



Dangerous incidents involving marmosets kept or used as pets, 2006-2025	
Incident Details	Source
<b>April 4, 2025/Bellevue, Wisconsin:</b> Police served a search warrant and impounded and seized an illegally-kept pet marmoset from a private residence in response to an anonymous report. The monkey was caged in the basement and reportedly uncared for. The animal was taken to a local accredited facility to be held and provided care pending the outcome of the case. The marmoset was ultimately placed at an accredited sanctuary in Texas.	Village of Bellevue, Notice of Animal Impoundment, April 4, 2025.  Humane World for Animals, Internal Correspondence, April 30, 2025.
<b>December 12, 2024/Henderson, Nevada:</b> Henderson Animal Control seized an illegally-possessed three-year-old marmoset monkey from a private owner after the animal bit the owner's family member. The person sought medical care and the hospital reported the bite to animal control. The monkey's owner reported that they bought the marmoset as a baby in Florida, traveled across the country with him, and had never taken him to a vet. The animal was placed at the Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation sanctuary in Texas.	Email, City of Henderson, Nevada, December 6 - 12, 2024.
<b>October 8, 2024/Keezletown, Virginia:</b> A pet marmoset bit a person. The same marmoset bit another person five days earlier. (See October 3, 2024/Keezletown, Virginia.)	Virginia Department of Health Rabies Investigation Incident Report, ECS-39908, October 8, 2024.
<b>October 3, 2024/Keezletown, Virginia:</b> A pet marmoset monkey bit a person's ear. Animal control and the Virginia Department of Public Health responded to the incident. The same marmoset bit another person five days later. (See October 8, 2024/Keezletown, Virginia.)	Virginia Department of Health Rabies Investigation Incident Report, ECS-39903, October 8, 2024.
<b>August 5, 2024/Harrisonburg, Virginia:</b> A pet marmoset monkey bit a customer at a grocery store. The animal, brought to the store by their owner, jumped on shopping carts and climbed on the customer's cart. As the owner introduced the monkey, the animal climbed on the customer and bit her. The owner claimed that the marmoset was a support animal who was housed indoors.	Virginia Department of Health Rabies Investigation Incident Report, ECS-39701, August 5 - 8, 2024.  Virginia Department of Health email records, August 6, 2024.
<b>July 1, 2024/Old Saybrook, Connecticut:</b> An Old Saybrook resident discovered an apparently escaped, privately owned	Tina Detelj and Tim Rizzo, "Caught Old Saybrook monkey highlights

<p>marmoset in their shed. The monkey's owner came forward and helped the Department of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection recapture the animal, who was seized by authorities as they investigated the apparent unlawful possession.</p>	<p>dangers of owning exotic pets in state, WTNH, July 2, 2024.</p> <p>Juliana Lepore, "Monkey found in Old Saybrook backyard," WTNH, July 1, 2024.</p>
<p><b>January 20, 2024/California:</b> The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Wildlife Confiscations Network, and the Oakland Zoo seized a female marmoset being kept illegally at a private residence in southern California. The owner was arrested on charges unrelated to having the marmoset. The Oakland Zoo's veterinary staff found evidence of a pre-existing fracture in her left arm, likely due to trauma experienced while being kept in a birdcage by her owners. The bones had healed out of alignment, which can impact her movement. The Oakland Zoo planned to transfer the marmoset to Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation in Texas following quarantine.</p>	<p>"Oakland Zoo Provides Care for Seized Marmoset Monkey," Oakland Zoo news release, February 6, 2024.</p>
<p><b>October 1, 2023/Fredericksburg, Virginia:</b> A marmoset monkey bit a member of the public in a public space while the owner was present. The monkey climbed up the person's body and caused an undisclosed injury near the person's neck. Spotsylvania Animal Control responded and searched the area, but the monkey was not captured, and the owner was not identified.</p>	<p>Virginia Department of Health Rabies Investigation Incident Report, ER-18806, October 2, 2023.</p>
<p><b>July 7, 2023/Homestead, Florida:</b> Local police arrested a woman who allegedly stole a five-week-old marmoset from Robert's Pet Shop. Surveillance footage appeared to show the woman stuffing the infant monkey into a bag before leaving the store. The marmoset was reportedly valued at around \$7,000, and the woman was charged with three counts of grand theft in relation to this and other alleged crimes.</p>	<p>Thomas Kika, "Woman arrested after baby monkey stolen from Florida pet store," Newsweek, July 11, 2023.</p>
<p><b>April 2023/Pendleton County, Kentucky:</b> A child was bitten on her finger by a marmoset who was illegally kept as a pet in her babysitter's home. The incident went unreported for at least two weeks, reportedly because the babysitter convinced the child to tell her guardians that the animal died. Once reported to the child's physician, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife seized the animal, who was later euthanized for rabies testing.</p>	<p>Felicia Jordan, "Woman faces charges after her monkey bit a child in Pendleton County," ABC 9 Cincinnati, May 23, 2023.</p> <p>Betsy Smith, "Monkey bites 14-year-old girl," Grant County News, June 1, 2023.</p>
<p><b>July 13, 2021/Memphis, Tennessee:</b> A woman left her pet marmoset in her car while she went shopping. The marmoset escaped through a car window that was left slightly open. The</p>	<p>Melissa Moon, "Totally bananas: Missing monkey found inside</p>

marmoset entered a clothing store through a back door that had been left open and was captured the next day.	Memphis clothing store," WREG, July 14, 2021.
<b>June 23, 2021/Sevierville, Tennessee:</b> Two people from Indiana were charged with animal cruelty after police, responding to a call, discovered a dead 9-week-old marmoset and a distressed 5-week-old marmoset inside a hot car in a parking lot at a waterpark. The outside temperature was 87 degrees. The surviving marmoset was very dehydrated and taken to an animal hospital.	Hannah Moore, "Pair charged with animal cruelty after Sevierville Police find dead monkey in car," WATE, June 24, 2021.
<b>May 25, 2019/Charleston, West Virginia:</b> A marmoset monkey escaped from a woman who had just purchased him. The monkey ran across a mall parking lot and into a tree where he stayed for two hours before being recaptured by a man who remarked that, pound-for-pound, the marmoset was the strongest animal he had handled during the 21 years his wildlife removal company had been in business.	"Monkey pulled from tree in Kanawha City," WCHS/WVAH, May 25, 2019.
<b>June 7, 2018/Spartanburg, South Carolina:</b> A pet marmoset monkey was on the loose overnight after escaping from the cab of her owner's pickup truck while it was parked in front of a restaurant. Police and animal control officials warned the public not to approach or attempt to capture the monkey who they said was scared and may try to enter houses or vehicles. The marmoset was found in a tree and recovered by her owner.	"7News crew helps save pet monkey in Spartanburg," WSPA, June 8, 2018.
<b>March 24, 2017/North Coventry Township, Pennsylvania:</b> Officials confiscated a marmoset monkey during a bust of a large marijuana growing operation that was run by individuals who were part of an organized criminal network.	Jim Melwert and Alexadria Hoff, "Marijuana plants, pet monkey seized after police bust Cubans' grow operation," CBS, March 28, 2017.
<b>January 24, 2017/Wichita, Kansas:</b> A pet marmoset escaped from a student at Wichita State University as the man was taking her to his car. The tiny primate was outdoors overnight and found early the next day by a university employee. She was unresponsive, taken inside to warm up, and then transported to a veterinarian where she died.	Andrew Linnabary, "Monkey owner: 'It was the first and last time she escaped'," <i>The Sunflower</i> , January 25, 2017.
<b>May 4, 2016/Burien, Washington:</b> A man driving 112 mph crashed his car into a rock in someone's yard and ran from the scene, but then returned to get his pet marmoset from the car. The man was arrested, but police officers could not handle the marmoset and had to call the man's mother to retrieve the primate.	"Man going 112 mph fled crash with pet monkey, police say," AP, May 5, 2016.
<b>December 2, 2015/San Diego, California:</b> A pet marmoset monkey escaped through a hole in a window screen and was	Delinda Lombardo, "So, this monkey walks into a grocery store," San Diego Reader, December 3, 2015.

on the loose for several hours during which time he ran into a grocery store and jumped on people's shoulders.	
<b>August 8, 2015/Bryant, Arkansas:</b> A Target employee was bitten by a pet marmoset whose owner brought the animal to the store's Back to School Blitz. Social media helped Animal Control to locate the owner and sheriff's deputies were sent to contact her. The marmoset was impounded and quarantined.	"Monkey quarantined after biting worker at Bryant Target," KTHV, August 12, 2015.
<b>August 18, 2015/Prescott, Arizona:</b> A four-day-old baby was attacked by his/her grandmother's pet marmoset monkey when the animal ran from its cage, across the house, and jumped up to the baby, who was being held by his/her father. The marmoset scratched and bit the infant's face, leaving scratches on the forehead and at least one bite that split open one of the baby's nostrils. The infant was taken to a hospital and then flown to Phoenix Children's Hospital. Animal control took the marmoset to a roadside zoo to be quarantined and tested for diseases. At the zoo, the marmoset bit an employee who attempted to put the animal in a carrier to take it to a veterinarian. The marmoset ran up the man's arm and bit him in the ear. The employee sought medical attention for the bite and the marmoset was subjected to an additional 14-day quarantine.	The State of Arizona, Game and Fish Department, "Response to records request for primate incidents; Results of the investigation/narrative," February 5, 2016.
<b>February 7, 2014/Waterbury, Connecticut:</b> A woman was arrested after her 10-year-old daughter revealed to school officials that the bite and scratch wounds on her forehead were caused by her mother's pet marmoset. The woman was charged with risk of injury to a child and illegal possession of a wild animal. The monkey was placed under quarantine at the Beardsley Zoo.	Kelly Glista, "Waterbury Woman Charged With Keeping Illegal Pet Monkey," <i>Hartford Courant</i> , February 7, 2014. Jonathan Shugarts, "Naughty monkey is also illegal; Mom charged after girl, 10, injured by pet," <i>Republican-American</i> , February 7, 2014.
<b>August 3, 2013/Palm Desert, California:</b> Sheriff's deputies confiscated a 2-year-old marmoset monkey who was discovered when the officers executed a search warrant of a home.	"Marmoset monkey found at alleged Thousand Palms drug house," <i>Palm Desert Patch</i> , August 3, 2013.
<b>June 4, 2013/Weaverville, North Carolina:</b> Animal services deputies following up on a complaint at a residence discovered a marmoset monkey, two kinkajous, and dozens of domestic animals living in filthy conditions and with undrinkable water. The monkey appeared to be sick and was losing hair.	"Deputies investigate exotic pets at Buncombe residence," <i>Citizen-Times</i> , June 28, 2013.
<b>August 8, 2012/Fort Lauderdale, Florida:</b> A paramedic was bitten by a pet marmoset monkey belonging to a man who	Alexandra Seltzer, "Martin County man forced to have his pet monkey

crashed a motorcycle while riding with the monkey in a travel bag. The monkey bit the paramedic on the knuckle, causing a small puncture wound and requiring the man to get a tetanus shot.	killed after it attacks," <i>Palm Beach Post</i> , August 23, 2012.
<b>May 6, 2012/Asheville, North Carolina:</b> Three people were bitten by a pet marmoset monkey who escaped from a home and into the surrounding neighborhood. According to a witness, the monkey "freaked out" and started jumping on and biting people. One woman was bitten on both ears, her daughter was bitten on the finger, and another person was also bitten on the ears. Two of the victims were treated with antibiotics to avoid infection. By the time animal control and police officers arrived at the scene, the monkey had been recaptured by her owner, but a search of the house uncovered marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms, hashish and ecstasy and led to a man who lived at the home being charged with several drug violations. The monkey was euthanized to be tested for rabies.	"Monkey that bit 3 will be euthanized," WLOS, May 7, 2012. Sabian Warren, "Roving Asheville monkey leads to drug charges against owner," <i>Citizen-Times</i> , May 8, 2012. Casey Vaughn, Aaron Barker, Adrian Acosta, "Monkey euthanized after biting 3 people," WECT, May 7, 2012.
<b>May 4, 2012/Chattanooga, Tennessee:</b> Police and animal control were called to capture an escaped pet marmoset after receiving calls from neighbors that a monkey was on the loose.	Matt Barbour, "McKamey Officer: 'We have the monkey in a trap'," WRCB, May 4, 2012.
<b>November 25, 2009/Hollywood, Florida:</b> A pet marmoset monkey who disappeared as his owner prepared to move from Hollywood to Fort Lauderdale was recovered by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers two days later. The monkey's owner claimed that a man who had seen the marmoset when he took him to visit residents at a local retirement home had trapped and sold the animal.	Juan Ortega and Joel Marino, "Monkey that disappeared found in Pembroke Pines," <i>Sun-Sentinel</i> , November 28, 2009.
<b>June 27, 2006/East Palo Alto, California:</b> A citizen called the Peninsula Humane Society when she spotted a tufted-eared marmoset monkey running along her back fence. The primate was captured by the agency's officers and, at the request of the Department of Fish and Game, was held at the shelter for nearly three months before he was transferred to a Florida primate sanctuary.	"Formerly stray marmoset enjoying new home in Florida sanctuary," Peninsula Humane Society news release, October 26, 2006.