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This mini was adapted from Ape Shit issue #1. If you're ever looking for a 72-page treatise on humans and capuchins, we've got you covered. Research and text by Carrie McLaren with design by Cole Lowell.

Ape Shit looks at the history of human relations with other primates (monkeys and apes).

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In the late 1970s, a Boston group called Helping Hands started promoting the use of capuchin monkeys as caregivers for people with quadriplegia. *Good Housekeeping*, *60 Minutes*, and other mainstream media jumped on the story.

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Monkeys were shown vacuuming and fetching objects while the cameras rolled, but in daily life they seldom complied.

US media touted the scheme as a win for people with disabilities, but few actually wanted a monkey. The monkeys destroyed things, made messes, and required their own caregiver.

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Researchers in other countries found that helper monkeys didn't actually help, but media in the US continued promoting the "fun," feel-good story.

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Media coverage inspired random people to buy monkeys and claim them as service animals.

Monkeys are wild animals, not pets.

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Helping Hands still exists but has stopped placing monkeys. Now called Envisioning Access, they keep "retired" monkeys in cages at their facility and use them on social media for fundraising.