



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**BORN FREE** USA



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# AT A GLANCE

**RESCUED** six monkeys from lives as pets and brought them to the primate sanctuary, where they will enjoy a spacious, natural home for the rest of their lives.

**DELIVERED** anti-wildlife crime trainings to authorities from 15 West African countries.

**SECURED** stronger protections for wildlife species and commitments for greater enforcement support and pandemic disease prevention at the 19th Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19), alongside partners from West African nations.

**CELEBRATED** the passage of the Big Cat Public Safety Act after a decade advocacy and hard work!

**UNCOVERED** the horrors of trapping, the cruelty of zoo captivity, and the online exploitation of wild animals with four groundbreaking reports.

## Six Monkeys Rescued from Lives as Pets

Our primate sanctuary welcomed six new arrivals in 2022 – all surrendered by one former owner who had kept them as pets. Bernie, Max, and Poppy are bonnet macaques and Louie, Archie, and Ricky are vervet monkeys. All six had had their canine teeth removed to prevent them from causing injury and Archie had, for reasons unknown, all but his molars removed. As a result, he is easily identifiable as his tongue is always poking out of his mouth.

Some members of the group were overweight and showed clinical signs of chronic stress on arrival – something that we sadly come to expect from rescued monkeys. Our veterinary and caregiving team worked hard to get them back on track and now all six are a healthy weight while the physical issues caused by stress are under close control.

Soon after their mandatory quarantine period was over, the three bonnet macaques were moved alongside one of our existing bonnet groups, and our team carried out careful introductions between group members. All went smoothly and it was not long before Bernie, Max, and Poppy were fully integrated, meaning that they were able to gain access to the group's large outdoor yard, replete with trees, grass, space, and endless foraging opportunities. Most importantly, these profoundly social animals were able to make new friends; something that is so often denied to those monkeys still kept as pets across the nation.

Meanwhile, the vervet boys have been integrated with two of our existing vervet residents – 2021 rescued monkey, Kiki, and elderly long-term resident, Bouf. So

far, all is going well with the five monkeys forming growing friendships. Our long-term plan is to unite all of our ten resident vervet monkeys in one large enclosure, where they will live as a small troop. This relies on some renovations, which we have planned for the coming six months.

## Finding Creative New Ways to Tell the Monkeys' Stories

We were lucky to benefit from the skills of Spanish visual artist, Ruth Montiel Arias, who worked with us at the sanctuary for three months during late 2021 and early 2022. Ruth captured a series of beautiful portraits of the monkeys during her time with us, which in turn inspired a new project to produce a photobook featuring our sanctuary residents. The book, *From Harm to Healing*, will be published by Lantern Publishing in 2024 and will tell the stories of eight sanctuary monkeys formerly kept as pets.

We also worked with British documentary filmmaker, Jack Wootton, to produce the short film, *Finding Sanctuary*, which went on to be selected as part of the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival in late 2022.

Both the book and the documentary will support our work to end the trade in primates as pets in the United States.

## Safeguarding the Sanctuary

Finally, and following one of the hottest summers on record in south Texas, where our sanctuary is based, we made plans to purchase firefighting equipment to protect the sanctuary from potential wildfires. We were grateful to our Women for Wildlife group, whose members generously funded the project in late 2022. The equipment will be purchased in early 2023.



# U.S. CAMPAIGNS

## **Undercover Investigation Reveals the Horrors of Trapping**

In March 2022, we released the results of a groundbreaking – and heartbreaking – undercover investigation into trapping. Our investigator infiltrated a major trapping convention, a government-led training course, and went out in the field with the trappers themselves. The resulting campaign, *Trapped: Exposing the Violence of Animal Trapping in the U.S.*, provided firm confirmation of the cruelty of trapping and its complete disregard for animal welfare. The campaign was covered in the national and international press, and shared with other organizations and decision makers in efforts towards

long-term legislative change.

## **Exploring the Suffering of Animals in Zoo Captivity**

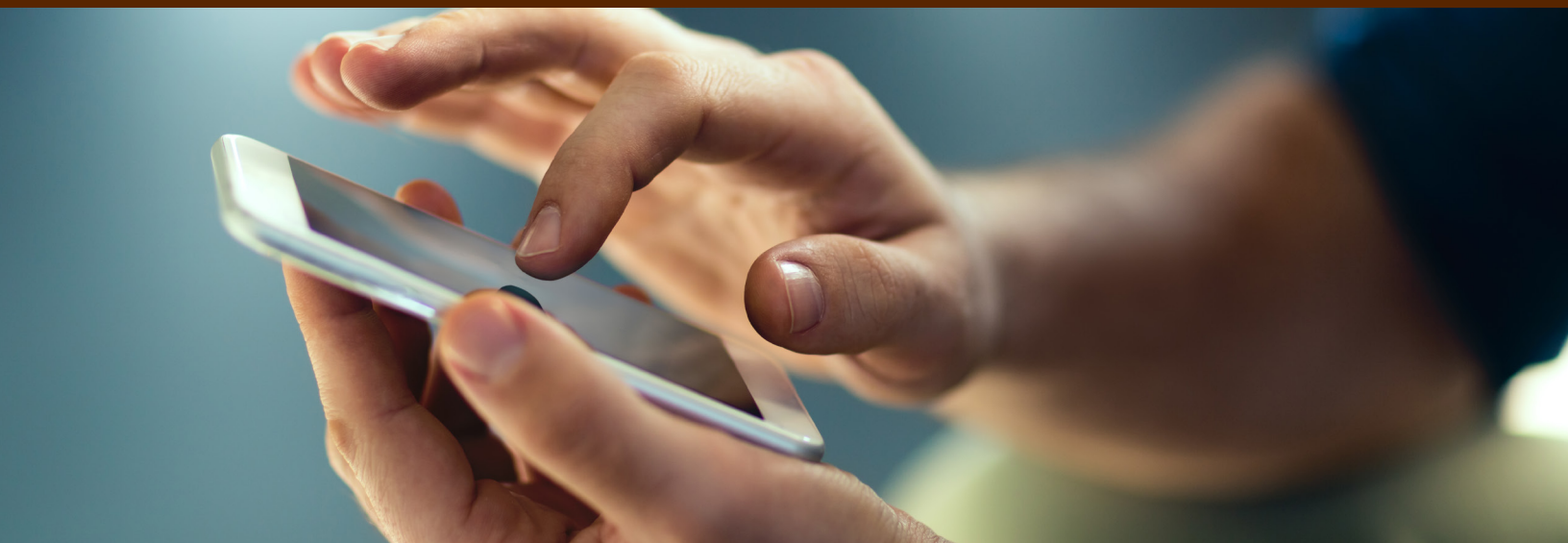
We released two important reports exploring the plight of giraffes and elephants in zoos during 2022. The publications, *Confined Giants: The Plight of Giraffe in Zoos* and *A Legacy of Shame: Elephants in Zoos*, authored in collaboration with our sibling organization, Born Free Foundation, offered a global perspective of the suffering experienced by these charismatic animals when held captive by the zoo industry. From health and welfare problems to damaging conservation efforts, the reports make clear that zoo captivity benefits no one but the zoos

themselves. These reports are the first in a series exploring the ways in which captivity impacts animals commonly found in zoos around the world and will serve as an important educational tool in our work to keep wildlife in the wild.

## **Visualizing the Suffering of the Pet Trade with ZooDraws**

We were delighted to work with viral comic artist, Brian Ahern (Instagram: @zoodraws\_comic), to create a series of compelling comic strips highlighting the animal welfare, conservation, and public safety risks associated with the exotic pet trade. These thoughtful comics told the stories of a pet vervet monkey stolen from their mother at a young age to be





sold into the pet trade; a tiger who meets a tragic end after escaping his cage in a private back yard; a parrot passed from home to home and denied the opportunity to fly for his whole life; an endangered turtle sold into the pet trade at the expense of the survival of his species; and a chameleon shipped half way round the world dies in a tiny tank, only to be replaced days later by another victim of the pet trade. These comics helped us to reach tens of thousands of new supporters in a novel and engaging way and will be used in the future to support our work to challenge the cruelties of the exotic pet trade.

### **Exploring Animal Exploitation on Social Media**

Late in the year, we released *Their Lives for Your Likes*, a timely report that explored the exploitation of animals on social media. Highlighting concerns over seemingly innocent social media posts, which position wild animals in close proximity to humans, the work explored the sometimes subtle ways that

animals are harmed in this context. Because of this work, Born Free joined the Social Media Animal Cruelty Coalition, led by the Asia for Animals Coalition. Together, members are seeking dialogue with social media platforms to encourage them to revise policies relating to animals and to prohibit harmful content.

### **Speaking Out for Animals**

In addition to our focused campaign work, we published more than 65 blogs and articles, participated in interviews with various media outlets, and contributed pieces written by our expert team to news outlets. In this way, we were able to respond to current events, and ensure that our voice was heard by national and international audiences on our core subjects.





# FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Born Free USA secured a major legislative win in 2022 with the passage of the **Big Cat Public Safety Act**! Born Free USA had advocated for the passage of this important animal protection bill for more than a decade and, in 2022, it finally became law! On July 29, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill with a strong bipartisan vote of 278-134. In December, the bill cleared the U.S. Senate and was signed into law by President Biden on December 20. The Big Cat Public Safety Act prohibits private individuals from owning big cat species like tigers or lions and prohibits direct contact between members of the public and these wild animals. As federal law, the Big Cat Public Safety Act will supersede the patchwork of state legislation across the country that has been ineffective in curbing both the pet trade and the cub petting industry. This is a major step forward in our fight to keep wild animals out of captivity!

In addition to this major legislative win, we also advanced other important pro-wildlife federal bills. Born Free USA has advocated

for the passage of the **Captive Primate Safety Act** for many years and worked toward the bill's reintroduction in the 2021-2022 congressional session. This bill would do for primates what the Big Cat Public Safety Act does for big cats – ban private ownership and public contact with these animals. Across the U.S., thousands of primates are held in captivity by private owners and we will continue pushing for the passage of this bill.

Born Free USA also worked on the reintroduction of the **Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act**, a bill that would ban body-gripping 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 our native wildlife. The National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses the most comprehensive and diverse collection of wildlife habitats in the world, providing a home for more than 380 endangered species, and visited by thousands of people every year. Despite this, and despite the inherent cruelty

and danger of trapping, trapping is currently permitted on nearly 43% of refuges within the National Wildlife Refuge System, making a mockery of the very definition of “refuge.”

Thanks to the support of animal lovers across the country, we made important legislative advances in 2022. We will continue working on these and other bills in the 118th Congress!



# WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

2022 was an exciting year for Born Free USA's Africa Policy and Capacity Building team! Ghana, Benin, and Côte d'Ivoire have undergone a detailed needs assessment process and will soon be validating their National Wildlife Crime Strategies and Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Forces with support and guidance from the team. Nigeria will soon also be launching its Wildlife Law Enforcement Task Force. A second grant from the USAID allowed the team to conduct vital capacity building and CITES support for thirteen West African countries in total.

## **Training Initiatives in West Africa**

Born Free USA organized training workshops for enforcement authorities from Niger and Togo. These workshops built on previous trainings and the expectation is that those who attended will be able to pass on their knowledge to other officers and agencies involved in tackling wildlife crime.

Born Free USA also delivered advanced training workshops to judges and prosecutors from 13 West African countries, with a focus on developing a detailed understanding of CITES and international wildlife crime legislation.

## **19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19)**

West Africa's extraordinary and unique environments have been subject to high levels of biodiversity loss due to wildlife crime. Illegal logging, poaching, and illicit trade are causing significant, and in some cases irreversible, damage to wild flora and fauna. This is why the West African region presented an ambitious agenda to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19), which took place in Panama City from November 14-25, 2022. Before CoP19 had even begun, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) published a powerful document titled "*Regional Declaration on a Robust Response to the Extinction Crisis*," which called for countries to recognize the extensive damage being caused to ecosystems and the impact this is having on human communities across West Africa.

Born Free USA is pleased to report that West Africa's pleas were taken seriously by CITES. More than 500 species of flora and fauna are newly protected by CITES regulations. These species include glass frogs, turtles, sharks, rays, and a variety of trees.

With support from Born Free USA, West African countries presented a strong and collaborative front throughout CoP19. Thanks to their dedicated and industrious negotiations, CITES is now exploring the establishment of an Enforcement Fund, which would provide West Africa and other regions with enhanced capacity to implement an ever-expanding array of CITES requirements.

CITES has also now recognized its important role in preventing future pandemics. Millions of CITES-listed species are traded internationally each year, and it is therefore incumbent upon CITES to take all action possible to mitigate against the risk of zoonotic disease emergence and transmission. West Africa was a leading voice on this matter during CoP19.



# FUNDRAISING

## **WILDLIFE CHAMPIONS**

Eric Bear  
Catherine Lou Latham  
Mary Love  
Barbara Magin  
Sandra Moss  
Waldemar W. Sadowinski  
Morris Safter  
Roger and Phyllis Sherman  
Cyrus and Joanne Spurlino  
Collin Thomas  
Vicki Wars

## **WILDLIFE PROTECTORS**

Patricia Ampfer  
Dorianne Andros  
June Ash  
Judy Baker  
Corry Bazley  
Anna Bernhard  
Kathy Bernhardt  
Lou Bridges  
Erica Buhr  
Renate Buri  
Peter Bury  
Steven CapraHeilman  
Edward Hochman  
Alydia Jardine  
Carol Kauffman  
Carolyn and James Key  
Carolyn Kleefeld  
Nancy Lanning  
Mike Levine  
Valerie Marini

T.D. Mathewson  
Janis and Alan Menken  
Larry and Claudia Mitchell  
Nancy Morgan  
Kay Murray  
Erika Norwood  
Mary O'Hearn  
Leslie O'Loughlin  
Christine Perry  
Geoffrey F. Peters  
Nomi Prins  
Santos Ramirez  
Denise Rempe  
May Robinson  
Pam Schiller  
Debra Shearer  
Sharon Spivey  
Duchess A. Swift  
Gretchen Tatsch  
Kathy Tornatore  
Carolyn Walker  
Sharon Wehrle  
Theodore and Dawn Weill  
Ricki Diane Weinberger  
Alana Willroth  
Howard Wittels  
James and Anita Worden  
Lorie Zerweck

Barbara Chigas  
Jean Conley  
Sally Davidson  
Larry Egger

Donald Epstein  
Robert J. Garbacz  
Michelle Gardineer  
Carol Gertz  
Angela Grimes  
Margaret Hassett

## **WOMEN FOR WILDLIFE**

Erika Leigh Anew  
Pia Andersen  
Dorianne Andros  
Judy Baker  
Corry Bazley  
Anna Bernhard  
Erica Buhr  
Renate Buri  
Wendy Coonrod  
Ethel Gardner  
Jeanie Kilgour  
Barbara Magin  
Leslie O'Loughlin  
Christine Perry  
Dawn Weill  
Lorie Zerweck

## **ESTATES AND TRUSTS**

Estate of Bernard Bates  
Bernard & Angela Harr Trust  
Estate of Judy Binstein  
Charles & Audrey Faust Foundation  
Trust  
Estate of Donald Clark  
Estate of Mary Miriam Copeland  
Estate of Phyllis Deal  
Estate of Angeline O'Meara

F. Marino D'Amato Fund at the  
Meriden Foundation  
Estate of Rosemarie Harnack  
Estate of Sheila Hurst  
Johanna Guering Trust  
Estate of Constance Krueger  
Estate of John Meeks  
Nancy Wood Holmes Trust  
Estate of Betty Jane Noyes  
Estate of Margaret Otto  
Ouida Mundy Hill Memorial Fund  
Estate of Bernie Porter  
Estate of Theodora R. Raven  
Estate of Virginia Wilcox  
Estate of Ralph Stone  
The Estate of Julia Eileen Connolly  
The Estate of Julie Ann Bell  
The Estate of Rosemary V. Petta  
Estate of Margaret Welke

## **FOUNDATIONS**

Ahimsa Foundation  
American Anti-Vivisection Society  
Bill Muster Foundation  
Burt Family Foundation  
Gerald B. Shreiber Foundation  
Greenfield Foundation  
Head and Heart Foundation  
Josephine Peiser Charitable  
Foundation  
Julius L. and Libbie B. Steinsapir  
Family Foundation  
Leslie L. Alexander Foundation  
Leuthold Family Foundation  
The Max and Victoria Dreyfus  
Foundation

## **CORPORATE PARTNERS**

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The Very Good Butchers  
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Christine Perry, Treasurer

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Michael Reyner

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Mary Mitchell Trimble

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(as of 12/31/22)

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Karen Lauria, Communications Director

Melissa Tomlinson, Development Director

Alice Stroud,

Shelley Brend, West Africa Programs Consultant

Manisha Chaudhari, Bookkeeper

Kathryn Conway, Sanctuary Manager

Wendy Coonrod, Advancement Officer

Charles Crump, Facilities Manager

Grace Dickey, Primate Caregiver

Suzanne Emerson, Individual Giving Manager

Maya Figueroa, Primate Caregiver

Dr. Kathleen Johnson, Veterinarian

Vincent Lapayre, West Africa Programs Consultant

Rebekah Mix, Veterinary Technician

Holly Roberts, Primate Caregiver

Delphine Ronfot, West Africa Programs Consultant

Timothy Ryan, Primate Caregiver

Devan Schowe, Campaigns Associate

Todd Soyck, Primate Caregiver

Rebecca Strunc, Development Coordinator

Jacob Toben, Primate Caregiver

Kyliegh Viano, Primate Caregiver

# FINANCIALS

## Born Free USA United with Animal Protection Institute

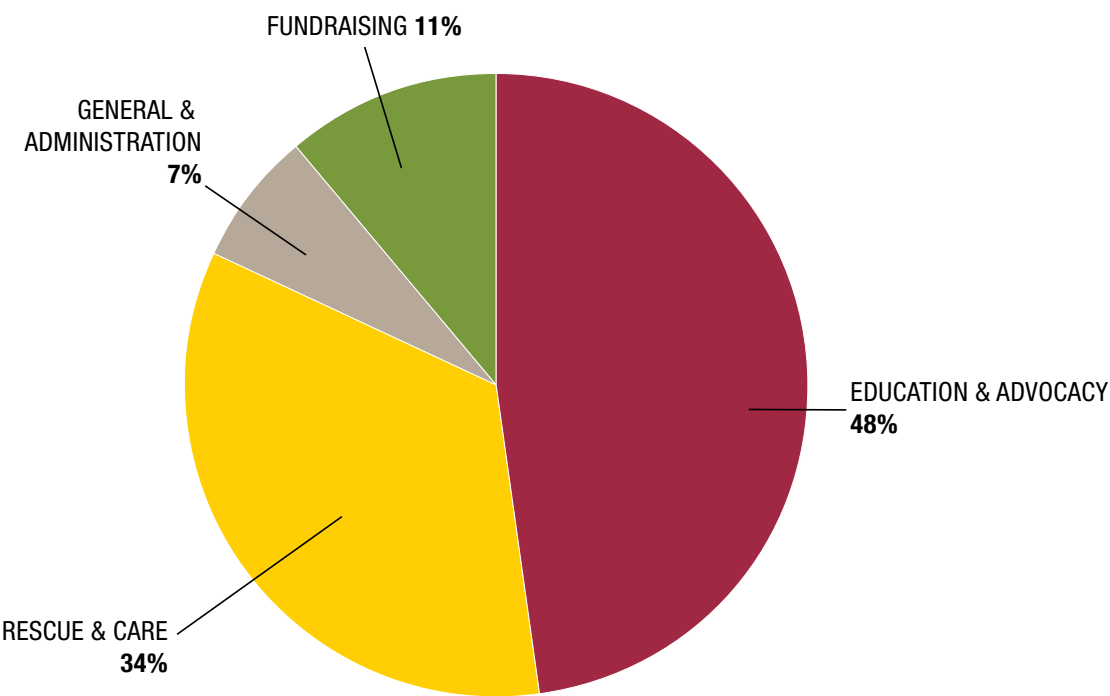
Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2022

REVENUE		
Grants & Contributions	\$ 1,592,720	49%
Bequests	1,554,074	48%
Investment Income (Loss)	(\$90,668)	
Events	42,715	1%
Other	48,254	1%
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 3,147,095</u>	

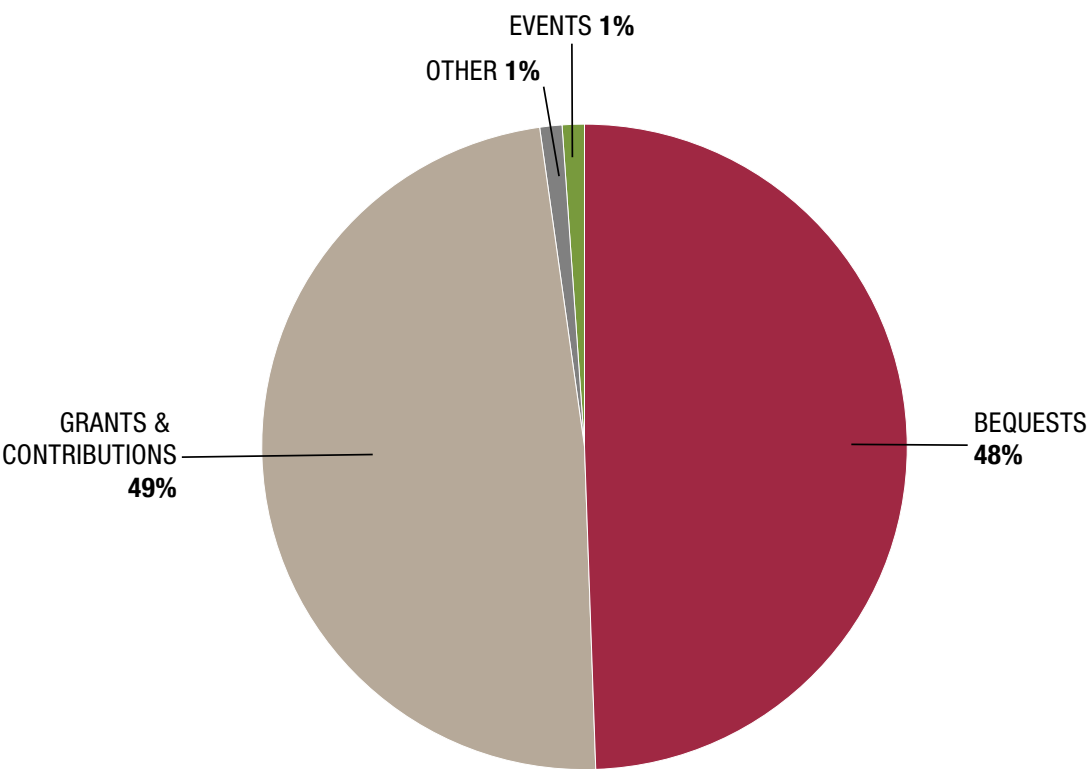
EXPENSE		
Education & Advocacy	\$ 1,267,165	48%
Rescue & Care	\$897,398	34%
General Administration	\$174,195	7%
Fundraising	\$294,703	11%
Total Expense	<u>\$ 2,633,461</u>	



# EXPENSES



# REVENUE





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