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Dear Air France-KLM and Patton Boggs, LLP:

Air France-KLM is the only major European carrier to still ship primates for research. As their advocate, Patton Boggs facilitates global trade and transportation issues for the airlines.

I ask both companies to acknowledge worldwide objection to primate "cargo." Please consider that 80 percent of responders to a 2010 European Directive about animal research oppose experiments on primates. In the U.S., an Institute Of Medicine report has fueled potential passage of a bill to ban most research on chimps and great apes.

Primate data can rarely be replicated or used reliably in drug/vaccine development. Primates fail to produce clinical symptoms relevant to human disease processes — and even mislead experimenters with false conclusions. Conversely, human-focused systems such as bioinformatics, in-vitro cell/tissue culture analysis, life-like simulators, etc. better evaluate products and treatment for *people*.

Why should you care? Because Air France and Patton Boggs are conduits to profound animal cruelty.

Primates are trapped in trees and stuffed into mesh sacks. They shriek and claw when taken from native forests. Some are warehoused on breeding farms. To reach research labs, they are crated and trucked for miles. Most wind up in the extreme heat or cold of a plane's poorly ventilated cargo hold, for flights that can last up to 60 hours.

They enter a world bound by metal bars, pain and fear. Primates are induced with human disease and injury. Experimenters poison, overdose and mutilate monkeys. Electrodes are lodged in exposed brain matter. Seizures are stimulated. Limbs removed...

Still, we are no closer to cures for infectious disease, AIDS, neurological disease (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's), and other ailments studied in primates.

Some 85 vaccines to cure or prevent HIV infection looked successful in animals, mostly monkeys, according to Dr. John Pippin, a former Harvard University medical professor who testified before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Institute of Medicine in 2005. Those vaccines, tested in clinical trials, all failed. In 2012, a Colombia court denied permits for renowned malaria researcher Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo to trap 4,000 night monkeys. After decades of primate research at Patarroyo's Institute of Immunology Foundation of Colombia, a malaria cure is nowhere in sight.

I respectfully ask Air France to join Delta, American, Virgin Atlantic, US Airways, British Airways, Lufthansa, Air China, Cathay Pacific, Air India, El Al Airlines...and most big flight companies that reject primate cargo. I urge Patton Boggs to distance itself from the airlines until it officially bans primate transfer for research.

This is a matter of worldwide concern. Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,