

THE HARM CAUSED BY THE PRIMATE PET TRADE.

PAGE 5

PIUS

TRAINING EFFORTS PAYING OFF WITH MAJOR WILDLIFE SEIZURES IN NIGERIA.

PROGRESS FOR WILDLIFE LEGISLATION ON CAPITOL HILL.



#### **WELCOME**

In a recent interview, I was asked: "What's the deal with animals?" While the question was meant to elicit a pithy summary of the complex issues we had discussed, the words made me pause. I ultimately responded that animals don't have a "deal" – humans have a "deal" with animals.

Animals don't have an agenda. Wildlife doesn't need to be managed, controlled, or contained. They have no "purpose" to educate, entertain, or amuse. They are perfectly capable of living without our interference – and they have a right to. Humans have a responsibility to allow them to do just that.

Those who know me have probably heard me quip that there is one simple phrase that could be the key to ending cruelty and exploitation: *just leave the animals alone*.

But, that's not a serious or practical solution.

Lasting solutions are as complex as the problems they aim to solve. To stop the exploitation of animals we must change how people view animals through education, provide alternatives for the root causes, and fight for legal protections.

In this edition of Animal Issues, we present some of the ways Born Free USA is working toward our vision: a co-existent future in which humans no longer exploit wild animals. We are raising awareness through an eye-opening report on the plight of primates in captivity (Public Danger, Private Pain – page 5). We're working on the ground in West Africa to combat wildlife trafficking (Progress toward a National Strategy on Wildlife and Forest Crime in Nigeria, page 8) and here in North America, fighting for legal protections to end exploitative, so-called "educational," shows in Canada (The PAWS Act: A Way to End Mobile Live Animal Programs in Ontario? - page 13) and the keeping of big cats and primates as "pets" in the United States (Progress on Capitol Hill - page 10).

While we are working various angles to solve multi-faceted problems, at the heart of everything we do is the individual animal – the cheetah



mother who had her baby taken away to be a pet; the iguana who lives in a plastic bin in a warehouse to be trotted out at school shows; Mopane the lion, who suffered and died at the hands of a trophy hunter.

You are also individuals who matter. You are essential parts of the solution. By continuing to work together, we can ensure a peaceful future for animals.

For the Animals,

Angela Grimes
Chief Executive Officer
Born Free USA

Angela



### WILD ANIMALS NEED YOUR HELP NOW

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|   | THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING |

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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.

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FALL/WINTER 2021



# THE SUMMER OF MONKEYS

his summer was one for the books when it came to monkey rescues! It seemed that not a week went by without a call from someone seeking an urgent home for a monkey in need. Throughout June and July alone, we were asked to provide a home to 18 monkeys from different exploitative situations. While we would love to provide a home for everyone, and negotiations are continuing for some of those monkeys, we simply do not have the capacity or resources to take them all.

However, over the hot summer months, our sanctuary team got to work preparing for the three we could welcome: Kiki the vervet, Gambit the rhesus macaque, and Picassa the olive baboon.

Kiki and Gambit had spent the first years of their lives in cages in people's homes. Their owners realized that they could not give these complex individuals the lives that they needed to thrive and contacted us for help.

Two lengthy road trips – one to Dallas and back from our South Texas sanctuary, and the other a complex rescue mission, which took our team all the way to Las Vegas – and both Kiki and Gambit arrived in their new homes in June and July respectively. Picassa remains at the defunct

sanctuary she lived at since being rescued from animal testing some years before, while we raise the necessary funds to bring her from her current California home to Texas.

While we wish that arrival at a sanctuary provided an instant "happily ever after" for every monkey, it is often just the start of a long and stressful journey of recovery from past trauma. For example, Kiki and Gambit are both five years old and neither had seen another monkey since they were taken from their mothers at just a few months old. Neither of them had spent time outside - evidenced by their pale faces, which are now steadily gaining a healthy color - and both were nervous to step on the grass in their enclosures. Gambit lacked strength

to run and jump but he is quickly learning those joys as his strength grows. It will be some time before our current "newbies" learn to be monkeys again, but we are delighted with their progress so far and hope to update you on their escapades at the sanctuary in our next edition.

You can help give Kiki and Gambit the lives they need by adopting them! Visit bornfreeusa.org/adopt.

You can support the Captive Primate Safety Act to help ensure that future generations of monkeys do not have to suffer as they did by visiting bornfreeusa.org/cpsa.

## BORN FREE USA'S LATEST REPORT SHINES A LIGHT ON THE HARM OF PRIVATE PRIMATE OWNERSHIP

Born Free USA's newest report. Public Danger, Private Pain: The Case Against the U.S. Primate Pet Trade, was launched in October. The report examines private ownership of primates in the United States from several perspectives and includes expert contributions from legislative, public health and safety, sanctuary management, international trade, social media influence, and animal welfare fields. These powerful voices come together in support of the Captive Primate Safety Act (reintroduced to Congress in March 2021), a groundbreaking law that would effectively ban private ownership of primates and restrict public interactions nation-wide if successfully implemented.

Coupled with our research outlining the gross inconsistencies in legislation between states, numbers of public safety incidents caused by privatelyowned primates, and implications for individual welfare, Public Danger, Private Pain showcases these expert opinions using a multi-faceted approach. The report features interview excerpts from retired law enforcement officer and Animal Outreach Organization Director, Tim Harrison; previous primate pet owner Erica Buhr; Colombian indigenous leader and Director of Fundación Maikuchiga sanctuary,

Jhon Vazquez; and Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary Manager, Katie Conway, for a holistic overview of this cruel and dangerous practice.

Our research indicates that 21 states have already taken steps to explicitly ban private ownership of primates. Of the states that do not ban private ownership outright, the legislation differs immensely between the remaining 29 states: 13 states require a permit and six states partially ban or require permits for some species. Nine states do not have any permit requirements at all.

The report also presents case studies detailing horrific incidents at zoos and private residences, many of which involved animal "experts" who were trained in wildlife handling, including veterinarians, zookeepers, and animal trainers. "Trained" primates, including service animals and animals used in entertainment, have also been involved in these attacks. These incidents demonstrate that. irrespective of the primate species, size, age, background, habituation to humans, within or outside of an enclosure, and with or without the humans involved having previous wildlife handling experience, primates will react in an unpredictable and aggressive manner in captivity, especially in close-contact situations

Despite these safety concerns, we found 46 facilities in the United States that currently offer 57 experiences with primates, including animal encounters, shows with interactions, photo ops, and open-contact walkthroughs. Troublingly, many of these facilities advertised infant primates available for animal encounters, promoted big cat encounters like cub petting, and offered primates for sale on their websites. Most facilities advertised their services under the guise of promoting wildlife conservation and using the animals to "educate" audiences about the species in the wild, despite featuring photos of the primates in unnatural situations like wearing clothing and performing tricks.

We conclude our report with individual stories of the monkeys rescued at the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary, which highlight their life-long medical and behavioral challenges, underlining the fact that sanctuaries are not the happily-ever-after solution to keeping primates in captivity.

Read the full report at bornfreeusa.org/petprimatesreport.

## SHOW YOU CARE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, GIVE AN ADOPTION GIFT!

OOK MARK

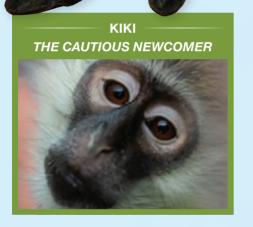
Give a new life to a monkey for the holidays! There are so many special monkeys at the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary who need your support. For only \$1 per week

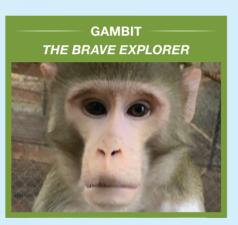
(\$52 per year), you can help provide nutritious food, shelter, and medical care to monkeys who have a second chance

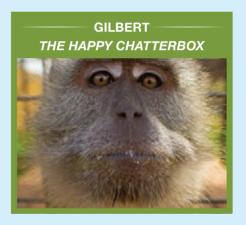
because of you.

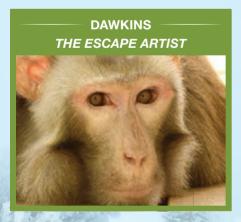
You or your gift recipient will receive an adoption package that includes a stunning photo of your adopted monkey along with his or her biography, a

personalized certificate of adoption, and a huggable plush toy. Plus, you will also receive updates about the monkeys throughout the year!

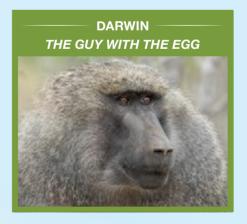












+ MANY MORE ADOPTABLE MONKEYS!

#### ADOPT TODAY AT BORNFREEUSA.ORG/ADOPT

NEW! Check out our brand new Monkey of the Month Club at bornfreeusa.org/mmc for another way for you to make a difference in the lives of the monkeys!

## PROTECT WILD ANIMALS WITH A WILDLIFE ADOPTION!

Each adoptable animal represents a vulnerable species that needs our help. For just \$1 per week (\$52 per year), you can support your favorite animals. You or your gift recipient will receive a virtual adoption kit including a printable photo, a fun factsheet, and a personalized adoption certificate.

As a special treat for the holidays, all wildlife adoptions will come with a plush toy, while supplies last. So hurry, give one of our adoptable species to a loved one, or give all four!

ADOPT TODAY AT BORNFREEUSA.ORG/ADOPT

### **ADOPT A FOX.**



### ADOPT A WOLF.



### **ADOPT A SHARK.**



### **ADOPT A TIGER.**



# TRAINING EFFORTS PAY OFF IN NIGERIA WITH EXPLOSION OF WILDLIFE SEIZURES

Law enforcement networks and the ability to share intelligence are essential to fight the cunning organized crime syndicates that traffic wildlife. Born Free USA is actively supporting West African countries with the development of effective enforcement coordination by training authorities across the enforcement chain, such as customs officers, border patrol agents, judges, and prosecutors.

Nigeria is currently reaping the benefits of this approach as officers trained by Born Free USA in November 2020 are completing one successful seizure after another of wildlife species being trafficked across borders. Since our training, Nigerian authorities have seized 1,918 lb. of elephant ivory (taken from about 76 elephants); 36,017 lb. of pangolin scales (taken from more than 32,600 pangolins); 221 grey parrots;

Photo: Seized elephant ivory.

11 lb. of rhino horn; dried and fresh animal bones; 227 lb. of skulls suspected to be of lions and other wild cats; and 76 pieces of semi-processed and processed timber.

These seizures – all of which were of endangered species on the brink of extinction – clearly indicate the urgent need for action to fully eradicate wildlife trafficking.

## PROGRESS TOWARD A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME IN NIGERIA

Nigeria is a key transit and export hub for wildlife crime in West Africa, and it is one of the countries most heavily targeted by wildlife traffickers in the region. In response, the country is intensifying its initiatives to tackle wildlife crime. One of Nigeria's boldest steps to date is the initiation of a partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in March 2021 to launch the development of a National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime.

As a key partner, Born Free USA supports the Nigerian authorities with the development of their national strategy. Using information collected

during previous work in the country, we are expanding our in-country activities to establish and train a specialized Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force that will equip authorities with the skills and tools they need to dismantle the criminal networks

that traffic wild animals and their parts. These aspects are pillars of the West Africa Strategy on Combatting Wildlife Crime, which Nigeria's national strategy will implement.

"BORN FREE USA HAS WORKED FOR YEARS
ALONGSIDE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY FOR COUNTERING
WILDLIFE CRIME. WE APPLAUD THEIR COMMITMENT,
WHICH NOT ONLY STRENGTHENS ANTI-TRAFFICKING
MEASURES WITHIN NIGERIA, BUT ALSO ACROSS
THE ENTIRE WEST AFRICAN REGION."

- ANGELA GRIMES, BORN FREE USA CEO

# BORN FREE CALLS ON THE ADOPTION OF THE ONE HEALTH — ONE WELFARE APPROACH TO WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND POLICY—MAKING

Markets selling live animals, or parts of wild animals, play an important role in the transmission of zoonotic pathogens, and the legal frameworks regulating wildlife trade are too weak to protect human health. A 2021 World Health Organization (WHO) report concluded that traditional food markets, where live animals taken from the wild are sold and slaughtered, "provide the opportunity for animal viruses, including coronaviruses, to amplify themselves and transmit to new hosts, including humans." To reduce public health risks, the WHO recommended that countries "suspend the trade in live caught wild animals" and "close sections of food markets selling live caught wild animals."

CITES, the only treaty established to ensure that the international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival, has a limited scope in that it does not regulate domestic trade and only protects 0.5% of the world's 8 million species. The treaty also fails to include animal or public health criteria in its decision-making. We must urgently address this gap.

As part of the End Wildlife Crime initiative, Born Free is calling on countries to reform existing international wildlife trade laws to include public and animal health considerations in decision-making. But, we must go further and apply a One Health – One Welfare approach,

which recognizes that people's health is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment, wildlife protection, and wider policy-making.

Born Free submitted an
Emergency Motion to the IUCN
World Conservation Congress
in September 2021, calling on
the Director General and IUCN's
institutions, staff, and members
to promote the adoption of a One
Health approach throughout IUCN's
efforts to conserve nature and move
toward a more sustainable society
as we emerge from the pandemic.



# PROGRESS ON CAPITOL HILL

While national priorities like infrastructure and reconciliation have taken center stage this Congress, our federal wildlife legislative initiatives have enjoyed some movement as well!

In May 2021, Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the Captive Primate Safety Act (H.R. 3135/S. 1588). This bill would ban both the interstate commerce of nonhuman primates as well as the private possession of these species. Taken together, these prohibitions would largely eliminate the rampant, cruel, and dangerous primate pet trade. It would also ban direct public contact with primates, removing the additional risk to human health, given the many safety concerns, including

multiple zoonotic diseases that can be passed to humans. Not only was this important bill introduced this summer, it also enjoyed a hearing before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife. We are now working towards a successful vote in the House Committee on Natural Resources – a necessary step before there can be a full vote on the House floor. Take action on this bill at bornfreeusa.org/cpsa.

The Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act (H.R. 4716) was also reintroduced this summer. Championed by Chairman Jerry Nadler (D-NY), this bill would ban private trapping within the National Wildlife Refuge System. Our refuges were designed to be an inviolate sanctuary for our wildlife.

Despite this, and despite the inherent and indiscriminate cruelty and danger of traps, trapping is currently allowed on nearly 43% of refuges. Born Free USA is proud to support this bill, which we hope will be included in a subcommittee hearing this fall. Take action at bornfreeusa.org/rfcta.

We also anticipate movement before the end of the year on a few other priorities too – the Big Cat Public Safety Act (H.R. 263/S. 1210) and the SAVE Right Whales Act, soon to be reintroduced by Rep. Moulton (D-MA). Stay tuned!

TRAPPING IS CURRENTLY
ALLOWED ON NEARLY
43% OF REFUGES.

# TRAPPING VICTIMS' FUND PROVIDES HELP TO A DOG INJURED BY A TRAP



Despite the brutal pain and suffering that trapping causes, the practice persists throughout the United States on both private and public lands. No matter the type, traps do not discriminate between domesticated or wild animals, or even between humans and non-human animals. Since its inception, Born Free USA's Non-Target Trapping Incidents Database has recorded 562 trapping incidents involving dogs, cats, endangered species, and humans.

The Trapping Victims' Fund provides financial support for domestic pets

injured by traps. So far this year, the Fund has helped Addie, a dog who was caught in a snare trap along with her brother. Panzer. Addie is a black lab and collie mix. and Panzer is an Australian cattle dog. Both dogs were ensnared around their necks after unknowingly wandering into the traps. Panzer suffered infected neck wounds, while Addie miraculously fought through a sliced trachea, embedded collar, frostbite, severe infection, and night terrors following the incident. Because Addie's injuries were extreme and she required extensive veterinary treatment, her

owners reached out to us for assistance through the Fund.

While Born Free USA is so pleased to have the resources to provide funding for trapping victims like Addie, these stories remind us why we must continue to fight to ban trapping throughout the country and make traps harder to purchase.

Please support this effort by signing our petition urging Amazon to ban cruel traps from its website at bornfreeusa.org/amazonpetition.

## BRINGING AN END TO CRUEL TRAPPING IN WILDLIFE REFUGES

We are delighted to report that the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act has been reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. Championed by Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-NY, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee) and Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR, Co-Chair of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus), this important legislation would ban bodygripping traps – including steel-jaw leghold traps, Conibear traps, and

strangulation neck snares – within our National Wildlife Refuge System: public, protected lands set aside to be a safe haven for native wildlife.

The National Wildlife Refuge
System is home to more than 380
endangered species and is visited
by millions of people every year.
Despite this, trapping is permitted
on 43% of refuges, posing a serious
danger to wildlife, people, and pets.

Born Free USA has campaigned for many years on this important issue, including pressing for passage of this piece of legislation. The successful implementation of this act will be a vital first step in ending cruel trapping.

Support the passage of the Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act by urging your lawmaker to cosponsor the bill at bornfreeusa.org/rfcta.

### **COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATION FOR ALL ANIMALS!**

This fall, Born Free USA launched our Big Five and Little Five campaign to highlight iconic North American animals and the threats they face. Often, when talking about animals and threats to their survival, we talk about the large, majestic animals in other countries such as Africa's big five (the leopard, cape buffalo, rhinoceros, elephant, and lion) or tigers, whales, and dolphins. Beautiful native North American wildlife – big and small – also face similar threats. North America is home to countless species of

amazing eco-engineers whose members play a vital role in a healthy ecosystem, but it is also made up of individual animals who deserve our respect, care, and protection. The campaign centered around the "Big Five" (the gray wolf, American bison, grizzly bear, moose, and polar bear) and the "Little Five" (the beaver, raccoon, groundhog, skunk, and opossum). By showing the interconnected ways in which humans interact with these animals, we aim to encourage empathy and action to better protect *all* animals.

To learn more about North

America's Big Five and Little Five
please visit bornfreeusa.org/b5l5.



## RECENT INCIDENTS REVEAL THE DANGERS AND CRUELTY OF ZOOS

This year, Born Free USA continues to highlight the dangers captive wild animals pose to the public by examining alarming incidents that occurred at zoos. Between 1990 and 2019, Born Free USA has recorded 613 concerning or dangerous incidents involving wild animals at AZA accredited zoos, including 15 incidents that resulted in the death of a human.

These incidents emphasize that, although zoo enclosures are designed with the safety of zoo guests and the animals inside in mind, wild animals will always act on their natural instincts and behave aggressively when presented with a situation

perceived as a threat. Similarly, as indicated by news stories featured this year describing people easily climbing into animal enclosures and freely crossing barriers intended to separate them from the animals on exhibit, humans act impulsively when presented with an opportunity to engage with a wild animal – despite the possible repercussions.

Earlier this year, we described two incidents that occurred at separate zoos: a woman who was threatened by spider monkeys when she climbed into their exhibit to hand-feed them at the El Paso Zoo and a man who was swiped by a jaguar at the Jacksonville Zoo after climbing

over a barrier around the enclosure's perimeter. Luckily, both incidents resulted in non-life-threatening injuries, but function to illustrate the dangers of close-contact encounters with wild animals – even in spaces that encourage "safe" interactions.

With the continuous occurrence of these incidents, we question whether or not this can realistically be achieved, and are reminded why legislation like the Big Cat Public Safety Act and Captive Primate Safety Act is imperative to take the first steps towards protecting the safety of animal-loving members of the public and the very animals we strive to protect.

## THE PAWS ACT:

## A WAY TO END MOBILE LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAMS IN ONTARIO?

The Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act of Ontario became effective January 1, 2020. It theoretically could provide the means to end Mobile Live Animal Programs (MLAPs) in the province.

Mobile Live Animal Programs range in size and scope, but their business model typically consists of taking wild animals to schools, long term care homes, shopping malls, children's birthday parties, store openings, company events, and other places, that pay the MLAPs to display the animals, usually with some "educational" show-and-tell aspect. When not on display, the animals are housed in the company headquarters, which could range from the basements of private homes to entire warehouses. Internet access, a vehicle, and a collection of animals are all that an MLAP needs to set up and prosper. At last count, there were 83 such programs operating in Ontario, and they have been quite profitable.

Until the passage of the PAWS Act, there was a lack of meaningful regulation governing the keeping of wild animals in the province. Of Canada's ten provinces and three territories, Ontario alone had no law governing the establishment of zoos and the keeping of "exotic" wildlife.

Municipal restrictions are rife with exemptions that enable MLAPs to remain in operation and profitable. Having

lobbied for decades for a law like the PAWS Act, Born Free USA and other animal welfare groups in Canada have had many municipal-level successes against MLAPs, including increasing numbers of prohibited exotic animal

species – usually those considered dangerous. But, many municipalities retained exemptions whereby exotic animals can be presented for "educational" purposes. This allowed MLAPs with any kind of animals unfettered access to those communities. And, even without exemptions, many species, including smaller exotic mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, are allowed.

Born Free USA urges the provincial government to use the new PAWS Act to close municipal loopholes and shut down these exploitative and potentially dangerous shows once and for all. Follow Born Free USA for updates on this work!



## BORN FREE USA LAUNCHES YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Born Free USA is delighted to appoint Kate Gilman Williams as the first Born Free USA Youth Ambassador. Kate is an 12-year-old animal advocate, entrepreneur, author, and singer.

The Born Free USA Youth
Ambassador Program will bring
the Born Free vision and mission
to younger generations, helping to
advance wildlife protection into the
future. Youth Ambassadors have the
opportunity to speak out for wildlife
to educate and empower other young
people (and adults!) to become wildlife
advocates. The Youth Ambassador
program helps amplify the voice of
the generation whose future could
be profoundly altered by the threats
facing wildlife and natural habitats.

Kate is an animal advocate who proves that advocacy has no age limit. When she was only eight years old, Kate authored the book

Let's Go On Safari!, which takes readers on a safari adventure and encourages children to speak up for animals who do not have a voice.

Kate founded Kids Can Save Animals to connect her generation with worldrenowned conservation organizations. technologists, policy makers, and global leaders who work to save wildlife and wild spaces. Kate also launched Club 15, a podcast so named because we lose one elephant from our planet every 15 minutes. Club 15 was created in partnership Microsoft, an extension of Microsoft's conservation initiative, Project 15. Each episode of Club 15 introduces young people to top scientists, technologists, and conservationists working on the ground to save animals from extinction.

Even before her appointment as Youth Ambassador, Kate helped

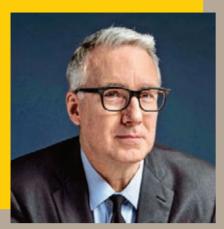


promote the Born Free mission. She visited our primate sanctuary to interview Dr. Liz Tyson for *Club* 15, participated in our virtual event to support the sanctuary monkeys, and traveled to South Africa to go on a conservation safari, where she visited Shamwari, Born Free's big cat sanctuary.

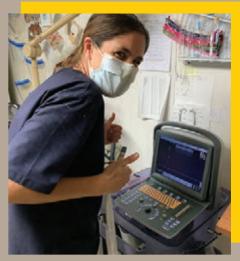
With time running out to save many endangered species, Kate is focused on teaching and inspiring kids and teens to take action and become part of the global solution. We are honored that Kate is Born Free USA's first Youth Ambassador!



### THANK YOU, KEITH OLBERMANN!



Keith Olhermann



A happy Dr. Jennings using the new ultrasound machine.



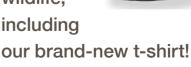
your paycheck and many match your donations - making your gift have an even greater impact!

For more information visit bornfreeusa.org/workplace-giving or call us at 301-448-1407.

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Monthly giving is the simplest and most effective way to protect animals, providing consistent support where it is needed most!

Your recurring gift makes a difference for animals every single month. Together, we will save animals and protect entire species. **Visit bornfreeusa.org/sustainer to set up your monthly gift.** 

As a special holiday
treat, the first 40 supporters
who sign up for monthly gifts of \$15 or
more will receive an elephant plush toy as a
symbol of all
the animals you
are helping as a
sustaining donor!