

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS  
FOUNDATION

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PETA FOUNDATION IS AN  
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TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

June 17, 2016

Robert Gibbens, D.V.M.  
Director, Animal Welfare Operations  
USDA/APHIS/AC Western Region

Via e-mail: [acwest@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:acwest@aphis.usda.gov)

Re: Request for Investigation of Apparent Animal Welfare Act Violations by  
Conservation Ambassadors, Inc. (License No. 93-C-0416)

Dear Dr. Gibbens:

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture promptly investigate Conservation Ambassadors, Inc. (license number 93-C-0416), for apparent Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations that occurred during a news broadcast on Wednesday, June 15.

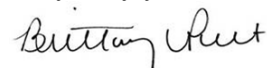
In the [video clip](#), a spider monkey is visibly distressed, screaming and resisting the hold of the American Humane Association's CEO, Dr. Robin Ganzert. Despite the spider monkey's obvious distress and discomfort, Ganzert continues to restrain him and forces him to endure the exhibition. In addition, a lemur is roughly handled by apparently unprepared and uncomfortable news anchors while the animal struggles to get free. A kinkajou appears to be missing patches of hair on either side of his or her mouth and on the neck, which may be a sign of underlying veterinary issues or a symptom of distress caused by inadequate captive conditions.

The handling of the spider monkey and lemur appears to violate 9 C.F.R. §§ 2.131(b)(1), (c)(1), and (d)(1), which require that "[h]andling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma ... behavioral stress ... or unnecessary discomfort," that "any animal must be handled so there is minimal risk of harm to the animal and to the public, with sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animal and the general viewing public so as to assure the safety of animals and the public," and that "[a]nimals shall be exhibited only for periods of time and under conditions consistent with their good health and well-being."

As you investigate these apparent handling violations, please also inspect these and all other animals confined by Conservation Ambassadors, Inc., as well as its veterinary records, and ensure that they are receiving adequate veterinary care pursuant to 9 C.F.R. § 2.40. Please also ensure that all the animals are provided with adequate shelter, food, and water and are otherwise handled in accordance with the AWA. Please also hold the facility fully accountable for any violations that you discover during your investigation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please inform me of the complaint number that your agency assigns to this correspondence.

Very truly yours,



Brittany Peet, Esq.  
Director, Captive Animal Law Enforcement