

# ANIMAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA

*"Animals have the right to live their lives free of exploitation,  
abuse and harm inflicted upon them by society."*

November 22, 2005

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Dr. Elizabeth Goldentyre, Regional Director  
USDA-APHIS-AC  
920 Main Campus Dr., Ste. 200  
Raleigh, NC 27606-5210

Dear Dr. Goldentyre:

Please consider this letter an official request on behalf of the 4,000 members of the Animal Rights Foundation of Florida (ARFF) for the USDA to investigate the following incident involving the Miami Metrozoo and Busch Gardens Tampa.

It was reported to us that on November 8<sup>th</sup> Miami Metrozoo transferred three chimpanzees to Busch Gardens in Tampa. The three chimpanzees were transported by truck and were not accompanied by any staff from the Miami Metrozoo. We understand that when one of the chimpanzees, a young 7-year-old male, arrived at Busch Gardens he was not moving and had a high temperature. Busch Gardens made the decision to euthanize the chimpanzee and a necropsy was reportedly inconclusive.

We believe that the tragic death of this young chimpanzee can likely be attributed to the manner with which he was transported. An investigation of this incident is likely to prove that the young chimpanzee, trapped in an overheated truck and helpless to escape the suffocating heat, suffered cruel mistreatment and neglect, and that charges and penalties should be pursued.

We respectfully request that the USDA immediately investigate this incident. May we please be advised of your agency's actions? I can be reached at 954-727-2733 ext. 241.

Sincerely,

Holly Bowman  
Captive Exotic Animal Specialist