

“MONKEY BUSINESS”
Letter to Ann Landers

6 January, 2000

Dear Ann Landers:

Your warnings against keeping monkeys as pets are well founded. As a trauma surgeon I have seen several of these injuries! They can be very nasty injuries. Monkeys have longer canine teeth than those of some predators!

Many years ago, far from here, in another city, I went to the Hospital Emergency Room to see a man with multiple monkey bites. I was surprised to see a well known local Attorney sitting there on a gurney. He was completely naked. He had small chunks of flesh missing from several parts of his body! Ripped extensor tendons hung down from the back of both hands like strands of spaghetti!

I found out that the Attorney's mistress had a pet monkey that would become insanely jealous whenever the two lovers were together. It would rattle its cage and scream! The lovers liked to tease the monkey with their behavior. It was a real “turn on” for them! It seemed that the monkey was carefully planning its revenge!

On that fateful day, the monkey somehow unlocked both locks on its cage and viciously attacked the man. When he tried to hit the monkey with his fists, it easily dodged the blows, then bit his fists, ripping out the tendons, before he could even pull back his fists!

Later, while waiting for the hand surgeon, I heard the man behind the curtain trying to explain to his wife how his “client's” monkey was able to inflict two deep bites in his gluteal area without damaging his trousers or his underwear!

Signed:

Paul M. Riley, MD, FACS

PS: An edited version of this story appeared in several different newspapers.