

ANIMAL ISSUES **DIGEST**

**FIGHTING FOR
ANIMALS
AT CITES**

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CELEBRATES 20 YEARS
OF WILDLIFE WINS**

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PLUS

**SEE WHAT WE HAVE IN STORE FOR 2023
BIG NEWS FOR BIG CATS**



WELCOME

Born Free USA's 20th anniversary is a celebration not only of the many victories for animals, but it is also a celebration of you, our supporters! Through your dedication and passion for animals, the organization that started around a kitchen table has grown into an international powerhouse for wildlife conservation and animal welfare advocacy.

While there are huge challenges ahead, consider all that has changed to benefit animals in the last couple decades. Fur is out of fashion. Vegan lifestyles are becoming mainstream. States are enacting laws to protect wild animals from captivity. In fact, we are closer than ever before to a federal ban on big cats as pets!

In the next couple weeks, the Born Free USA Board and staff will reach out to as many of our supporters as possible to thank you personally for making all these life-changing victories for animals possible. While we will not be able to reach everyone, please know that every single one of you helps move our shared values forward. You have created a legacy of compassion and hope and you are our inspiration.

On behalf of everyone at Born Free USA and the animals we protect, thank you for making 20 years of protecting animals possible!



Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela".

Angela Grimes
Chief Executive Officer
Born Free USA

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We work to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and are able to live their lives according to their needs. We seek to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world.

Art, Production & Editorial:

Arlene Harting-Josue, Graphic Designer
Karen Lauria, Communications Director

Writers & Contributors:

Shelley Brend; Wendy Coonrod; Suzanne Emerson; Angela Grimes; Jennifer Place; Devan Schowe; Alice Stroud; Melissa Tomlinson; Dr. Liz Tyson-Griffin.

P.O. Box 32160, Washington, DC 20007
(301) 448-1407 | info@bornfreeusa.org | bornfreeusa.org



MONKEYS DO THE DARNEDEST THINGS!

Just like humans, the monkeys at the sanctuary have very different personalities, likes, and dislikes from one another; no two monkeys are the same. Some are serious and thoughtful, some have short tempers, some are quiet and reserved. In this edition, we celebrate all that is silly by introducing you to the mischief-makers, the jokesters, and the downright goofy residents who call the sanctuary home!

TEDDY is known as one of the most mischievous monkeys at the sanctuary. Tag teaming with her two partners in crime, Mikey and Willis, she takes delight in jumping out from behind a branch and trying to pull caregivers' hair, or steal something out of their hands, as they walk by. We swear that the delighted clucking sound that she makes after a particularly dastardly prank is her laughing at us!



GILBERT is one of the goofiest monkeys at the sanctuary and is an expert at visual comedy. He is a connoisseur of hats and has been known to fashion large leaves into head coverings, chattering his teeth happily as he tries them on for size. Recently, he was found draping the silks from a corncob over his head, which made him look like he was wearing a pretty blond wig! Gilbert is one of the most popular monkeys with caregiving staff, always managing to raise a smile with his antics.



GIZMO has one of the most distinctive greetings of all the monkeys at the sanctuary: if he is happy to see you, he will flap his (somewhat large) ears back and forth in delight. Coupled with a big "smile" as he chatters his teeth, he can put on quite the display for his close friends!



WILLIS is the youngest rescued monkey at the sanctuary and his infective *joie de vivre* never fails to



make his caregivers laugh. Whether it is dunking his entire body in his water bucket to keep cool, rolling himself up in his blanket like a monkey burrito, or hanging upside down on his special swing, if you need a mood boost, a visit to Willis is just the remedy!

VIOLET likes to greet her friends in a very traditional baboon manner... by showing them her backside! While it might sound funny, baboons present their behinds to one another as a sign of friendship and submission, so if a baboon like Violet ever turns their back on you and presents their rear, they are not being rude, they want to make friends!



DARWIN is, hands down, one of the most comedic characters at the sanctuary. He insists on carrying round his giant red egg everywhere he goes. It doubles as a comfortable seat that he can sit on as he watches the world go by. To us, it looks a little like he is waiting for his egg to hatch. If it did, would a chick or a baboon pop out?



ALL THE MONKEYS ABOVE ARE A PART OF OUR ADOPTION PROGRAM! SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS.

GIVE A GIFT THAT GIVES BACK!

Change a Monkey's Life: Give a Primate Adoption!

At the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary hundreds of monkeys get a second chance after a tragic start in life. Thanks to our adopters, the monkeys receive the highest quality care, with open spaces, nutritious food, round-the-clock veterinary care, vital companionship, and endless toys and enrichment. You can give all this to a special monkey for \$52 (just \$1 a week). Each adoption comes with a certificate, the chosen monkey's story, their framed photo, updates about the monkeys, and an adorable plush monkey toy. With 20 adoptable individuals to choose from, you will be sure to find a monkey friend for yourself or your loved one!



Photos: (left to right)
Top: Anna, Kiki
Middle: Marlin, Oscar,
Bottom: Grinch

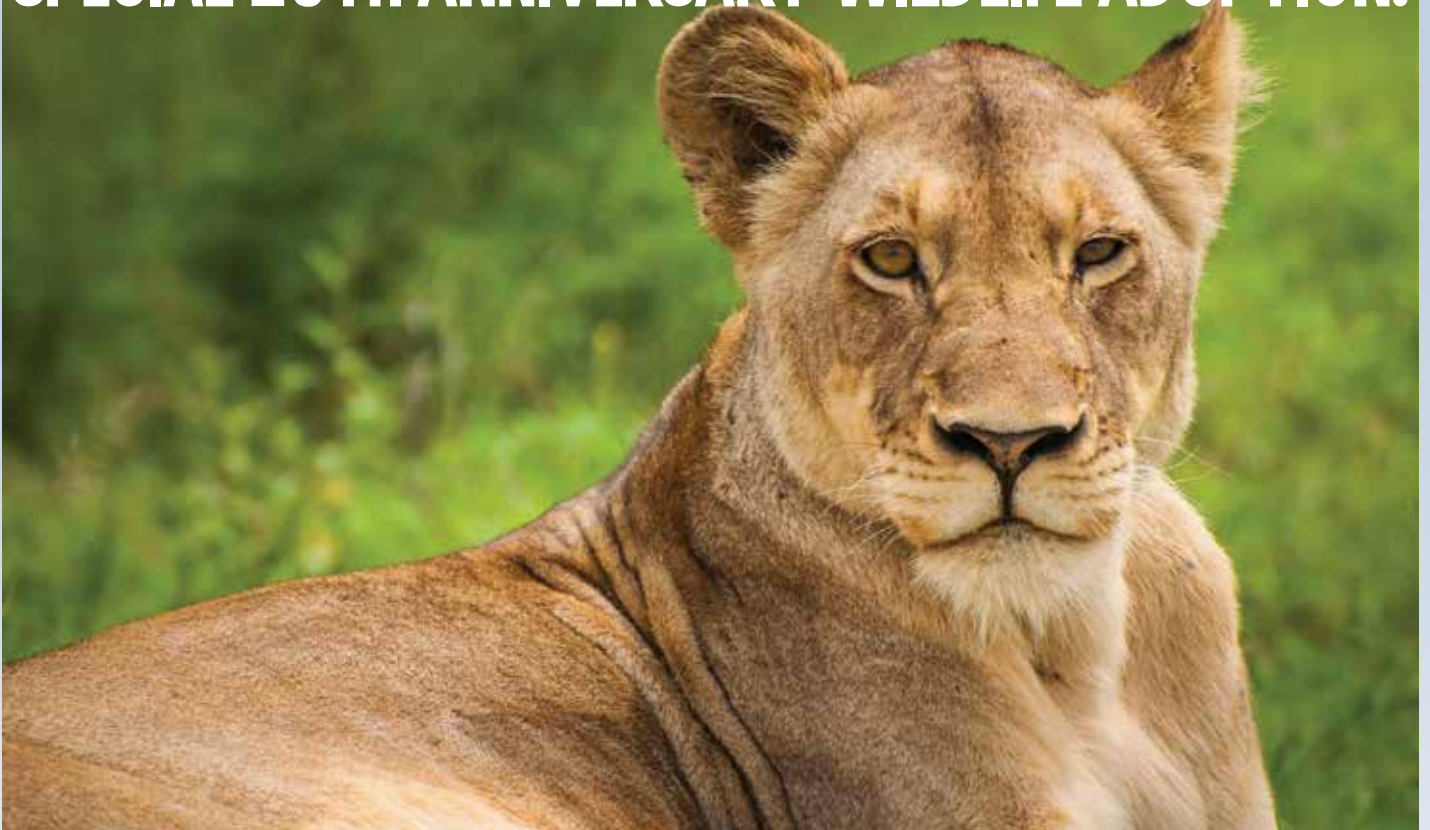
Can't pick just one monkey? Then adopt 12 by joining the Monkey of the Month Club!

Members of this very special club receive the photo and story of a new monkey to their email inbox each month! In addition to the standard adoption updates, members are the first to learn new information about each month's monkey. You or a loved one can connect with 12 special monkeys for less than it costs to adopt four! Membership is \$180 (just \$15 a month). Go to bornfreeusa.org/mmc or scan the QR code to the right!



To give an adoption gift go to bornfreeusa.org/adopt, scan the QR code to the left, or call 301-448-1407.

SPECIAL 20TH ANNIVERSARY WILDLIFE ADOPTION!



Adopt Elsa!

Our symbolic wildlife adoptions allow you to support the animals closest to your heart. Each adoption supports work safeguarding your chosen species. And, to mark our 20th anniversary we are honoring the animal who started it all. By symbolically adopting Elsa you will be protecting all the lionesses (and lions) we share our planet with today. Each adoption is \$52 (just \$1 a week) and comes with a certificate, a species fact sheet, a framed photo, and a plush lioness. You can give a gift adoption or adopt for yourself. This limited-edition adoption is only available through the end of the year!



You Can Also Adopt Six Other Wild Species!



BORN FREE USA FIGHTS FOR

Imagine that you are a customs inspector in West Africa based at an international airport. You are extremely keen to protect wildlife from illegal trade but have received only basic training on how to identify threatened species and have inadequate knowledge of international rules and regulations. Perhaps most importantly, you have absolutely no idea how to handle wild animals and have no access to protective equipment like gloves.

One day, you are inspecting a box labelled “fish products,” which is emanating an unpleasant smell, and you notice a scratching sound coming from inside the box. You should open this box and inspect its contents, but this is an unappealing prospect – what if it contains a venomous species, or animals that may carry disease? None of your colleagues have the time or skills to assist.

What would you do?

The options open to this individual are frustratingly limited. Yet, this is a situation that regularly occurs, not only in West Africa but across the globe.

This November, governments from 184 countries will be gathering in Panama, at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19), to discuss how to ensure international trade in threatened wild animals and plants is regulated properly. High on the agenda of CoP19 are issues that directly relate to this customs inspector scenario in West Africa and thousands of others like them around the world.

COUNTER THE SPREAD OF ZOOONOTIC DISEASES

The transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans (“zoonoses”) are a serious threat to global public health. Scientists believe that the COVID-19 virus originated in wild animals and there may be more than 800,000 undiscovered animal viruses that could infect people. Between 2009 and 2018, 90 million live CITES-listed animals were traded internationally, and 26.5 million of these belonged to a group of animals known to carry at least one zoonotic disease.

West African Parties are calling for CITES to take robust action to ensure that the threat to public health from wildlife

trade is minimized and that enforcement officials are provided with training and equipment for handling wild animals. Born Free USA will be vigorously supporting this initiative.

What is CITES?

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments that aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten species' survival. CoPs (Conferences of Parties) take place every three years and provide an opportunity for member States and other stakeholders to review progress in species conservation in order to adopt or amend proposals related to species protection.

OBTAIN FUNDING FOR ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

Massive declines in many species have been caused wholly or partly by illegal trade. At CoP19, West

African Parties are calling for the establishment of a CITES Enforcement Fund to provide officials with skills and tools to identify, stop, and prevent illegal trade and to ensure that CITES regulations are adequately enforced. Born Free USA strongly supports this initiative and will be advocating for bold biodiversity commitments to be matched with ambitious funding commitments at CoP19 in line with Born Free's Global Nature Recovery Investment Initiative. (Learn more at bornfreeusa.org/gnrii)

ANIMALS AT CITES COP19!

PUSH FOR SPECIES PROTECTIONS

The level of protection provided to numerous plant and animal species will also be debated in November. Some of our priority species this year include:



Hippopotamuses. The international trade in hippo ivory is of huge conservation concern. West African countries are calling for a ban on international commercial trade in any hippo product.



Requiem Sharks. There are more than 50 species of requiem shark, including grey reef shark and dusky shark, that currently receive no protection from CITES. Countries are calling for trade in requiem sharks to be regulated.



Elephants. Elephants continue to be threatened by international trade in their tusks. As always, enhancing the level of protection that elephants receive will be hotly debated at CITES.



Sea Cucumbers. Exploitation of sea cucumbers, which are a vital component of their ecosystem, has been growing exponentially. The U.S., European Union, and Seychelles are calling for regulation of sea cucumber trade.



Pod Mahoganies. Overexploitation for timber has raised conservation alarm bells and there are calls for the international trade to be monitored.

At CoP19, Born Free USA will work to ensure that wild animals and plants are given the highest levels of protection. We will also aim to ensure that those on the frontline of conservation efforts are able to protect species from illegal trade.

We will keep you posted directly from Panama – keep an eye on our website for regular updates!

BE THEIR HOPE

Donate to protect wildlife and rescue individual animals



with the enclosed postage paid envelope or online at bornfreeusa.org/donate.

WE HAVE LOTS IN STORE FOR 2023!

We have a lot planned for the coming year! Here is just some of what you can look forward to from Born Free USA.

New Report on Polar Bears in Zoos

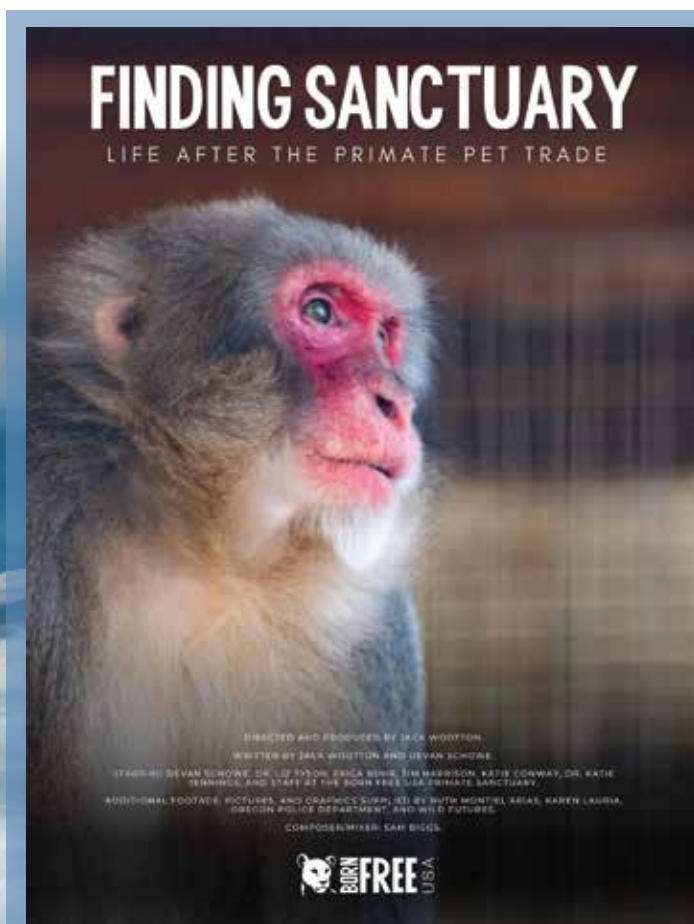
We will continue our focus on the suffering of wild animals in captivity with the release of a groundbreaking report into polar bears in zoos. In it, we strengthen the call made in our 2022 reports exploring captive elephants and giraffes to phase out the keeping of these and other animals held captive for entertainment.

Activist Toolkit

Early in 2023, we will be empowering activists to take action on the issues that they care about with the launch of the Born Free USA Activist Toolkit. Using the experience of our expert team, the toolkit will contain hints, tips, tutorials, templates, and factsheets on everything from trophy hunting to zoos. We hope that this free resource will help to propel campaigns for animals around the country and beyond.

Updated Report on Online Exotic Pet Sales

Following the success of our awareness-raising comic strips looking at the trade in exotic animals as pets (see page 9), we will be updating our 2016 investigation into the online sale of wild animals in the U.S. The research recommendations will look at ways to curb this unregulated and dangerous trade by calling upon online platforms to self-regulate, as well as proposing legislative change to end the practice once and for all.



***Finding Sanctuary* – Born Free USA Documentary Recognized by Film Festival**

A short documentary about the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary has been selected for inclusion in the annual Wildlife Conservation Film Festival. The film documents the stories of some of the sanctuary monkeys and calls for an end to the trade in primates as pets. Learn more and watch the film at bornfreeusa.org/monkeydoc.

BIG NEWS FOR BIG CATS!

With your passionate and vocal support, we have been pushing Congress to pass the Big Cat Public Safety Act (H.R. 263/S. 1210), an incredibly popular, bipartisan bill that would prohibit private individuals from owning big cat species like tigers or lions and prohibit direct contact between members of the public and these wild animals.

On July 29, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill with a strong vote of 278-134. The bill now

heads to the Senate, where it has the support of nearly half of all U.S. Senators.

When Congress comes back from summer break, rest assured we will continue to put all our weight behind the final passage and enactment of this critical bill. But as always, we need your help. Follow Born Free USA and subscribe to our email alerts to find out how to take action, including urging your Senators to vote yes on the Big Cat Public Safety Act!



NEW: WOMEN FOR WILDLIFE!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new program to connect women with Born Free's wildlife conservation programs in a unique way. Women for Wildlife is a membership group that engages women on a deeper level, combining knowledge and expertise, enabling greater access to Born Free USA leadership, and empowering members to vote on wildlife conservation project funding.

This year, all membership donations support Born Free's primate sanctuary. In the future, members will support the sanctuary along with

other wildlife conservation projects designated by the members.

All Women for Wildlife members who join in 2022 will be recognized as founding members.

Consider joining yourself or donate a gift membership to a compassionate woman in your life. You can learn more about Women for Wildlife membership levels and benefits at bornfreeusa.org/womenforwildlife.

Together, we're harnessing the collective power of women to create lasting change for wildlife. Join us!



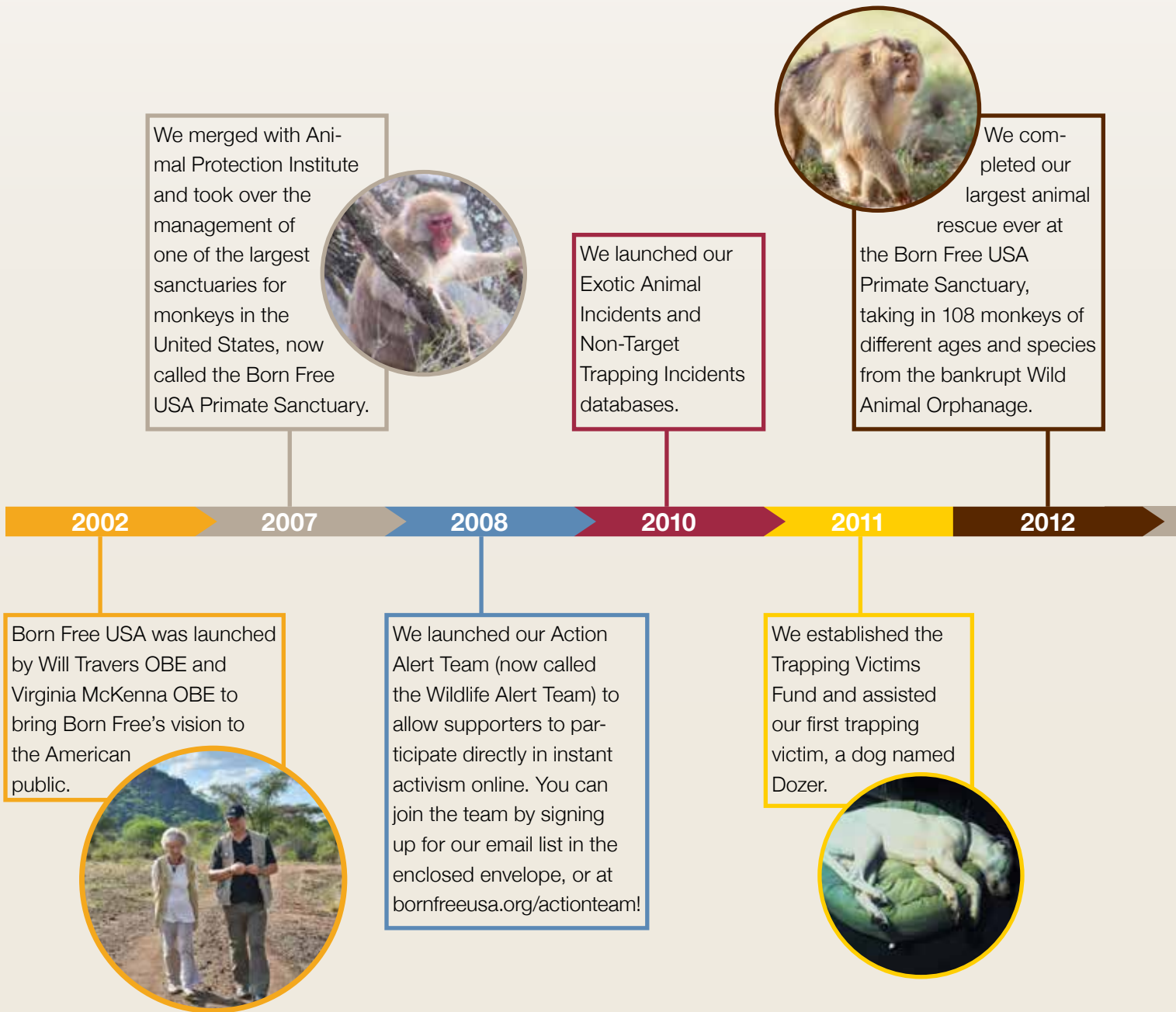
ZooDraws x Born Free USA Comics Create a Stir on Exotic Pets!

Born Free USA was delighted to team up with talented comic artist, Brian Ahearn of ZooDraws, on a series of five comic strips exploring the cruel trade in exotic pets by telling the stories of a vervet monkey, a tiger, and other animals. Explore the comics at bornfreeusa.org/zoodraws.

BORN FREE USA CELEBRATES

20 YEARS OF PROTECTING WILDLIFE!

This year marked the 20th anniversary of our founding. We are proud and humbled to have been serving wildlife for two decades, saving countless animals, preserving whole ecosystems, and keeping wildlife in the wild. It is thanks to our passionate supporters that we have made it this far! On this special occasion, we would like to take the opportunity to look back on some of our biggest milestones and favorite accomplishments. Thank you for your loyalty and compassion, and here is to the next 20 years!



- ✓ Animal news
- ✓ Legislative updates
- ✓ Sanctuary stories
- ✓ Events and webinars
- ✓ New reports and investigations
- ✓ Ways to take action

Get it all straight to your inbox by joining our Wildlife Alert Team! Visit bornfreeusa.org/wildlifealertteam.



On November 29, we held our first wildlife trafficking workshop. Since then, we have held more than 30 workshops and trainings to combat wildlife crime with participants from more than 15 countries in West and Central Africa.

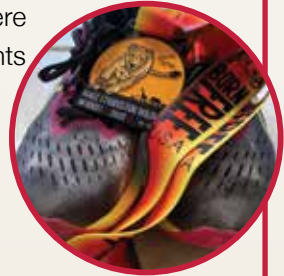
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Born Free launched the Global Nature Recovery Investment Initiative to call on world leaders to prioritize public and animal health, and protect people and wildlife around the globe.

In July, we won a lawsuit against the USDA, which forced them to restore all inspection records for zoos, circuses, research labs, and other animal facilities, to their public database.

Our 20th Anniversary Year!

We released our documentary short film, *Finding Sanctuary*, which exposes the cruelty of the primate pet trade. The film was accepted into the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival!

In September, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we held our *Make Strides for Wildlife* virtual race, where participants from across the country walked, ran, biked, and more to support wildlife!



2015

2016

2019

2020

2021

2022

On December 21, after a four-year battle, our petition to add African lions to the Endangered Species Act was granted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

At the 18th Conference of the Parties, we successfully supported the effort to have giraffes included in Appendix II of CITES!

In June, Canada passed a bill that Born Free had worked on for years, which banned the shark fin trade throughout the country.

Throughout 2021 we saw a series of notably large seizures of trafficked wildlife and wildlife products by West African officials who had been trained by Born Free USA!

In September, we named inspiring young advocate Kate Gilman Williams as our first Youth Ambassador!



DIVE DEEPER INTO BORN FREE USA'S WINS FOR WILDLIFE AT BORNFREEUSA.ORG/20.

P.O. Box 32160
Washington, DC 20007
301-448-1407
info@bornfreeusa.org
www.bornfreeusa.org

Change Service Requested

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XXXAddressXX
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YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN AN ANIMAL WILL NEED A HERO.

While protecting animals is a fulltime job that takes careful planning, situations always arise that demand immediate action. You can be a hero for an animal in crisis by becoming a Wildlife Sustainer!

These monthly donors allow us to spring into action the second we hear of an animal in need. As a Wildlife Sustainer, your recurring gift will provide support for animals when and where it's needed most, making a powerful difference for at-risk wildlife. For as little as \$3 a month, you can sustain wildlife!

When an animal is in crisis, will you answer the call? Become a Wildlife Sustainer today by returning the enclosed envelope, visiting bornfreeusa.org/sustainer, or scanning the QR code.

