

# Open letter to investors of companies Altor BioScience (US), Bionomics (Australia) and Intrexon (US) regarding patents on genetically engineered chimpanzees

Dear Sir or Madam

## Stop patents on great apes – Stop patents on animals

We are writing to you today because - according to our research - you are one of the investors in companies that file patents on genetically engineered chimpanzees. Just recently, the European Patent Office in Munich granted several of these patents:

- EP1409646 claiming chimpanzees with a genetically engineered immune system, for company Altor BioScience, USA;
- EP1364025 claiming chimpanzees with a manipulated genome making them more likely to suffer from cancer and EP 1852505 claiming chimpanzees suffering from epilepsy for company Bionomics, Australia;
- EP 1456346 and EP 1572862 claiming chimpanzees genetically engineered with DNA stemming from insects, for company Intrexon, USA.

More patent applications on chimpanzees and other great apes are filed already, also from other companies. For example, Bionomics has already filed around a dozen applications.

Patents on animals can create commercial incentives to produce and market these animals just for profit. We believe that such an incentive completely contradicts the aims of animal welfare as accepted and practiced in Europe, Australia and the US.

We think animals should be seen as fellow creatures, treated with the respect they deserve and protected from commercial abuse. Genetic engineering can expose animals to severe pain and suffering. It also should be acknowledged that great apes exhibit evidence of consciousness akin to that of humans.

By filing those patents, the companies appear to be putting economic interests above all else.



We urge you as investors to make sure ethical boundaries are respected. Patents on great apes and on other mammals should be outlawed internationally. This issue should be of relevance to you.



Please help us to stop patents on animals and especially on great apes. Please contact with the companies and ask for the implementation of clear ethical standards.



We would be pleased if you could send your statement to us as well. Together we can make the world a better place – for humankind and animals.

Yours faithfully



**SCHWEIZER TIERSCHUTZ STS**

List of signing organisations:

- Albert Schweitzer Stiftung für unsere Mitwelt
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund
- Gen-ethisches Netzwerk (GeN)
- Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung
- Kein Patent auf Leben!
- Menschen für Tierrechte, Bundesverband der Tierversuchsgegner e. V.
- Schweizerische Arbeitsgruppe Gentechnologie (SAG)
- Schweizer Tierschutz (STS)
- TASSO e.V.
- Testbiotech
- Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

