

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

The Honourable Arkhom Termpittayapaisith
Minister of Finance

01 March 2023

Via e-mail: info@mof.go.th; saraban@mof.go.th

Dear Minister:

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). As I'm sure you know, Thai coconut prices are declining. Farmers have reported that the price has dropped to as low as 5 baht per coconut, which is not even enough to cover their costs. It's no coincidence that this drop comes after *multiple* PETA investigations, which have revealed horrific cruelty to monkeys who are forced to pick coconuts. Retailers and consumers are refusing to stock or buy Thai coconut products as long as the industry exploits these animals. For the sake of coconut growers as well as monkeys, the Thai government must take decisive action to get these vulnerable animals out of the coconut industry.

PETA's first [two investigations](#) revealed that monkeys are torn away from their families, sent to abusive "monkey schools", and chained by the neck. In addition, their teeth are yanked out if they try to defend themselves. Our [latest investigation](#) showed that monkey labour is as entrenched as ever in this industry. With no reliable audit system in place, brokers admitted to PETA that some coconut companies simply *lie* about their use of monkeys. In light of this fact, retailers and shoppers are rightfully dubious about Thailand's coconut products and many more companies are now obtaining coconuts from other nations.

PETA continues to receive many enquiries about this issue from concerned retailers. We contacted the Department of Agriculture and the Department of International Trade Promotion to obtain information on the government's new GAP Monkey Free Plus initiative and the specific steps that will be taken to ensure that monkeys won't be used to pick coconuts for exportation. However, we received no reply and could not provide companies with the assurance they were seeking.

The only way to guarantee that monkeys aren't being exploited – and to restore the reputation and value of Thailand's coconut industry – is for the Thai government to remove all monkeys from the industry and to close down the remaining monkey-training schools. As long as Thai coconut farmers are permitted to own and use monkeys for labour and monkey-training schools continue to operate, forced monkey labour will remain an ugly stain on the nation's coconut industry.

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We'd be glad to discuss this important issue with you and to offer support in retiring the monkeys to reputable sanctuaries. I look forward to hearing from you so that we can update our many members and supporters about your commitment to ending the exploitation of monkeys for coconut products.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Baker
Senior Vice President
PETA