

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

June 23, 2021

Dear Ms. Owens:

Your novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, captured the hearts of millions—transported to the marshlands of North Carolina with protagonist Kya as their guide, readers encountered seagulls, fireflies, and bullfrogs. Flora and fauna feature prominently, and your credentials as a wildlife scientist endow your descriptions of animals and their behavior with both authority and affection. That's why we were shocked to learn that wild animals, including skunks and seagulls, were crated, transported, and exploited for the movie adaptation of your book that's currently being filmed. I'm writing to ask that you use your influence to ensure that animals aren't forced on set for the remainder of the film's production.

At training compounds, living conditions for animals used for movies and TV shows are typically dismal, and abusive training techniques are commonly employed so that animals will perform on set in the fewest number of takes possible. PETA's 10-month-long undercover investigation into Birds & Animals Unlimited (BAU)—which apparently supplied animals for *Where the Crawdads Sing*—[documented chronic neglect of the animals at that facility](#). Sick and injured animals were denied adequate veterinary care and others were kept in filthy enclosures, while trainers withheld food so that animals would be hungry while being trained to do tricks. Following PETA's investigation, the [U.S. Department of Agriculture cited BAU](#) for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

As a heralded advocate for conservation, you know that wild animals belong in their natural habitats—and that it sets a dangerous precedent when Hollywood normalizes their exploitation. Your book inspired readers all over the world to appreciate and respect nature, but photographs of animals caged for the movie tell a very different story. For those animals, their mistreatment is already in the can—but there's still time to do the right thing. Will you please urge the film adaptation of *Where the Crawdads Sing* to cut ties with the cruel animal-training industry immediately?

Sincerely,

Lewis Crary
Animals in Film and Television
PETAWashington, D.C.
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETALos Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETANorfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETABerkeley
2855 Telegraph Ave.
Ste. 301
Berkeley, CA 94705
510-763-PETAInfo@peta.org
PETA.org

Affiliates:

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