



# PETA's augustus CLUB

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## Blinding Them With Science:

### How PETA's Jessica Sandler Is Persuading Policymakers to Stop Animal Testing

While living in Tel Aviv in 1982, Jessica Sandler walked into a pet store to purchase a leather collar for her dog. It suddenly dawned on her that she was buying the skin of one animal to put on another. She says, "The inconsistency of lavishing affection on one animal while allowing others to be subjected to unspeakable horrors so that I could eat and wear them became too great, and I decided to stop consuming animals."

Soon afterward, Jessica found her way to PETA and became a committed animal rights activist who, with degrees from Harvard and Johns Hopkins, would go on to become the senior director of PETA's regulatory

testing division and now also heads up the new PETA International Science Consortium, Ltd., which coordinates PETA's scientific expertise and that of our affiliates around the world.

With more scientists on staff than at any other animal protection organization, PETA has become the most successful organization



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in the world at replacing animal tests with superior non-animal methods.

Jessica's team has saved not hundreds or thousands but millions of animals from being poisoned and killed, and these scientists have positioned themselves to save even more by participating in expert working groups,

PETA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE CONSORTIUM, LTD. 



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publishing papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and guiding companies around the world on replacing animal tests. In addition, the science consortium has gained accredited stakeholder status on important governmental committees.

We hope you enjoy the following interview with this pioneer in the movement to end the use of animals in toxicity testing.

**Augustus Club: When and how did you become involved with PETA?**

**Jessica Sandler:** I started volunteering at work parties in the mid-1980s when PETA's headquarters were a little warehouse in Kensington, Md.

**AC: When did you join the staff, and what was your first job at PETA?**

**JS:** PETA created the position of federal agency liaison for me in 1998, when the organization decided to target the use of animals in regulatory chemical testing programs. The job was a custom fit because I had worked as a specialist in biological and chemical hazards for two federal agencies and my master's degree was in environmental health science.

Because no one else was focusing on this issue and there was such great potential to save so many more animals in this area, we eventually created an entire regulatory testing division.

**AC: Of the tens of millions of animals used in experiments every year, at least 15 percent are used in toxicity testing. What are toxicity tests?**

**JS:** These are tests that are required by government agencies to try to determine the health hazards of substances that can run the gamut from gasoline to aloe vera. Hundreds of thousands of animals are forced to eat toxic substances, are squeezed into narrow containers and forced to inhale them, or have them rubbed onto their abraded skin. Pregnant mothers are poisoned, and their babies are cut up and examined. However, despite all this suffering, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has banned fewer than a handful of toxic industrial chemicals in decades!

**AC: Are you optimistic about long-term changes in the use of animals for toxicity testing?**

**JS:** Yes. Thanks largely to PETA, a sea change has occurred in this area. PETA has funded the development of non-animal test methods and convinced people at the highest levels of industry and government that non-animal methods are not only better science but also faster, cheaper, and more reliable.

**AC: What is your proudest accomplishment in your time at PETA?**

**JS:** PETA's regulatory testing division has been integral to the revolution in toxicity testing that is taking place. We've completely turned the field on its head from where it was 25 years ago. Following a decade of PETA pressure, the EPA commissioned a National Academy of Sciences report, which found that animal tests are inaccurate and that reliance on them is costly and time-consuming. The report proposed a shift to using sophisticated non-animal tests—an enormous policy change that the EPA is now pursuing.

**AC: What makes PETA more successful than other organizations in this area?**

**JS:** PETA and its affiliates are the only organizations willing to dedicate a significant percentage of their resources to fighting animal testing for regulatory purposes, including providing considerable funding for the development and use of cutting-edge non-animal tests. Other groups saw the problem as insurmountable and wouldn't touch it. PETA's team of science and policy experts faces these challenges head on. We're even tackling new and cutting-edge issues such as nanotechnology to ensure that this sophisticated high-tech field takes full advantage of non-animal testing methods, which are also sophisticated and high-tech.



**AC: In your opinion, what makes PETA so uniquely effective in changing the minds of policymakers?**

**JS:** PETA is fearless when it comes to tackling intractable issues. Our power comes from working on multiple levels with a variety of tactics: compiling scientific data and arguments, testifying before Congress, using shareholder resolutions to leverage negotiations with corporations, and using the media to our advantage. As one example, in the late 1990s, Al Gore and the EPA developed the High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program, at the time the largest animal testing plan in history. PETA attacked the plan by lobbying White House officials and presenting solid scientific arguments.

Gore was running for the Democratic nomination for president at that time. PETA sent a campaigner in an 8-foot-tall rabbit costume to trail him at his campaign stops with a sign that said, "Stop the GOREy tests!" Each time the giant bunny came out, I would receive a call from Gore's right-hand person requesting that we resume talks, and eventually, we negotiated a landmark agreement with the White House that saved an estimated 800,000 animals from being killed in the HPV program.

Now PETA's reach and that of its affiliates is global. With the establishment of the PETA International Science Consortium, we're making major changes to international requirements for government-mandated animal testing and helping scientists use the latest non-animal tests in China, the EU, India, and New Zealand.

**AC: Are there any personal anecdotes about PETA that you would like to share with our Augustus Club members?**

**JS:** PETA introduced me to one of my beloved family members: a sweet beagle mix whom I named Libby. She was rescued from a North Carolina laboratory hellhole that shuttered its doors and surrendered more than 250 animals as a result of PETA's undercover investigation. PETA is the only animal-protection organization that has ever been responsible for shutting down an animal testing facility.

When I first met her, Libby was bone-thin and sick. She crawled to me on her stomach—too afraid to stand up but desperate for a kind touch. Now, she's the very definition of *joie de vivre*. She bonded quickly with her two adopted canine siblings. They spend the day racing around, wrestling, or napping, curled up together.

I am so grateful to our Augustus Club members for helping PETA rescue Libby and for supporting our work to save all animals from painful and deadly tests.



Dr. Amy Clippinger, associate director of PETA's regulatory testing division, uses her expertise in molecular and cellular biology and genetics to end animal testing. Just recently, she was voted in as vice president-elect of an important specialty section of the Society of Toxicology (SOT), the largest international organization of toxicologists. In this capacity, Amy will be able to guide the topics selected for presentation at the annual SOT meetings, promote *in vitro* workshops, and reach a large audience of members to promote non-animal testing methods.

Thanks in large part to the scientific arguments presented by Amy, the New Zealand Parliament voted to ban all animal testing for recreational drugs. Amy has also secured numerous meetings with Fortune 100 companies, pushing them to adopt non-animal test methods in place of animal tests.

# Methodically Dismantling

## THE FOUNDATIONS OF ANIMAL TESTING

The following timeline illustrates how the work of PETA's regulatory testing division—fueled by the generosity of our Augustus Club members—has saved millions of animals from suffering and death in the last five years alone!



### 2009

- PETA saved an estimated **4.4 million animals from being poisoned and killed** in the European Union's Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) program—the largest chemical-testing program in history—by convincing the authorities to eliminate duplicative testing requirements.

- PETA funding helped develop a **"toolbox" collection of computer models and databases that can eliminate toxicity tests** on animals. The toolbox is now used by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an alliance of 35 countries that develops guidelines for chemical tests.

- PETA successfully argued against new animal tests for several consumer products and ingredients. As a result, federal agencies decided that existing data on sorbic acid, air fresheners, and a sweetener derived from the stevia plant are sufficient—and thousands of animals have been spared.

### 2010

- PETA successfully convinced the OECD to adopt a reproductive toxicity test that used half the number of animals that the current test did, **sparing 1,300 animals each time the test is conducted.**



### 2011

- Following PETA pressure, the **European Union mandated a non-animal test to measure the toxicity of shellfish** intended for human consumption, sparing 300,000 animals per year.

- Approximately **1,400 animals were spared suffering and death in chemical tests** after PETA's scientists pointed out the flaws in plans by the EPA to require animal tests for certain chemicals.

- PETA's rulemaking petition to the Department of Transportation, along with messages from the 23,000 PETA supporters who responded to our action alert, **successfully convinced the agency to promote non-animal tests for skin corrosion**, preventing rabbits from having chemicals smeared onto their shaved backs.

- PETA won rulings against **General Electric and Johnson & Johnson** after the corporations attempted to get our shareholder resolutions on animal experimentation issues thrown out.

### 2012

- After five years of PETA's hard work and 25,000 responses to our action alert, the **EPA finally incorporated our recommendations** into its endocrine-disruptor screening program, **potentially saving more than 3 million animals from painful and deadly chemical tests.**

### 2013

- Scientists from PETA and our international affiliates had an impact on animal testing policies across the globe, including the following:

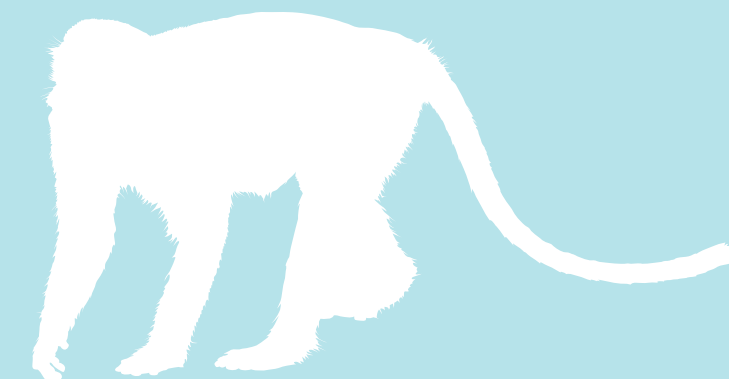
- A ban in India on the **use of animals in cosmetics testing**
- Implementation of the **EU ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals**
- Changes to REACH that **save tens of thousands of animals**
- **Acceptance of the animal-protection nongovernmental organization** that PETA cofounded at the OECD's joint meeting—the highest level of decisionmaking for that body's international chemical-testing guidelines
- Acceptance of the **PETA International Science Consortium as an accredited stakeholder at the European Chemicals Agency**, which oversees REACH, allowing it to intervene in critical European animal testing cases
- The **establishment of a center in Sweden to develop and coordinate non-animal testing methods** that can be used to meet EU regulations
- The **adoption of our recommendations to use cell-based methods to replace many lethal dose tests** on animals by the EU Reference Laboratory for Alternatives to Animal Testing

### 2014

- Following campaigns by PETA and our international affiliates, **India proposed ending tests on animals for household products**, such as cleaners and detergents.

- Eight thousand animals were saved when PETA's written and oral comments to the EPA **persuaded the agency to drop two plans that would have required manufacturers of chemicals produced in high volumes to conduct animal testing.**

- PETA helped convince members of the **New Zealand Parliament to ban animal tests for recreational drugs** by providing information on non-animal methods that can be used instead to test these drugs.



This bus ad, one of PETA's many creative tactics, appeared on 130 buses in Madison, Wis., as part of our campaign to urge the University of Wisconsin–Madison to shut down its horrendous experiments on animals.

Map: ©iStock.com/Kajdi Szabolcs

# Animals Are Wondrous: Mice



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Mice are complex, unique beings with the capacity to experience a wide range of emotions. These highly social animals communicate with each other using high-frequency sounds that are inaudible to the human ear. Male mice woo mates with high-pitched love songs. Female mice with litters will vigorously defend their nests and young.

Mice become emotionally attached to each other, love their families, and easily bond with human guardians. As intelligent as our canine friends, they're natural students who excel at learning and understanding concepts. They can even recognize their names and respond when called.



Unfortunately, millions of these gentle animals are killed in experiments each year in the U.S. alone. These small, sensitive creatures are not even protected under the Animal Welfare Act, which exempts birds, rodents, and coldblooded animals entirely from consideration.

Millions more suffer and die each year in the "pet" trade and as victims

of cruel "pest" control methods such as glue traps. PETA is doing everything possible to stop the abuse of mice, and with the support of our Augustus Club members, we're making huge strides.

Through our regulatory testing division, PETA has spared hundreds of thousands of mice the pain and suffering of deadly toxicity tests. And just as our Beauty

Without Bunnies campaign efforts have saved countless mice from tests conducted by cosmetics companies, we have stopped animal testing by other types of companies as well.

After uncovering cruel and unnecessary experiments that major beverage manufacturers were funding in order to make health claims about their products, PETA convinced them to drop the animal tests. POM Wonderful had paid experimenters to inflict brain damage on mice, PepsiCo—the parent company of brands such as Pepsi-Cola, Tropicana, and Gatorade—and its partners had funded experiments in which they implanted tumors in mice, and Ocean Spray had paid for experiments in which mice were given stomach ulcers and brain injuries. But because of PETA's powers of persuasion, including letters and calls from our members, these companies agreed to end all animal tests.

In addition, within days of a meeting between Lipton executives and representatives of PETA, PETA UK, PETA India, and PETA Germany, Unilever—the parent company of Lipton—declared that it would ban experiments on animals for all its tea products. Lipton had paid experimenters to expose mice to diseases, then feed tea ingredients to them and eventually kill them by painful methods such as decapitation and neck-breaking.



Volunteers help with PETA's "Animal Testing Breaks Hearts" campaign

PETA is also working hard to end the use of glue traps. One of the cruelest killing methods in existence, these traps cause severe injuries—including broken bones and torn-off patches of skin—and almost unimaginable terror as mice and other small animals struggle in the traps before succumbing to shock, dehydration, asphyxiation, or blood loss.

With your support, PETA's efforts have led to the removal of glue traps from the shelves of retailers all over North America, including Albertsons, CVS, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Longs Drugs, Osco Drug, Rite Aid, RONA, Safeway, USA Drug, and Walgreens—totaling more than 40,000 stores! In addition, PETA has convinced the top five self-storage companies—including Public Storage, Extra Space Storage, and U-Haul—to ban the cruel devices.

The pet trade victimizes millions of mice every year. But thanks to PETA's eyewitness investigations, the trade has lost two major links in the supply chain.

In California, the owner of Global Captive Breeders, LLC, Mitch Behm, and the company's former manager, David Delgado, were both convicted of cruelty to animals. The facility was the subject of a 2013 PETA investigation revealing that nearly 16,000 rats and mice and more than 600 reptiles were languishing in waste-filled cages, many of them starving, injured, gravely ill, and/or with no access to water. Most importantly, they are prohibited from entering into any business venture involving animals—a sentencing condition that PETA had pushed hard for and won.

PETA's undercover investigation of Texas-based animal dealer U.S. Global Exotics (USGE) prompted the largest seizure of animals in history (more than 26,000 individuals, including mice). After PETA exposed the fact that animals at USGE were locked inside filthy, crowded containers and were denied food, water, veterinary care, and fresh air, USGE's federal license was canceled, the owners fled the country, and USGE closed down.

On behalf of all the intelligent, gentle, and misunderstood animals like these, thank you for making a planned gift in support of PETA's work. From the tiniest mouse to the largest elephant, PETA works to improve the lives of *all* animals, and with your support, we're succeeding.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are many things that you can do to prevent the suffering of mice and other animals who suffer in laboratories, in the "pet" trade, and in cruel glue traps:

- 1 Buy only products that are not tested on animals. For a free cruelty-free shopping guide, please visit [CaringConsumer.com](http://CaringConsumer.com) or call us at 757-962-8213.
- 2 Never purchase glue traps. Go to [PETA.org/Issues/Wildlife/House-Mice](http://PETA.org/Issues/Wildlife/House-Mice) for tips on humanely removing unwanted mouse visitors from your home.
- 3 Never patronize pet supply stores that sell animals.
- 4 Write to your congressional representatives urging them to amend the Animal Welfare Act to include mice, rats, and birds.



Got a minute?

Check out PETA's "A Minute for the Animals" videos at [PETA.org/Minute](http://PETA.org/Minute), narrated by Ingrid E. Newkirk and offering a 60-second heartwarming glimpse into the lives and personalities of mice and other animals.



# As You Consider Your *Year-End Planning*

Ziggy, pictured here, is just one of millions of animals rescued through PETA's work, but as you know, more are in need.

Including PETA in your year-end plans can help animals like Ziggy and give you a rewarding "return on investment." Here's how:

Your donation to PETA **before the clock strikes midnight on December 31** will not only provide animals with critical support but may also allow you to take a U.S. charitable deduction next April. And if your employer offers a **matching-gift program**, you may be able to double or even triple the impact of your gift. Please ask your employer whether it has a matching-gift program. You can visit **PETA.org/MatchingGifts** as well to see whether your employer participates.

It's also that time of year when many employers, including the federal government and numerous state governments, are running **workplace giving** campaigns. If you are eligible to participate in a workplace campaign, please consider designating a gift to help animals through PETA. If PETA is not an option, please talk with the campaign manager to see how you can designate PETA to receive your gift.

If you have **stock or real estate** that has appreciated and that you have held for more than one year, donating it to PETA may qualify you for a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of your gift and allow you to save on capital-gains taxes. Even depreciated stock can benefit both animals and you.

Should you have a **vehicle** (including cars and boats), running or not, that you no longer need, you can donate it to PETA from virtually anywhere in the United States and make a difference for animals. Visit **PETA.org/Car** or call 1-877-PETA-GIV.

If giving a gift to a loved one is in your immediate future, consider giving a compassionate gift that gives twice! Browse through the "virtual gifts" at **PETAPresents.org** to find a gift that will help animals, and we will send a fun, personalized e-card to your loved one.



This is also a good time of year to **review your long-term and estate-planning documents**, including wills, trusts, beneficiary designations, powers of attorney, and end-of-life directives, such as living wills. You should do this at least annually to ensure that your plans as stated are in line with your current goals.

In addition to human loved ones, you can provide for animals through gifts to PETA in your estate plans. For example, you can make PETA a beneficiary of your retirement plan and avoid unwanted taxation; leverage modest annual premiums into a significant gift by making PETA a beneficiary of a life insurance policy; make PETA a beneficiary of a financial account, including checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, stocks, and bonds; or name PETA as the beneficiary of a specific or residual gift in your will or trust.

Your support means the world to PETA, and we thank you for all that you are doing for animals. If you would like more information on year-end gifts, please contact Tim Enstice at **757-962-8213** or e-mail us at **Legacy@peta.org**.