

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement on Pennsylvania Truck Accident Involving Monkeys Being Transported for Health Research

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Last weekend's truck crash in Pennsylvania, which sadly resulted in the deaths of three research monkeys, continues to receive widespread media attention across the United States and beyond. Following Friday's accident, questions, concerns and even conspiracy theories have begun circulating.

Because this unfortunate incident continues to raise questions and generate news coverage, [Americans for Medical Progress](https://www.amprogress.org), a nonprofit organization which supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals, wishes to provide some helpful information and context. Below is a statement from our organization.

Americans for Medical Progress Statement

Last weekend's truck crash in Pennsylvania, which sadly resulted in the deaths of three research monkeys, has naturally received widespread media attention. It's also unsurprising that those opposed to animal research - even though it benefits both humans and animals alike - have quickly sought to capitalize off the situation. Some animal rights groups have even made inflated claims about the dangers posed to local residents, including a caring motorist who sought to provide assistance at the accident scene.

Our organization has consulted with veterinary experts. In doing so, we have learned that while monkeys can carry a small number of naturally occurring diseases, the risks in this case were likely very minimal. Only a handful of people approached the animals. Nobody appears to have been bitten or scratched. Furthermore, stories that a member of the public became ill after the accident are apparently untrue. As the motorist in question explained to a [local reporter](#): "I want people to know that I'm not sick despite what they read in the media." She is wisely following the advice of federal health experts and is receiving preventative treatment as a precautionary measure.

Additionally, as unfortunate as this accident was, we must not lose sight of the simple fact that health studies in animals - including monkeys - are a critical and necessary part of the research process. They allow for new treatments and cures. For example, all of the COVID-19 vaccines were developed and tested in animals. This is a well-documented, provable fact. Simply put, we would not be able to effectively combat the current pandemic - or countless other diseases that threaten human and animal health - without animal studies.

About Americans for Medical Progress

[Americans for Medical Progress](#) (AMP) is a nonprofit, health research advocacy group that supports the advancement of human and animal medicine through responsible and highly regulated research in animals. AMP informs the public about animal-based research through outreach events like [Biomedical Research Awareness Day](#), news and opinion articles, social media interactions and various online and printed publications. AMP is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charity supported by the nation's top universities, private research facilities, research-related businesses, scientific and professional societies, as well as by foundation grants and contributions by individuals. AMP's Board of Directors is composed of physicians, researchers, veterinarians and university officials.

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