

The Province

Owner of Ikea monkey will fight to get him back Woman files motion in Ontario court for Darwin's return

BY LINDA NGUYEN, THE CANADIAN PRESS DECEMBER 16, 2012



A monkey named Darwin wearing a winter coat was found at an Ikea in Toronto last Sunday. Darwin's owner -- Yasmin Nakhuda -- is now fighting to get him back after the primate was seized by animal control authorities.

Photograph by: The Canadian Press, The Canadian Press

The owner of a monkey who was found in a Toronto Ikea parking lot last weekend is going to court to get him back.

Yasmin Nakhuda has filed a motion with the Ontario Superior Court to have the Japanese macaque monkey named Darwin returned to her.

In a sworn affidavit, Nakhuda argues that the tiny primate was illegally taken from her and moved to the Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont., where he now lives.

She says Darwin considers her to be his mother and had been living with her, her husband and two children in their Toronto home since July.

Last weekend, the seven-month-old monkey captured worldwide attention after he somehow let himself out of a parked car and ambled around the Ikea parking lot dressed in a fitted shear-ling coat.

He was eventually captured by animal control officers, who fined Nakhuda \$240 for breaking the city's prohibited-animal bylaw.

In the documents, Nakhuda says she and her husband Samar were not permitted even to see Darwin when they went to get him at Toronto Animal Services later that day.

She says she was distraught and tricked into surrendering the animal to Animal Services, after they allegedly threatened her with criminal charges and told her she would never be able to see the monkey again.

An officer also allegedly told her she needed to sign the animal over so they could test it for diseases.

Nakhuda's motion will be heard Thursday in Oshawa, Ont.