



Owl Monkeys Urgently Need Your Help

November 26, 2007

Dear E-Friends,

IPPL has recently learned of a scandalous case of international trafficking in wild-caught owl monkeys from Peru and Brazil. The animals are being procured by a research laboratory, the Foundation for Experimental Immunology (FIDIC), based in Leticia, Colombia. The lab's director, Colombian scientist Manuel Elkin Patarroyo, has used uncounted hundreds of the animals in his nearly twenty years of research and reportedly has recently gotten permission to procure thousands more.

All owl monkey species are listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which means that they cannot be exported without permits from their countries of origin. However, such permits have not been issued; instead the animals are arriving secretly under cover of night to evade the authorities. Once at the lab, they are doomed to live under horrific conditions.

On 22 November 2007, the Colombian newspaper *Cambio* exposed the unsavory dealings at this laboratory, including documents verifying the illegal nature of the trade and photos taken inside the laboratory showing the cruel conditions there. (Click [here](#) for a link to the original article in Spanish; the complete photo gallery can be accessed by clicking the "Imágenes" link on the right. Click [here](#) for a link to a free online translation service.)

Owl monkeys, also known as night monkeys, consist of a number of species of small, nocturnal primates with huge eyes found only in the Amazonian rainforests. These animals have already been plundered for Patarroyo's illegal trade in research animals. In fact, in 2005 FIDIC veterinarian Lina Maria Pelaez had resigned in protest over "the environmental damage caused by persons without proper training catching owl monkeys indiscriminately."

Please send letters protesting the monkey procurement practices of FIDIC and request that the facility be prohibited from importing owl monkeys from neighboring countries. Also request an investigation of the conditions in which owl monkeys are housed at the FIDIC laboratory. (See list of contacts at right.) Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder/Executive Director



An owl monkey destined for a lab in Colombia.

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