

Fate of Ikea monkey in hands of judge

The Canadian Press Jun 12, 2013



Darwin, the monkey, was found in an Ikea parking lot in Dec. 2012. Photo courtesy of: @broniewyn/Twitter

OSHAWA, Ont. – The fate of the Ikea monkey is in the hands of an Ontario judge who will weigh whether the monkey is a wild animal or a pet mistakenly given away.

The lawyer for a woman who calls herself the monkey’s “mom” argues that Darwin, who was found in an Ikea parking lot wearing a coat and a diaper, is clearly a domesticated pet.

Yasmin Nakhuda is suing Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary, where the monkey has been held since animal services scooped him up at the Ikea in December.

Her lawyer argues that Toronto Animal Services unlawfully held Darwin when they refused to give him back, since they had no power to do so under the city’s bylaw.

But the sanctuary’s lawyer said it’s a legal wild animal principle that applies before the bylaw.

It dictates that a person only owns a wild animal as long as they possess it, so he says Nakhuda no longer owned Darwin the minute he escaped from her car.

The judge reserved her decision but hasn’t said when she’ll make her ruling.