as domestic pets in the United States; and

WHEREAS, non-human primates are often strong, aggressive, and unpredictable; can inflict severe injuries; and can easily transmit a wide range of viral, bacterial, parasitic, and fungal diseases to humans; and

WHEREAS, non-human primates who are kept in people's homes as domestic pets pose a serious and completely unnecessary risk to public safety, law enforcement, and first responders; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, nearly 300 people have reported being injured by captive non-human primates, although many more incidents likely go unreported; and

WHEREAS, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, animal control officers, and other law enforcement personnel should not be placed in unnecessarily high-risk situations due to private owners' inability to properly control or manage dangerous non-human primates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Sheriffs' Association recognizes that the private ownership of non-human primates in America is a serious public safety problem, fueled by internet sales that cross state lines; and the national scope and character of this problem require the passage of the Captive Primate Safety Act to ensure non-human primates live only in secure facilities that can properly provide for them and do not put the safety of the public, law enforcement, and first responders at risk.