



## **No 'family' reunion for Ikea monkey during court fight, judge rules**

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Published Friday, Feb. 1, 2013 6:26AM EST

Last Updated Friday, Feb. 1, 2013 12:31PM EST

Darwin the "Ikea monkey" will stay right where he is until a trial is held in the spring that will decide who rightfully owns him, a Superior Court judge in Oshawa has ruled.

Darwin, a Japanese macaque monkey, has been living at an animal sanctuary northeast of Toronto since early December, when he was found running loose in an Ikea parking lot wearing a tiny shearling coat.

His former owner, Yasmin Nakhuda, who refers to herself as the monkey's "mom," wanted him returned to her while the trial is held. Nakhuda argued that if she were to be awarded custody after the trial, the long separation would damage her bond with the little primate.

Her lawyer, Ted Charney, insists Toronto animal services tricked Nakhuda into signing a form surrendering ownership of the monkey after the Ikea incident.

But the Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary has responded with accusations that Nakhuda abused the monkey while he was in her care and couldn't control his biting. Those allegations have not been proven in court.

The sanctuary's lawyer also argued that a wild animal is no longer the property of a human if it escapes and returns to the wild. That's what Darwin was trying to do when it escaped Nakhuda's car at the Ikea, the lawyer argued.