



**First Grade  
International Ltd**

**Coconut House, Tay Court,**  
Bromsgrove Enterprise Park, Bromsgrove, B60 3FQ  
Tel: +44 (0) 1564 731980 Email: sales@fg-int.co.uk  
Company Registration Number: 4603605



## Monkey Abuse – Coconut Harvesting

**PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) have recently released the outcome of their undercover investigation into the use of monkeys to harvest coconuts in Thailand.**

**The investigation revealed Pigtailed Macaques were snatched from the wild and treated like “coconut-picking machines” capable of picking up to 1,000 Coconuts a day.**

**PETA also discovered “monkey schools” where the animals were trained to pick fruit, as well as ride bikes or play basketball for the entertainment of tourists.**

**The animals discovered in these facilities displayed stereotypical behaviour indicative of extreme stress.**

**First Grade International Limited, being the largest importer of coconut products into the UK are appalled by the finding and are able to offer absolute assurance that this does not happen anywhere on any of our plantations in Indonesia or our supply base in the Philippines.**

**It may also be useful to explain that in Indonesia we cultivate a hybrid Coconut Palm, these are lower than the traditional African Tall Palms and allow the nuts to be harvested from the ground using a long pole. Please see a picture below of this harvesting method.**





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The very tall trees (African Tall Variety) grown in the Philippines are too tall to be harvested using this method so willing pickers climb the trees and it's easy to spot this as the trees have footholds carved into the trees to make climbing easier. There is also increasing use of ladders and cherry pickers to reach the top of the tree although the manual climbing and cutting option remains the most prevalent.



Date: 07/07/2020  
David Armstrong

General Manager