

The Monkey Selfie

reading

Have you been on safari? Do you go to the zoo often?

Have you ever taken photos of wild animals? If so, what did you do with the photos?

Why do you think this photo has been at the centre of a legal battle?



Read the first part of the article and check your ideas.

Monkey selfie case: British photographer settles with animal charity over royalties dispute

The long-running legal battle over who owns the royalties to the famous “monkey selfie” has been settled.

How do you think the case was settled?

Put the following events in the order you think they happened. Then read the article to check your ideas.

- __ David Slater complained that they hadn't asked him for permission, but Wikipedia claimed the monkey held the copyright.
- __ The court ruled that animals cannot own copyright.
- __ One of the monkeys took a selfie using the camera on the tripod.
- __ PETA sued David Slater on behalf of the monkey.
- __ David Slater travelled to Indonesia to take photos of macaques.
- __ They reached an agreement and settled out of court.
- __ Wikipedia published the photo, which became famous.
- __ He considered giving up wildlife photography because of the legal bills.



David Slater, the photographer whose camera was commandeered by a crested black macaque, has agreed to donate 25 per cent of the royalties generated by the photos to animal charities dedicated to protecting the monkeys' natural habitat.

The agreement brings to an end a dispute which originated in 2011 when Mr Slater travelled to Sulawesi, Indonesia, and spent a week

taking pictures of macaques.

At one point he mounted the camera on a tripod and one of the monkeys started pressing the shutter button.

The popularity of the pictures triggered legal action after Mr Slater asked Wikipedia to take down one of the pictures which it had published without his permission.

Wikipedia refused, claiming the copyright

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belonged to the monkey.

Then despite the US Copyright Office ruling that animals could not own copyright, an American charity, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), entered the fray.

It sued Mr Slater in 2015, arguing that the copyright belonged to one of the macaques, Naruto.

In a bizarre hearing in San Francisco, lawyers argued not only whether a monkey could claim copyright but whether Naruto was even the correct monkey.

Mr Slater, who said he made around £100 every few months from image sales of the grinning monkey, was confronted with legal bills running into thousands of pounds.

Facing financial ruin he even considered giving up wildlife photography and becoming a tennis coach or dog walker instead.

Finally, agreement has been reached.

In a joint statement, Peta and Mr Slater said that the case raised "cutting edge issues" about the legal rights of animals.



"We must recognise appropriate fundamental legal rights for them as our fellow global occupants and members of their own nations who want only to live their lives and be with their families."

Lawyers for the group and Mr Slater asked the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals to

dismiss the case and throw out a lower court decision that said animals cannot own copyrights.

Mr Slater had argued that his company, Wildlife Personalities Ltd, owns worldwide commercial rights to the photos, including the now-famous selfie of the monkey's toothy grin.

US District Judge William Orrick said in a ruling in favour of Mr Slater last year that "while Congress and the president can extend the protection of law to animals as well as humans, there is no indication that they did so in the Copyright Act." The 9th Circuit was considering Peta's appeal.

The lawyers notified the appeals court on August 4 that they were nearing a settlement and asked the judges not to rule. A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit heard oral arguments in the case in July.

Do you think the settlement was a good one? Why do you think PETA took up the case? What rights should animals have?

Make a list of legal terminology in the article.

Match words from your list to these definitions:

_____ a legal proceeding at which people can make their arguments and present evidence

_____ a decision made by a judge

_____ payment made to someone for the use of their ideas, words or photos



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- _____ someone whose job is to give advice to people about the law and speak for them in court
- _____ a set of circumstances under investigation or being examined in court
- _____ a request made to a court to reverse a previous decision
- _____ the legal power to do something
- _____ the legal right to control the production and selling of a book, play, film, photograph or piece of music
- _____ a person appointed to decide cases in a legal court
- _____ start legal proceedings against someone

⑦ Complete the following sentences with the above words:

- 1 The Walt Disney Company has the _____ for Mickey Mouse.
- 2 They were marching to raise awareness of women's _____.
- 3 The city agreed to hold a public _____ to discuss the traffic problems.
- 4 The accused broke down in tears when he heard the _____ of the court.
- 5 The _____ decided to give the criminal three years in jail.
- 6 New evidence was found so the _____ was re-opened.
- 7 The _____ argued that the accused had no alibi.
- 8 The author was paid _____ for her book.
- 9 The celebrity wanted to _____ the newspaper for printing the photo.
- 10 It is common practice to launch an _____ against a harsh punishment.

⑧ Look at the following extract from the article:

The Telegraph

September 2017

At one point he mounted the camera on a **tripod**...

⑨ A tripod is a three-legged stand for a camera. The prefix **tri** means three.

⑩ There are other prefixes in English which relate to numbers. Complete the gaps with the appropriate prefixes to make the words defined.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| _____ruple | one of four babies born at the same time from the same mother |
| _____annual | occurring twice a year |
| _____cycle | a bike with one wheel |
| _____enarian | someone who is 100 years old |
| _____tone | (of a voice or other sound) unchanging in pitch; without intonation |
| _____logy | a group of three related novels, plays, films, etc. |
| _____circle | anything having or arranged in the form of a half of a circle |



⑪ What other words can you make with the prefixes above.