



May 19, 2025

The Honorable Julie Dabrusin  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

The Honorable Gary Anandasangaree  
Minister of Public Safety

The Honorable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of Transport and Internal Trade

The Honorable Marjorie Michel  
Minister of Health

Paul MacKinnon  
President  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Via e-mail: [julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca); [gary.anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:gary.anand@parl.gc.ca);  
[chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca); [marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca);  
[Paul.MacKinnon@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Paul.MacKinnon@inspection.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Dabrusin, Minister Anandasangaree, Minister Freeland, Minister Michel, and Mr. MacKinnon:

We are writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, including 471,000 in Canada—to raise serious concerns about the possible expansion of Charles River Laboratories' monkey supply chain to include endangered long-tailed macaques from Vietnam. While Charles River has not recently imported monkeys from Vietnam into Canada, the company may consider pivoting in that direction as scrutiny mounts over its existing suppliers in Cambodia. We urge your agencies to take preemptive action to block this trade before it begins.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

## Executive Summary

Vietnam's macaque trade is rife with inconsistencies. Inventory numbers reported to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) reveal biologically impossible export figures, unexplained surpluses, and falsified breeding rates at key facilities.

These findings build on concerns raised in the [Sandy River Research](#) investigation, which exposed similar discrepancies and regulatory failures in Vietnam's primate trade. A 2025 [Mongabay article](#) covering the Sandy River investigation included an

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interview with a smuggler who described capturing wild monkeys to sell to middlemen. He said, “*Mostly, monkeys are transported to Vietnam,*” suggesting that wild-caught monkeys may be trafficked across the border into Vietnam and sold to breeding farms that falsely claim them as captive-bred.

Vina Mekong and Thanh Cong Jingang—two of Vietnam’s primary macaque-exporting farms—have reported figures that raise serious concerns. Vina Mekong exported more macaques than it had in documented inventory, while Thanh Cong Jingang reported an unexplained increase in macaques after accounting for exports and mortalities. These discrepancies strongly suggest the laundering of wild-caught individuals into international trade. Both farms supply macaques to major U.S. buyers, including Charles River Laboratories and Envigo Global Services.

The U.S. biomedical industry is the key driver of this trade. Research institutions and pharmaceutical companies spend millions lobbying to keep primate imports unrestricted, despite growing biosecurity risks. Notably, imported macaques from Vietnam were linked to the largest recorded tuberculosis outbreak in research primates,<sup>1</sup> raising urgent concerns for global public health.

These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam’s official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam’s macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We respectfully ask that you protect endangered primates and the public by suspending the importation of monkeys, beginning with those from Vietnam.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[LisaJE@peta.org](mailto:LisaJE@peta.org)

cc: [Mary-Jane.Ireland@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Mary-Jane.Ireland@inspection.gc.ca)  
[ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca)  
[cfia.nisc-csni.acia@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:cfia.nisc-csni.acia@inspection.gc.ca)  
[permission@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:permission@inspection.gc.ca)

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<sup>1</sup> Swisher SD. Outbreak of *Mycobacterium orygis* in a shipment of cynomolgus macaques imported from Southeast Asia—United States, February–May 2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2024;73(7):145-149. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7307a2



May 19, 2025

Susan Monarez, Ph.D.  
Acting Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Via e-mail: [susan.monarez@nih.hhs.gov](mailto:susan.monarez@nih.hhs.gov)

Dear Acting Director Monarez:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to immediately ban all imports of monkeys from Vietnam.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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Vietnam's macaque trade is rife with inconsistencies. Inventory numbers reported to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) reveal biologically impossible export figures, unexplained surpluses, and falsified breeding rates at key facilities.

These findings build on concerns raised in the [Sandy River Research](#) investigation, which exposed similar discrepancies and regulatory failures in Vietnam's primate trade. A 2025 [Mongabay article](#) covering the Sandy River investigation included an interview with a smuggler who described capturing wild monkeys to sell to middlemen. He said, *"Mostly, monkeys are transported to Vietnam,"* suggesting that wild-caught monkeys may be trafficked across the border into Vietnam and sold to breeding farms that falsely claim them as captive-bred.

Vina Mekong and Thanh Cong Jingang—two of Vietnam's primary macaque-exporting farms—have reported figures that raise serious concerns. Vina Mekong exported more macaques than it had in documented inventory, while Thanh Cong Jingang reported an unexplained increase in macaques after accounting for exports and mortalities. These discrepancies strongly suggest the laundering of wild-caught individuals into international trade. Both farms supply macaques to major U.S. buyers, including Charles River Laboratories and Envigo Global Services.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the CDC, as a first step, to end all importation of monkeys from Vietnam, effective immediately. This should be followed by a ban on all importation of monkeys for laboratory use.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
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May 19, 2025

Ivonne Higuero  
Secretary-General  
CITES Secretariat

Via e-mail: [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org)

Dear Secretary-General, Higuero:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the CITES Secretariat to immediately suspend all exports of long-tailed macaques from Vietnam.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet no meaningful action has been taken. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We respectfully urge the Secretariat to take immediate action to suspend all exports of long-tailed macaques from Vietnam under CITES. In addition, we ask that the Secretariat launch a formal investigation into the origin of the macaques being traded, including a review of Vietnam's captive-breeding claims and supporting documentation from its Management Authority.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
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May 19, 2025

CITES Management Authority of Vietnam

Via e-mail: [cites\\_vn.kl@mard.gov.vn](mailto:cites_vn.kl@mard.gov.vn)

Dear CITES Management Authority of Vietnam:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the CITES Management Authority of Vietnam to conduct a formal investigation into all commercial macaque breeding farms in the country.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the CITES Management Authority of Vietnam to conduct a formal investigation into all commercial macaque breeding farms in the country, focusing on verifying captive-breeding claims, inventory records, and facility oversight.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
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May 19, 2025

The Honorable Douglas Burgum  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Via e-mail: [douglas\\_burgum@ios.doi.gov](mailto:douglas_burgum@ios.doi.gov)

Dear Secretary Burgum:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the U.S. Department of the Interior to suspend all monkey imports from Vietnam.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Department of the Interior to immediately suspend all macaque imports from Vietnam, initiate an investigation into Vietnam's noncompliance with CITES, and advocate for stronger traceability requirements at the international level.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
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Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
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May 19, 2025

Wayne Hettenbach  
Assistant Chief  
U.S. Department of Justice

Via e-mail: [wayne.hettenbach@usdoj.gov](mailto:wayne.hettenbach@usdoj.gov)

Dear Assistant Chief Hettenbach:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to request that the Department of Justice investigate potential violations of U.S. and international law related to the importation of monkeys from Vietnam.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Department of Justice to investigate potential criminal violations linked to Vietnam's macaque trade, including the laundering of wild-caught animals under false captive-breeding claims. We also ask the DOJ to support a ban on imports from Vietnam and to hold U.S. importers accountable for ensuring their supply chains are legal and verifiable under CITES and U.S. law.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
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Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
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May 19, 2025

The Honorable Paul Souza  
Acting Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Via e-mail: [Paul\\_Souza@fws.gov](mailto:Paul_Souza@fws.gov).

Dear Acting Director Souza:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support a ban on the importation of macaques from Vietnam. As the U.S. agency responsible for enforcing CITES and regulating wildlife trade, USFWS plays a critical role in preventing trafficked animals from entering the country and ensuring the integrity of international permitting.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

### Washington

1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

### Los Angeles

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

### Norfolk

501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

[Info@peta.org](mailto:Info@peta.org)  
[PETA.org](http://PETA.org)

### Entities:

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

The U.S. biomedical industry is the key driver of this trade. Research institutions and pharmaceutical companies spend millions lobbying to keep primate imports unrestricted, despite growing biosecurity risks. Notably, imported macaques from Vietnam were linked to the largest recorded tuberculosis outbreak in research primates,<sup>1</sup> raising urgent concerns for global public health.

These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support a ban on macaque imports from Vietnam and to take immediate steps to prevent the importation of animals sourced through fraudulent captive-breeding claims.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[LisaJE@peta.org](mailto:LisaJE@peta.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Swisher SD. Outbreak of *Mycobacterium orygis* in a shipment of cynomolgus macaques imported from Southeast Asia—United States, February–May 2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2024;73(7):145-149. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7307a2





May 19, 2025

Naimah Aziz  
Chief, Division of Management Authority  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Via e-mail: [naimah\\_aziz@fws.gov](mailto:naimah_aziz@fws.gov)

Dear Chief Aziz:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support a ban on the importation of macaques from Vietnam.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

### Executive Summary

Vietnam's macaque trade is rife with inconsistencies. Inventory numbers reported to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) reveal biologically impossible export figures, unexplained surpluses, and falsified breeding rates at key facilities.

These findings build on concerns raised in the [Sandy River Research](#) investigation, which exposed similar discrepancies and regulatory failures in Vietnam's primate trade. A 2025 [Mongabay article](#) covering the Sandy River investigation included an interview with a smuggler who described capturing wild monkeys to sell to middlemen. He said, "*Mostly, monkeys are transported to Vietnam,*" suggesting that wild-caught monkeys may be trafficked across the border into Vietnam and sold to breeding farms that falsely claim them as captive-bred.

Vina Mekong and Thanh Cong Jingang—two of Vietnam's primary macaque-exporting farms—have reported figures that raise serious concerns. Vina Mekong exported more macaques than it had in documented inventory, while Thanh Cong Jingang reported an unexplained increase in macaques after accounting for exports and mortalities. These discrepancies strongly suggest the laundering of wild-caught individuals into international trade. Both farms supply macaques to major U.S. buyers, including Charles River Laboratories and Envigo Global Services.

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Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

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May 19, 2025

Douglas R. Ault  
Assistant Director  
Office of Law Enforcement  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Via e-mail: [douglas\\_ault@fws.gov](mailto:douglas_ault@fws.gov)

Dear Assistant Director Ault:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, to support further criminal investigation into the importation of macaques from Vietnam. As the U.S. agency responsible for enforcing CITES and investigating the illegal wildlife trade, USFWS plays a critical role in protecting wild populations, preventing trafficked animals from entering the country, and ensuring the validity of international permits.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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Vina Mekong and Thanh Cong Jingang—two of Vietnam's primary macaque-exporting farms—have reported figures that raise serious concerns. Vina Mekong exported more macaques than it had in documented inventory, while Thanh Cong Jingang reported an unexplained increase in macaques after accounting for exports and mortalities. These discrepancies strongly suggest the laundering of wild-caught individuals into international trade. Both farms supply macaques to

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The U.S. biomedical industry is the key driver of this trade. Research institutions and pharmaceutical companies spend millions lobbying to keep primate imports unrestricted, despite growing biosecurity risks. Notably, imported macaques from Vietnam were linked to the largest recorded tuberculosis outbreak in research primates,<sup>1</sup> raising urgent concerns for global public health.

These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support a ban on macaque imports from Vietnam, take immediate steps to prevent the importation of animals sourced through fraudulent captive-breeding claims, and take investigative measures to expose companies and individuals facilitating this illegal trade.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



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May 19, 2025

The Honorable Juliet T. Hodgkins  
Acting Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Via e-mail: [Juliet.Hodgkins@oig.hhs.gov](mailto:Juliet.Hodgkins@oig.hhs.gov)

Dear Acting Inspector General Hodgkins:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Office of Inspector General to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam due to concerns that federally funded research may be relying on animals falsely labeled as captive-bred.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

## Executive Summary

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Vina Mekong and Thanh Cong Jingang—two of Vietnam's primary macaque-exporting farms—have reported figures that raise serious concerns. Vina Mekong exported more macaques than it had in documented inventory, while Thanh Cong Jingang reported an unexplained increase in macaques after accounting for exports and mortalities. These discrepancies strongly suggest the laundering of wild-caught individuals into international trade. Both farms supply macaques to major U.S. buyers, including Charles River Laboratories and Envigo Global Services.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Office of Inspector General to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam. Given the risk that federally funded research programs may be sourcing animals through a supply chain built on false claims, this raises concerns about grant compliance and threatens the validity of scientific research funded by U.S. taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



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May 19, 2025

Sheila Garrity, J.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
Director, Office of Research Integrity  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Via e-mail: [Sheila.Garrity@hhs.gov](mailto:Sheila.Garrity@hhs.gov)

Dear Director Garrity:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Office of Research Integrity to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam due to concerns that federally funded research may be using animals falsely claimed to be captive-bred.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Office of Research Integrity to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam to help ensure that federally funded research is not compromised. Animals acquired through false sourcing claims, including misrepresented origin and breeding status, can undermine the reliability of research outcomes and violate research integrity principles.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
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Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
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May 19, 2025

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
House Committee on Natural Resources

Via e-mail: [paul.gosar@mail.house.gov](mailto:paul.gosar@mail.house.gov)

Dear Chairman Gosar:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Subcommittee to take immediate oversight action regarding the importation of monkeys from Vietnam. Recent findings raise serious concerns about the legitimacy and traceability of these imports, similar to what was previously documented in Cambodia.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

### **Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the subcommittee to investigate the legitimacy of Vietnam's macaque supply chain and to help ensure greater accountability from companies sourcing these animals for research. Given the serious conservation and public health concerns, we encourage the committee to take a stronger oversight role in protecting U.S. research integrity and public safety.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)  
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Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation  
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May 19, 2025

Deborah Kearse  
Director, Division of Program Integrity  
Office of Management Assessment  
National Institutes of Health

Via e-mail: [Deborah.kearse@nih.gov](mailto:Deborah.kearse@nih.gov)

Dear Director Kearse:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Division of Program Integrity to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam due to concerns that federally funded research may be sourcing animals falsely claimed to be captive-bred.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Division of Program Integrity to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam and to ensure that NIH-funded programs are not relying on illegitimate or misrepresented sources. Steps must be taken to verify that any captive-breeding claims tied to federally funded research meet the standards of integrity and compliance expected under U.S. law.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
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May 19, 2025

Tony Fernandes  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)  
U.S. Department of State

Via e-mail: [OES-Press@state.gov](mailto:OES-Press@state.gov)

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Fernandes:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) to take action in response to serious irregularities and potential CITES violations in Vietnam's macaque trade, and to support a ban on all monkey imports from the country.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

## Executive Summary

Vietnam's macaque trade is rife with inconsistencies. Inventory numbers reported to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) reveal biologically impossible export figures, unexplained surpluses, and falsified breeding rates at key facilities.

These findings build on concerns raised in the [Sandy River Research](#) investigation, which exposed similar discrepancies and regulatory failures in Vietnam's primate trade. A 2025 [Mongabay article](#) covering the Sandy River investigation included an interview with a smuggler who described capturing wild monkeys to sell to middlemen. He said, "*Mostly, monkeys are transported to Vietnam,*" suggesting that wild-caught monkeys may be trafficked across the border into Vietnam and sold to breeding farms that falsely claim them as captive-bred.

Vina Mekong and Thanh Cong Jingang—two of Vietnam's primary macaque-exporting farms—have reported figures that raise serious concerns. Vina Mekong exported more macaques than it had in documented inventory, while Thanh Cong Jingang reported an unexplained increase in macaques after accounting for exports and mortalities. These discrepancies strongly suggest the laundering of wild-caught individuals into international trade. Both farms supply macaques to

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major U.S. buyers, including Charles River Laboratories and Envigo Global Services. The U.S. biomedical industry is the key driver of this trade. Research institutions and pharmaceutical companies spend millions lobbying to keep primate imports unrestricted, despite growing biosecurity risks. Notably, imported macaques from Vietnam were linked to the largest recorded tuberculosis outbreak in research primates,<sup>1</sup> raising urgent concerns for global public health.

These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

Unless immediate, coordinated action is taken, Vietnam's macaque trade will continue to operate under a veil of regulatory failure, threatening endangered wildlife, enabling transnational trafficking networks, and exposing humans to serious zoonotic risks.

**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs to support a ban on monkey imports from Vietnam and to call for international oversight to ensure full traceability and compliance with CITES.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



Lisa Jones-Engel, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor, Primate Experimentation  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[LisaJE@peta.org](mailto:LisaJE@peta.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Swisher SD. Outbreak of *Mycobacterium orygis* in a shipment of cynomolgus macaques imported from Southeast Asia—United States, February–May 2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2024;73(7):145-149. doi:10.15585/mmwr.mm7307a2



May 19, 2025

Bradley T. Smith  
Director  
Office of Foreign Assets Control  
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Via e-mail: [OFACReport@treasury.gov](mailto:OFACReport@treasury.gov)

Dear Director Smith:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to take enforcement action against businesses linked to Vietnam's macaque trade and to support a ban on all monkey imports from the country. While OFAC is already aware of the illegal macaque trade and key players in Cambodia, acting on the evidence emerging from Vietnam is equally critical.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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These red flags have been evident in Vietnam's official CITES submissions for years, yet the CITES Secretariat has failed to take meaningful action. The data speaks for itself—Vietnam's official reports and CITES trade records appear to expose an industry built on stock manipulation and illegal wildlife laundering.

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Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the Office of Foreign Assets Control to use its authority to sanction transnational criminal organizations involved in Vietnam's macaque trade, including prohibiting them from conducting transactions with the United States, and to support a full ban on monkey imports from the country.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
[amckay@peta.org](mailto:amckay@peta.org)



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May 19, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
The Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Via e-mail: [agsec@usda.gov](mailto:agsec@usda.gov)

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture to suspend all monkey imports from Vietnam due to serious concerns about traceability and the legitimacy of their claimed captive-breeding origins.

A [recent investigation](#) by PETA has revealed alarming irregularities in Vietnam's macaque trade. Despite claims of regulated captive breeding, discrepancies in official data raise serious concerns that wild-caught macaques may be laundered into the supply chain to meet international demand, particularly from the U.S. biomedical industry.

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**Request: End Monkey Imports from Vietnam**

Please see the full detailed report of our investigation [here](#). We urge the USDA, through APHIS, to impose a full ban on macaque imports from Vietnam and to take steps toward ending all NHP imports for laboratory use.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



April McKay, M.S.  
Primate Research Coordinator  
Laboratory Investigations Department  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
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