

Mr. James Foster
Chief Executive Officer
Charles River Laboratories
251 Ballardvale St
Wilmington, MA 01887

3/16/2023

Dear Mr. Foster,

Re: Urgent: Meeting Request – Long-tailed macaques

On behalf of our organizations, our millions of supporters, and concerned members of the public, we urge you to work with us and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate sanctuary retirement for the 1,000 plus endangered long-tailed macaques slated to be re-exported to Cambodia in the coming days.

Charles River has indicated in its Corporate Citizenship report that it is committed to acting with integrity. In your recent financial statement announcement, you said: “At Charles River, we are committed to conducting ethical, regulatory-compliant business practices, to being good corporate citizens, and to the humane treatment of the research models under our care.” You further stated that you intended to fully cooperate with the government with regard to the monkeys who were allegedly illegally taken from their wild homes.

You now have the opportunity to do what is right and protect those monkeys from further harm. You will be aware that there is an ongoing investigation into the import of non-human primates from Cambodia and evidence that monkeys, including those under question in your custody, have been illegally trafficked. It stands to reason that returning the monkeys to Cambodia will only result in their being recycled through the same corrupt system.

You might not be aware that Born Free USA and PETA have offered a home to the monkeys. For this to happen, we require your company’s cooperation. We are asking you to provide that cooperation in the interests of the welfare of the animals involved and to prevent them from being trafficked for the second time in their short lives.

While we may not see eye to eye on the testing of animals in research, we hope we can all agree that the illegal trafficking of wild-born, endangered species is unacceptable. With this in mind, we hope you will see fit to use your company's ample resources to support the relinquishment of the animals in question into lifetime sanctuary care. Your decision to provide sanctuary for these monkeys would demonstrate to your shareholders that your Charles River is taking the trafficking issue seriously, that it does not want any role in the illegal capture and laundering of endangered primates, and is staying true to its corporate ideals.

Representatives from Born Free USA and PETA contacted your office by telephone on March 15th to request a meeting with you. Our two organizations would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with you virtually this week to discuss a way forward, which does not result in these monkeys simply being reabsorbed into a system that has already failed them once.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Grimes, CEO, Born Free USA

and

Dr. Lisa Jones-Engel, Senior Science Advisor, PETA

Supported by the following organizations and individuals:

Dr. Liz Tyson-Griffin LLB (Hons) PhD FOCAE, Programs Director, Born Free USA

Dr. Katie Johnson-Jennings DVM, Sanctuary Veterinarian, Born Free USA

Lynn Cuny, Founder/President, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Krystal Mathis, Executive Director, Primarily Primates

Craig Brestrup, Development Associate, Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation

Tim Ajax, Executive Director, Oklahoma Primate Sanctuary

Ian Redmond OBE, Head of Conservation, Ecoflix

Dr. Andrew Kelly, Director, Freedom for Animals

Lindsay Oliver, Executive Director, World Animal Protection

Maddie Krasno, Founder, JUSTIFY

Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, President/CEO; Professor, Phoenix Zones Initiative; and University of New Mexico School of Medicine

Dr. Nik Kulkarni, Vice President; Partner, Phoenix Zones Initiative; and Anesthesia Associates of New Mexico

Amy Van Nice, Director of Development, Wildlife Alliance

Dr. Crystal Heath, Executive Director, Our Honor

Rachel Bjork, Board President, Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN)

Dr. Gregg Tully, Executive Director - Romania, Save the Dogs and Other Animals

Dr Nedim C Buyukmihci, Co-founder, veterinary advisor, Action for Primates

Yuichi Hasegawa, Executive Director, Japan Anti-Vivisection Association (JAVA)

Gemunu de Silva, Executive Director, Tracks Investigations

Dr. Deborah D. Misotti, Founder/President, The Talkin' Monkeys Project

Fiolita Berandhini, Founder/Director, Animals Don't Speak Human

Paula Pebsworth, Primatologist

Dr Mark Jones, Veterinarian, Born Free Foundation

The Revd. Professor Andrew Linzey, PhD, DD, HonDD, Director, Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

Luka Oman, Director, Animal Friends Croatia

Dr. Tamar Fredman, Founder, Israeli Primate Sanctuary Foundation

Pam Mendosa, Chairperson, International Primate Protection League

Dave Du Toit, Founder, The Vervet Monkey Foundation

Dr. Bool Smuts, Director, Landmark Foundation

Ed Butler, Executive Director, Rise for Animals

Michele Pickover, Executive Director, EMS Foundation

Stefania Falcon, Founder, Future 4 Wildlife

Megan Carr, Founder, Rhinos in Africa

Rachel Mathews, Clinical Instructor, Animal Law & Policy Clinic, Harvard Law School

Brooke Aldrich, Director and Trustee, Neotropical Primate Conservation

Patricia Ragan, Founder/President, Center for Great Apes

Danielle Kessler, Director US Office, International Fund for Animal Welfare

Jan Creamer, President, Animal Defenders International