2026 | No. 2, Issue 96



the Augustus Vanguard newsletter



INSIDE

PETA is Inspiring Government Agencies to Shift Away from Experiments on Animals
Page 1

PETA is the Only Organization with a Comprehensive Plan to Get All Animals Out of Laboratories
Page 3

Animals Are Wondrous: Monkeys
Page 5

PETA
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510

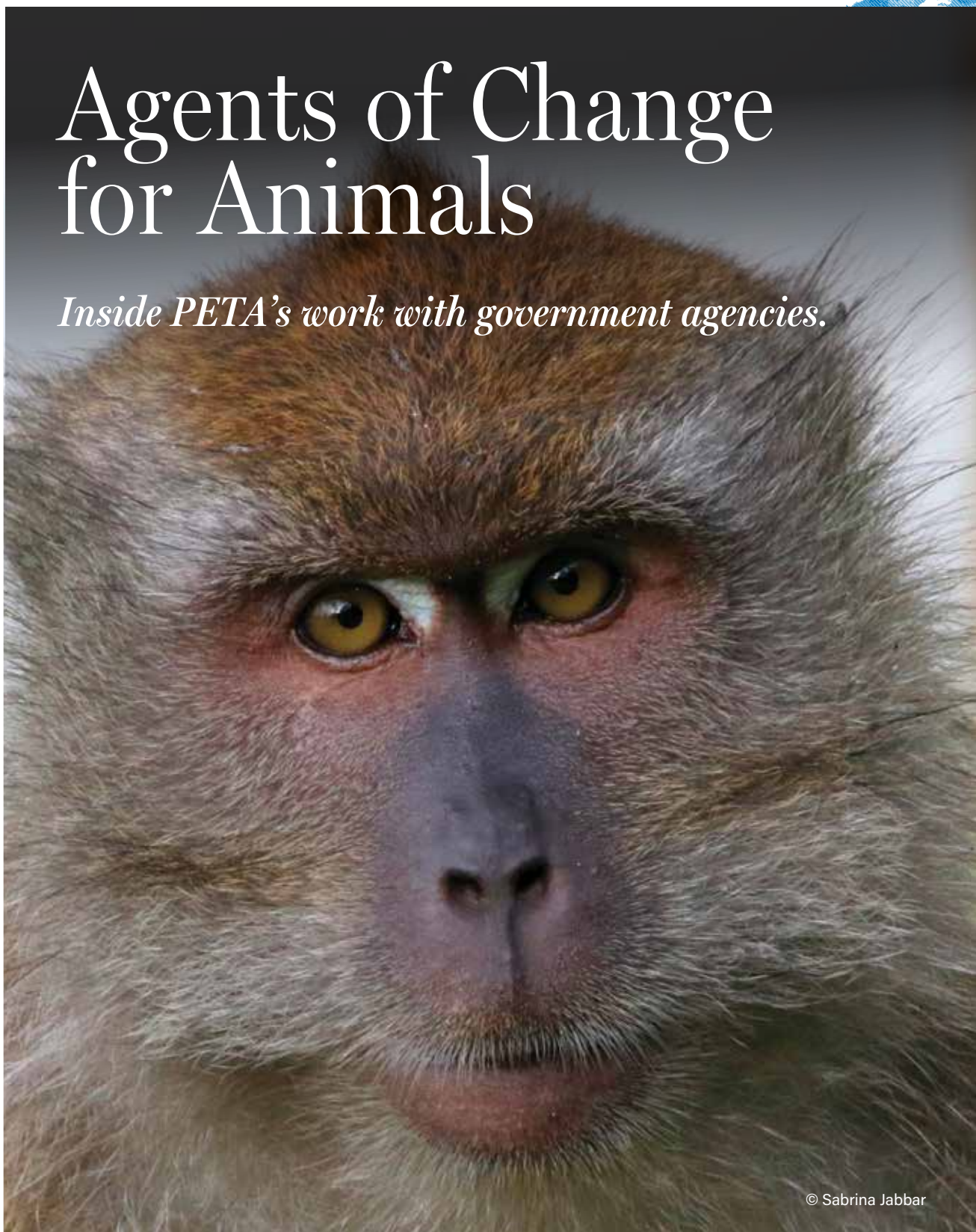
AUGUSTUS CLUB
757-962-8213
Legacy@peta.org
PETA.org/Legacy

VANGUARD SOCIETY
757-622-7382
VanguardSociety@peta.org
PETA.org/Vanguard

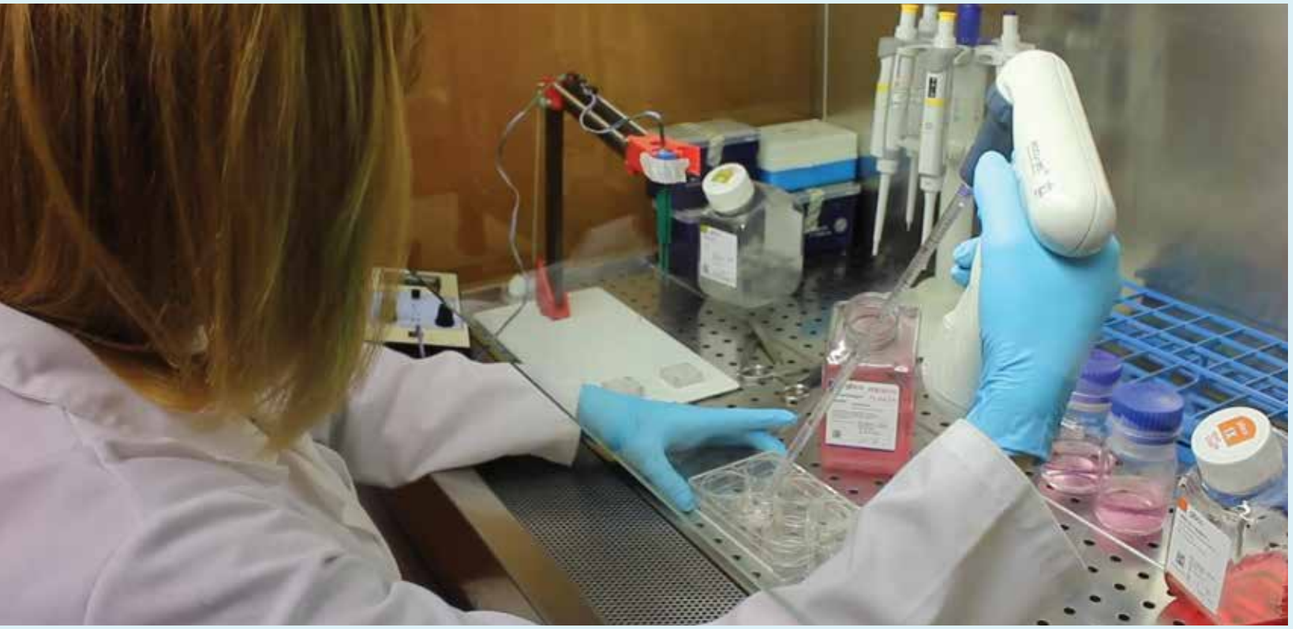
Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

Agents of Change for Animals

Inside PETA's work with government agencies.



© Sabrina Jabbar



PETA is Inspiring Government Agencies to Shift Away from Experiments on Animals

Animals are not ours to experiment on. Yet, as you well know, scores of monkeys, dogs, mice, rats, and other animals continue to be caged, burned, poisoned, starved, mutilated, and killed in experiments. Their lives consist of nothing but loneliness, pain, and constant terror.

Much of their misery is regulated and funded by the government—which is why PETA focuses so heavily on working with government agencies to change rules and policies that rely on cruel practices and outdated science. And thanks to our generous Vanguard Society and Augustus Club supporters, we've been making giant leaps forward.

Read on to learn how you are playing a vital role in PETA's work to shift government agencies toward innovative, human-relevant research that saves animals' (including humans!) lives.

The National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the world's largest funder of biomedical research and a primary focus of PETA's work to help animals in laboratories. PETA's persistent advocacy and expert scientific guidance have led the NIH to make historic changes, including an agency-wide plan to move funding away from experiments on animals and toward cutting-edge non-animal research methods.

The NIH recently closed its in-house beagle laboratory, where thousands of dogs were used in pneumonia and septic-shock experiments; terminated funding for notorious infant monkey experiments first exposed by PETA at Harvard University; excluded experiments on animals from being considered for a new funding opportunity for autism research; and announced a $150 million investment in non-animal research methods.

Other exciting progress from the NIH—made possible because of supporters like you—is the announcement that the agency will allow grant funds to be used for animal retirement or rehoming. Previously, funds could only be used for the acquisition, "care," and use of animals in experiments. No animal should be used in experiments—EVER—but this common-sense policy change finally recognizes that death is not the only option for animals who have seen the worst of what humanity can bring. It recognizes that they are not simply lab equipment to be junked when their usefulness is over.

The Food and Drug Administration

Since the PETA-supported FDA Modernization Act 2.0 was passed and signed into law in 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has continued to shift the way drugs and treatments are developed in the United States.

In April 2025, the agency released guidance on how to phase out requirements to test on animals for certain drugs, including the development of monoclonal antibodies that are used in research and to treat a variety of diseases. PETA scientists did groundbreaking work in this area, including the development of non-animal antibodies.

Testing a single antibody drug can use and kill more than 100 monkeys, so this reform can directly translate into fewer animals captured from their forest homes, shipped, and killed for data that current science can deliver without them.

The FDA also declared its intention to incentivize companies to use non-animal tests, accept non-animal tests that have already been extensively vetted in Europe and beyond, and publicize examples where non-animal tests have been used by companies and accepted by the agency. Listed among the FDA's high-priority items were those that PETA has been pushing the agency to end for years, including vaccine testing, pyrogenicity testing, and skin irritation testing on animals.

Environmental Protection Agency

For decades, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has relied on the results of cruel tests on animals to establish "acceptable" chemical-exposure levels for humans. Millions of animals have been killed because of it. Thankfully, at the urging of PETA scientists, the EPA is now moving toward the use of more reliable, non-animal testing.

This year, the agency updated its official list of test methods it considers scientifically reliable and relevant, including scientifically sound testing methods that replace historically used tests on dogs, rabbits, and other animals. PETA scientists have worked closely with the EPA for years to advance the real-world use of such methods for skin absorption, skin corrosion, phototoxicity, eye irritation, and skin sensitization tests. Recent actions prove the value of this investment.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Endangered long-tailed macaques have long been funneled into Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratories, even when the CDC's own data shows these monkeys can arrive with tuberculosis and other pathogens that can be passed on to workers and handlers; testing protocols are weak; and the supply chain is riddled with escapes, disease lapses, and regulatory failures. PETA has spent years exposing these dangers and calling for change, and last November, the agency took a critical step forward by ending all experiments on monkeys!

Thank you for helping our work to advance change for animals at the highest levels.

A Look at the Failures of Tests on Animals

100% The percentage of HIV vaccines and new drugs for stroke and sepsis that fail in human clinical trials.

95% The percentage of all new drugs that fail in human clinical trials.

90% The percentage of basic research that fails to lead to human health advances within 20 years.

89% An estimate of the percentage of preclinical experiments that are not reproducible.

81% The percentage of time that tests on animals fail to detect the potential side effects of drugs in humans.

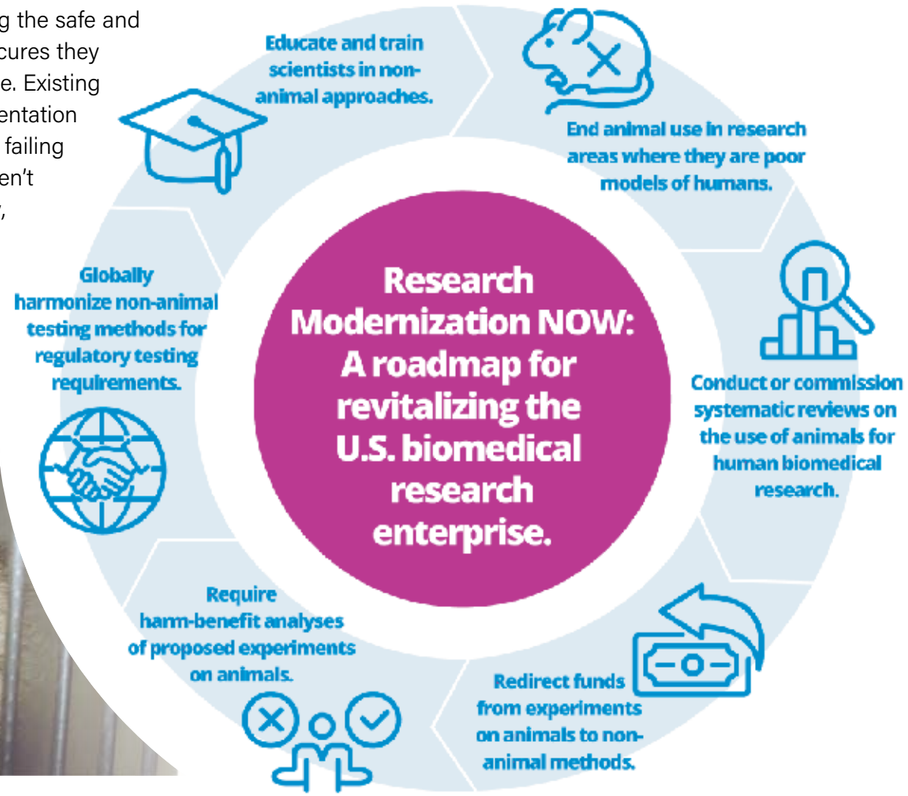
PETA is the Only Organization with a Comprehensive Plan to Get All Animals Out of Laboratories

When working to convince government agencies and policymakers to stop tormenting and killing animals in laboratories, PETA arrives with more than complaints and critiques (although we have many!). We come with solid research and a viable plan.

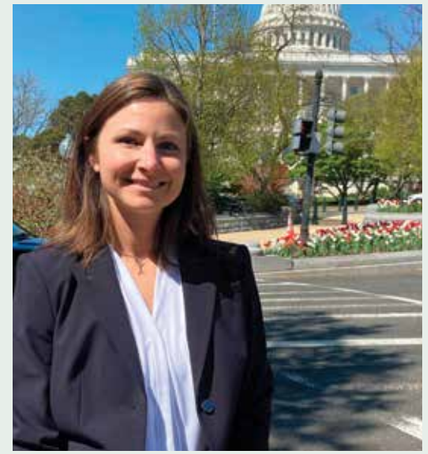
We show decision-makers that the current waste of resources, time, and animals' lives in laboratories has a direct and disastrous effect on human health and the environment. Experiments on animals are not reliably generating the safe and effective treatments and cures they were promised to produce. Existing oversight of U.S. experimentation on animals and testing is failing to ensure that animals aren't being used unnecessarily, that their welfare is protected when they are, or that human-relevant methods are being adequately supported.

PETA's **Research Modernization NOW** is a roadmap for ending the use of animals in laboratories and revitalizing U.S. research with detailed information on 42 areas of research, medical education, toxicity assessment, and laboratory production methods, as well as the astonishing failure of animal use to protect human health and the environment.



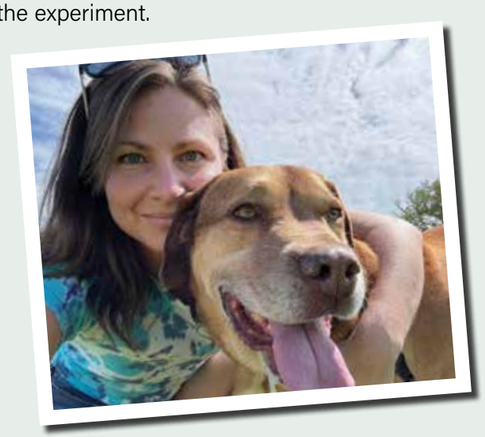


Dr. Emily Trunnell worked in a laboratory conducting experiments on animals. Now she works with PETA to get them out.



As director of PETA's Science Advancement & Outreach division, Dr. Emily Trunnell leads the team in its work to improve science policy and replace the use of animals with superior research methods. She's passionate about this work because she has seen for herself how animals suffer for science.

Just over 10 years ago, Emily was pursuing her PhD in neuroscience. Part of her education included working in a laboratory, a role she relished at first. She enjoyed spending time with the rats and getting to know them as individuals. But as time went on, and the "work" she did involved intentionally harming and killing the rats she had come to know, Emily began to question the value of the experiment.



"I started looking into whether what I'd been told my entire graduate career—that animal research was critical for medical advances—was really the truth," Emily recalls. "It wasn't."

After graduating, Emily took a job with PETA to help end experiments on animals. *Over the past 10 years, she and her team have created a global tidal wave against the forced swim test, stopped dogs from being bred to have crippling muscular dystrophy, challenged the NIH's funding of sepsis experimentation on animals in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit, and much, much more.* To all of this work, Emily brings her personal experiences from the laboratory and her passion for creating a future where students no longer need to put their empathy aside to be good scientists.

She's grateful to work alongside friends like you in this work that holds the power to help get animals out of laboratories and relegate experiments on them to the history books.



Animals Are Wondrous: Monkeys

Monkeys are smart and playful. In nature, they may travel for miles, foraging for a variety of foods, socializing with family and friends, climbing hills, swinging from vines, swimming in rivers, scampering across fields, and cavorting with their companions. Some monkeys use tools to make their lives easier, like using a rock to crack open a nut.

In laboratories, these clever, adventure-loving animals have barely enough room to sit, stand, lie down, or turn around. The rich days full of sensory stimulation that they should be experiencing are replaced by days devoid of interaction with other primates, color, scent, and every other type of environmental enrichment.

In many laboratories, so-called enrichment may amount to little more than a plastic toy, a mirror, or an occasional piece of fruit.

For decades, PETA has campaigned to get monkeys out of laboratories, and while it has been hard and slow going, our recent progress has been swift and expansive. In the last 18 months, the NIH terminated funding at Harvard University for studies that included sewing shut the eyes of young monkeys, the CDC ended all experiments on monkeys, the Oregon Health & Science University board voted to substantially reduce its federally funded National Primate Research Center and transition to non-animal studies, and the FDA called on the pharmaceutical industry to replace the use of primates and other animals who are routinely killed in painful tests to meet FDA requirements.

Now, groundbreaking legislation has been introduced in Congress that would ban the import of monkeys destined for laboratories or their suppliers—so monkeys can stay in forests, where they belong. We're working hard to push it forward!





The bipartisan **Preventing Risky Importation of Monkeys to Avoid Toxic Exposures (PRIMATE) Act** (H.R. 8471) would stop the importation of monkeys used for experimentation. In 2025, more than 22,000 nonhuman primates entered the United States. If the PRIMATE Act passes, not another monkey would be abducted, crated, and flown into this country for experiments. Instead, these wondrous animals could continue to live in their home in the forests, feel the sun on their faces, raise their children, and live the lives they were born to live.

Augustus Club and Vanguard Society support makes this work possible. Together, we will get monkeys and all animals out of laboratories.



Images provided by Dr. MM Feeroz

the Augustus Vanguard newsletter

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, trust, or other estate plan, such as a beneficiary of a retirement plan.



Augustus was one of the 17 macaque "Silver Spring monkeys," most of whom were taken from their jungle homes in the late 1970s and purchased by animal experimenter Edward Taub for testing purposes. After PETA exposed the extreme cruelty and neglect 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.

While Augustus did not survive the experiments, he has inspired thousands of PETA members to leave a legacy for animals, helping to build a future in which no animals will lose their freedom to cruel experiments.

Augustus Club member benefits include the following:

- Access to special events throughout the year, including galas featuring policymakers, prominent advocates, and celebrities who champion animal liberation.
- A private Facebook group for Augustus Club members to share stories and connect with one another.
- Invitations to local events that provide an opportunity to meet other local PETA members and explore deeper involvement in animal liberation.
- A subscription to *PETA Global* magazine and a 15% discount on PETA merchandise at PETA.org/Shop.
- Periodic calls or mailings 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.
- Invitations to tour PETA's headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia.

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

Members of PETA's Vanguard Society turn their compassion for animals into action by generously giving $1,000 to $100,000 and up over the period of a calendar year to support all of PETA's life-changing work for animals.



Vanguard was a cocker spaniel-poodle mix who was slated to be used in fatal and painful deep-sea diving experiments before he was rescued. His name means "the forefront of a movement," and after his rescue and recovery, he found a loving home and has inspired outstanding generosity from Vanguard Society members.

Our Vanguard Society members receive:

- Invitations to special events, such as our exclusive town hall meetings with PETA's president and senior staff members, and private events for animals held throughout the country.
- 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 see the impact of your generosity.

We want to extend our deepest appreciation to our Augustus Club and Vanguard Society members. Thank you for amplifying your impact for animals through your exceptional generosity.