

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

August 8, 2023

H. Ty Warner
Owner and CEO
Ty Inc.Via e-mail: twarner@tymail.com; twarner@ty.com

Dear Mr. Warner:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide—to make you aware that Ty Beanie Babies, which have provided delight and joy to countless people, are being used in a series of devastating sensory and maternal deprivation experiments on rhesus macaques at Harvard Medical School (HMS). We hope that after reading the information below, you'll contact Harvard and condemn these cruel experiments.

In her article "[Triggers for Mother Love](#)," published in the September 27, 2022, issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, HMS experimenter [Margaret Livingstone](#) describes removing newborn rhesus macaques from their mothers so that she can study the negative effects of visual deprivation on their developing brains. She prides the clinging babies from their mothers' bodies and isolates them in cages while their mothers—who are denied the chance to form healthy, nurturing bonds with their infants—are given Ty Beanie Babies to replace them. Although Livingstone does not specify which Beanie Babies she uses, [Figure 3](#) of her article appears to show the following products:

[Fumbles the Monkey \(Style #40171\)](#)
[Schweetheart the Orangutan \(Style #4252\)](#)

Given only a pathetic cloth "surrogate" to cling to for comfort, the baby monkeys endure maternal separation and repeated experiments during the most vulnerable time in their lives. Livingstone has [sewn some infants' eyes shut](#) for their entire first year of life and [prevents others from seeing any faces](#), monkey or human. Workers are required to wear *welding masks* during their limited interactions with these face-deprived monkeys.

The harm that maternal deprivation causes to infant monkeys is serious and often long-lasting. Monkeys deprived of maternal contact have been shown to display [heightened fear and aggression](#), [abnormal social functioning](#), [increased susceptibility to infection](#), and [a greater tendency toward self-injury](#), among other negative effects. Maternal deprivation even [alters the structure of their brains](#).

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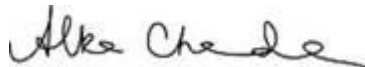
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Since PETA first exposed Livingstone's experiments in October 2022, hundreds of scientists, doctors, academics, and other experts have joined us in [speaking out](#) against them. But Harvard has so far refused to take action.

Mr. Warner, your toys have been a source of happiness and comfort for millions of children and other Beanie Babies fans. They've inspired books and films—the latest of which, *The Beanie Bubble*, is streaming now. It's frankly disturbing that these toys are now being used to facilitate the traumatic separation of vulnerable infants from their nurturing mothers for experiments that cause them lifelong harm—without any resulting treatments or cures for humans to show for it. While we certainly wouldn't want to deprive a mother separated from her infant of the comfort that a Beanie Baby may provide, the fact remains that these mothers should not be separated from their infants for cruel experiments in the first place. **Would you please contact Harvard University President Claudine Gay at 617-495-1502 or president@harvard.edu and urge her to end these experiments immediately?**

Thank you for your careful consideration of this urgent issue. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have at AlkaC@peta.org.

Sincerely,



Alka Chandna, Ph.D.
Vice President
Laboratory Investigations Cases
PETA