



THE Augustus Club AND VANGUARD SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

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Freeing Captive Wildlife from Exploitation



Freeing Captive Wildlife from Exploitation

Tonka

For decades, PETA has fought against the exploitation of captive wildlife—from roadside zoos, circuses, and aquariums to laboratories and canned hunting ranches. This work is led by our Captive Animal Law Enforcement (CALE) division, a specialized group of highly trained attorneys, wildlife specialists, veterinarians, and support staff that pushes federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

Across four nail-biting episodes, HBO's *Chimp Crazy* gave millions a glimpse into PETA's high-stakes legal battle with notorious animal broker Tonia Haddix. While viewers cheered at the dramatic rescue of Tonka—the chimpanzee at the heart of this headline-grabbing series—it was the relentless work of a committed group of lawyers, veterinarians, and wildlife experts with **PETA's Captive Animal Law Enforcement (CALE) department that made his release possible.**

This expert team uses every legal tool at their disposal to protect captive wildlife and build a future in which no animal is exploited and abused for something as trivial as human entertainment.

Since 2012, CALE's work has secured the release of 800 animals from roadside zoos, private owners, traveling shows, and breeders. Hundreds more have been confiscated by law enforcement and regulatory authorities as a direct result of CALE's work.

Among the many animals CALE team members have helped rescue is Joe, Tonka's brother. In 2016, we sued a roadside zoo in Alabama that kept Joe in solitary confinement. Forced to work in the entertainment industry since he was a juvenile, Joe spent nearly two decades in a barren enclosure no larger than a dog run. After we filed suit—alleging that the roadside zoo was violating the Endangered Species Act by isolating Joe from other members of his species and denying him a complex environment—the facility agreed to release Joe.

CALE staff frequently facilitate the transfer of rescued animals to reputable sanctuaries, and Joe is now thriving alongside Tonka and other chimpanzees at Save the Chimps, an accredited sanctuary in Florida.



Joe

Giving Animals a Future



“I’ve been involved with animal protection organizations since the late 1950s. PETA is one of the few groups that honestly tells what is happening to animals who are abused and suffering and then takes action to stop it. PETA will go anywhere to help animals—there are no boundaries. For this reason, PETA is in my estate plans in a big way! I thank Ingrid and all the PETA staff for all they do to make animals safer.”

—Ruth McCloud
Augustus Club member

PETA's Recent Victories for Captive Animals



Seedy mall aquariums shutter in shame:

After nearly six years of confining hundreds of animals in squalid, hellish conditions—and following a PETA campaign and a company-wide bankruptcy declaration in December—the SeaQuest mall aquarium in Roseville, Minnesota, shut its doors. Following pressure from PETA, Seaquest locations in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, and Texas have also closed, and PETA stopped SeaQuest from opening facilities in Florida, New York, and North Dakota.



Cruel exotic-animal auction shut down:

Two federal lawsuits that cited evidence provided by PETA have barred Mt. Hope Auction in Ohio from holding its triannual exotic-animal auction. After PETA first put the horrific auction on the government's radar in August 2022, the USDA cited Mt. Hope Auction for violating the federal Animal Welfare Act 69 times in less than two years. The auction had served as a Who's Who cesspool of seedy wildlife breeders, dealers, and roadside zoos, and its closure has caused a big blow to the cruel exotic "pet" trade.

Another circus goes animal-free:

Following requests from more than 50,000 PETA supporters, Mysterious Circus in Texas has gone animal-free. The venue sparked outrage last year when it used a geriatric elephant named Okha in its lineup of spectacles. Okha was stolen from her family and her natural home decades ago and has been forced into sideshow performances ever since. PETA is urging circus exhibitor Brian Franzen to retire Okha and the other captive animals in his care to accredited sanctuaries.



Pamela Anderson's Zuzu Apple Nut Dog Treats

Ingredients

- 2 cups oat flour
- 2/3 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/2 cup smooth nut butter (with no additives)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F/180°C. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine all the ingredients in a medium bowl.
3. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out so that it's 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Cut out treats using a bone-shaped cookie cutter or any shape you love. Place on the prepared baking sheets. Reroll the scraps and cut again.
4. Bake for 30 minutes. Let cool and store in an airtight container at room temperature or in the fridge.

Makes 12 to 24 servings.

For more of Pam's recipes, visit [PETA.org/ILoveYou](https://peta.org/ILoveYou)

Brittany Peet: Harnessing the Power of the Law on Behalf of Captive Animals

As general counsel for Captive Animal Law Enforcement, Brittany Peet leads an interdisciplinary team of attorneys, a veterinarian, captive wildlife experts, and researchers who work on behalf of animals held captive in roadside zoos, traveling shows, and the film and television industries. The Captive Animal Law Enforcement team achieves victories for captive wildlife via legal and regulatory actions as well as public advocacy campaigns and legislation.

Brittany often represents PETA in the media and has appeared on HBO's *Chimp Crazy* and Netflix's *Tiger King*. She also negotiates and coordinates wild- and exotic-animal rescues for PETA and has overseen the rescues of hundreds

of animals, including 80 bears, 78 big cats, and 25 chimpanzees—including Tonka.

Meeting a sad, lonely bear held in a roadside zoo inspired Brittany to make advocating for captive animals her life's work: "I remember Smoky, a bear trapped in a cramped cage in a park near my hometown. He died without ever stepping outside. I knew he and other animals like him deserved so much more. I believe that people can be inspired to change their views. We had a bearskin at home from an animal my father shot and killed. He eventually put away his hunting rifle, and I know others can do the same and join us in standing up for all animals who are suffering."

Brittany joined the PETA Foundation's legal department in 2009 and lives in Michigan with her beloved PETA-rescued dog, Leonard.

Learn more about how PETA works to help captive animals at [PETA.org/CaptiveAnimals](https://peta.org/CaptiveAnimals).



Another *Chimp Crazy* Win! Tonia Haddix Pleads Guilty to Lying to Feds

Chimp Crazy villain Tonia Haddix has pleaded guilty to perjury and obstruction of justice for lying about Tonka the chimpanzee's whereabouts and defying a court order to surrender him to PETA. Haddix's sentencing is set for this summer, and PETA hopes she will face jail time. Shortly before her pleas, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) administrative judge declared Haddix "unfit to be licensed" and terminated her exhibitors license. The CALE team filed multiple complaints and provided a mountain of evidence of animal welfare violations by Haddix before the judge's decision.

How You Can Help Captive Chimpanzees

PETA has facilitated the rescue of 25 chimpanzees who have been given the chance to thrive in a true sanctuary environment.

You can take action for captive chimpanzees by visiting [PETA.org/HelpChimpanzees](https://peta.org/HelpChimpanzees) and urging facilities that confine chimpanzees in substandard conditions to work with the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance to retire them to accredited sanctuaries.

Resources to Help You and to Plan for Your Animal Companions

One of the most important aspects of planning is preparing for your animal companions' future—for the time when you'll no longer be there to care for them yourself.

You can incorporate important steps into your estate planning to ensure the long-term well-being of your animals and make their transition to life without you as stress-free as possible.

Request your Animal Companion Planning Kit today. Each kit includes the following:

- A detailed 12-page booklet
- An emergency contact wallet card
- An emergency contact card for the home
- An instruction form for emergency caregivers
- An instruction form for family and friends
- An emergency window decal

To request your kit, visit [PETA.org/LegacyToolKit](https://peta.org/LegacyToolKit).

Create Your Will for Free

If your estate is simple, and it makes sense for you to create your will online, we've partnered with FreeWill to help you craft a legal will for free. You can learn more and get started at [PETA.org/FreeWill](https://peta.org/FreeWill).

If you want to include a gift to PETA in your will or trust or by beneficiary designation, you will need our legal designation.

PETA's full legal name:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Inc.

PETA's permanent mailing address:

P.O. Box 42516, Washington, DC 20015

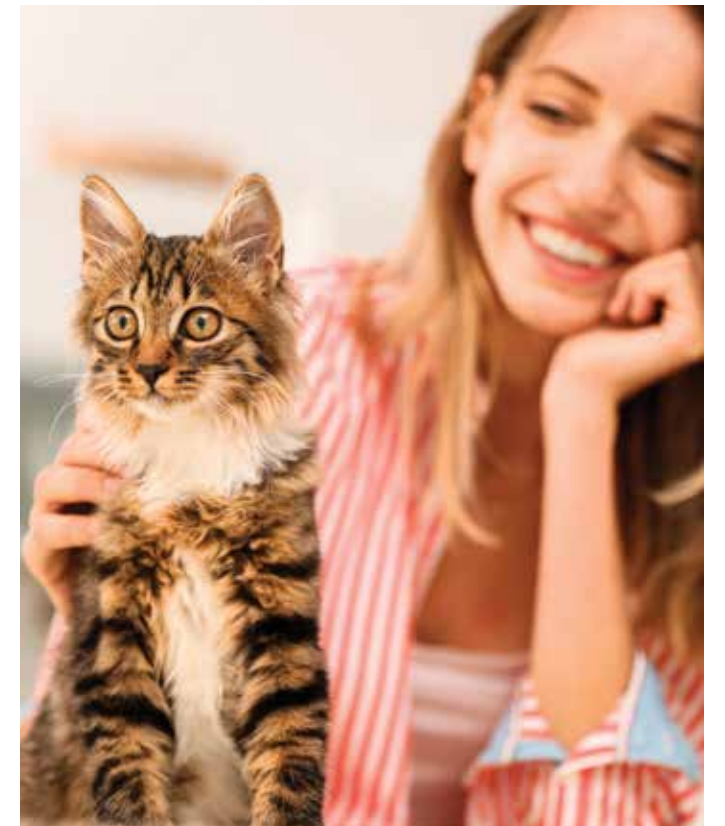
PETA's federal tax identification number:

#52-1218336

Other Resources Available to You

PETA offers additional resources that make it easy to map out your personal and financial goals and ensure that your loved ones—including animal companions—are cared for.

To request a copy of *Getting Organized*, a workbook that will help you get started with or update your estate plan, please return the enclosed reply form. You can also download this and other planning resources at [PETA.org/Resources](https://peta.org/Resources).



Keep Your Plans Current

Life changes quickly, and outdated estate plans can create complications for loved ones. Take time each year to review your will, trusts, and beneficiary designations.

If you have a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF), don't forget succession planning. You can include PETA in your DAF succession plan by:

- Recommending that funds remaining in your plan be distributed immediately
- Creating an endowed DAF where selected charities will receive distributions for some period of time
- Appointing a successor trustee to continue recommending grants

Regular reviews ensure your assets will be distributed according to your wishes, potentially saving your family stress and expenses while maximizing your charitable impact for generations to come.

Augustus Club and Vanguard Society Members: Leaders in the Movement to End Animal Suffering Now and Into the Future

PETA's Augustus Club honors those who are leaving a legacy for animals through a gift to PETA in their will or other estate plan.

Augustus was one of the 17 macaque “Silver Spring monkeys,” most of whom were taken from their jungle home and purchased by animal experimenter Edward Taub for testing purposes. After PETA exposed the extreme cruelty and neglect that were being inflicted on Augustus and the others in Taub’s laboratory at the Institute for Behavioral Research, the police raided it, and Taub became the first experimenter to be convicted of cruelty to animals. Augustus’ noble image, dignity, and innocence make him a fitting symbol of the plight of all animals who have endured—and are still enduring—abuse at the hands of humans. His story has inspired countless PETA members to leave a legacy that will help create a future in which all animals are treated with kindness and respect.

Augustus Club members receive the following benefits:

- Invitations to local events that provide opportunities to meet other local PETA members and bring together friends and associates who may be interested in becoming more involved in animal rights
- Special invitations to other PETA events, including galas featuring policymakers, prominent advocates, and celebrities who promote animal rights
- Periodic calls from PETA staff to thank you for your support, update you on the progress your donations have helped us make, or schedule a visit at your convenience
- The Augustus Club newsletter, featuring updates on our campaigns, current challenges, and victories for animals
- A subscription to PETA Global and a 15% discount on all PETA merchandise at PETA.org/Shop
- Invitations to tour PETA’s offices in Norfolk, Virginia, and Los Angeles, California

Visit **AugustusClub.org** to find legacy-planning tools, testimonials, and archived newsletters.

Together, through the power of our Augustus Club and Vanguard Society communities, we can continue to usher in a world of freedom and respect for all animals and ensure that every animal’s voice is heard—now and in the future.

Members of **PETA's Vanguard Society** turn their compassion for animals into action by generously giving \$500 to \$100,000 to support PETA’s life-changing work for animals suffering on fur factory farms, in slaughterhouses, in laboratories, in circuses, in puppy mills, and wherever else animals are abused or neglected.

The society’s namesake, Vanguard, was a rescued dog who was to be used in a painful and fatal deep-sea diving chamber experiment by the U.S. Navy. We chose his name because of its meaning: the forefront of a movement. Vanguard found a loving home and has inspired outstanding generosity from our members.

Vanguard Society members receive:

- Invitations to special events, such as our exclusive quarterly town hall meetings with PETA’s president and senior staff members and private events for animals held throughout the country
- Access to Vanguard-exclusive updates and a unique—and often behind-the-scenes—look at PETA’s groundbreaking work for animals
- Our annual review and exclusive “Rescued” calendar
- A 15% discount on all PETA merchandise at PETA.org/Shop
- Additional benefits at increased giving levels

Visit **VanguardSociety.org** to learn more about additional levels of support and benefits, read member stories, and discover the impact you can have.



Iris

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