YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

Primates as pets
and speak for and against banning the keeping of them as pets

This brief has been produced as part of the RSPCA’s Animal Welfare: The Great Debate and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.

- Primates is the overarching term for a range of species including monkeys, apes and lemurs.
- In the UK if you want to keep certain types of primates you have to have a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals (DWA) Act 1976. However, there are primates that can be kept and bred without a licence.

FOR
Here are some points in favour of a ban – what other points can you find?
- Primates are wild animals and have complex needs that cannot be met in a home.
- Primates’ welfare cannot be met as they suffer from social isolation and poor diet.
- As primates are wild animals, local vets may not be able to treat them for their specialist needs.

AGAINST
Here are some reasons why a ban is not needed – can you find any more?
- The Animal Welfare Act prevents owners causing suffering, so a ban is unnecessary.
- Primates can be kept extremely well by trained owners with the correct facilities.
- As is the case with all animals kept as pets, it is the duty of the owner to find out what their animal needs.

Information you may want to find out
- How many primates are there being kept as pets? Where do people buy primates from?
- Where can primates owners go to get advice and is there a vets near you that could treat a primate?
- What are the needs of a wild animal, how do they differ to dogs and cats, and how could primates suffer if their needs are not met?

Potential sources of information
- RSPCA website: [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)
- Political Animal website: [www.politicalanimal.org.uk](http://www.politicalanimal.org.uk)
- RSPCA facts and figures: [http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts](http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts)
- Wild Futures: [www.wildfutures.org](http://www.wildfutures.org)