



The Animals' Advocate

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Twenty years ago, Animal Legal Defense Fund supporters powered our legal case against an entertainment-industry “trainer” who’d been accused of beating and punching chimpanzees. As a result of the case, three chimpanzees were transferred to reputable sanctuaries. One of them was Angel (pictured), who now calls the Florida-based Center for Great Apes home. The sanctuary recently welcomed another new chimpanzee resident, Toby, after ALDF and other primate advocates learned of his plight and stepped in to help. Read on to learn more about Toby.

Image credit: Center for Great Apes

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Dear Fellow Animal Advocate,

For a long-suffering chimpanzee named Toby, life could have ended with a bullet, without him ever knowing the friendship of another chimpanzee or the quiet peace of a night spent under the stars.

But thankfully, it didn't come to that — **because of the work you made possible.**

Instead of having his life needlessly cut short, Toby now is currently thriving at the Center for Great Apes sanctuary. And with your help, ALDF is hard at work to achieve a similarly happy outcome for another chimpanzee named Bow. (Turn the page to learn more about them both.)

Toby is just one of the animals who was rescued through your generosity and care. You'll meet him and several others in this issue of *The Animals' Advocate*. Among them is a vision-impaired Patagonian cavy now enjoying sanctuary life alongside her devoted sister, who helps her navigate her environment. Another is a vervet monkey who rarely is seen without her beloved stuffed bear. **YOU made the difference for these animals** who once suffered, but now are free to enjoy their lives.

We're working to make that a reality for *all* animals, from dogs being brutalized in puppy mills to the billions of farmed animals whose state-level protections we are fighting to uphold.

Every single one of these animals deserves a life like Toby now has — or one like the dog, cat, or other animal friend sitting beside you as you're reading this.

With your help, we are growing ever closer to that goal — as you'll see in some of the progress shared in this issue of *The Animals' Advocate*. I hope it brings you great pride to see the difference you're making.



For the Animals,

Chris Green
Executive Director

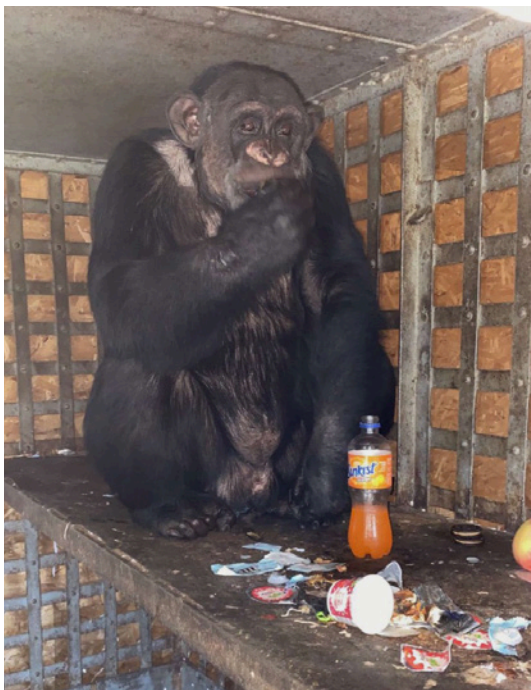


Victory! Toby the Chimpanzee, Safe at Sanctuary

It was the Friday before a holiday weekend when ALDF Transparency and Regulatory Affairs Program Director Brittany Peet received a fateful call.

With help from sanctuary partners, wildlife advocates, and supporters like you, that call would save the life of a chimpanzee named Toby.

Now, we're working to bring a similarly happy outcome for another chimpanzee, Bow — and end the suffering of chimpanzees kept as solitary “pets” once and for all.



A Race Against Time

When she received the tip about Toby, Peet dropped everything and began working the phones. Toby had been suffering alone in a cage off a rural Indiana garage for years, and now he was in mortal danger.

Toby's “owner” had died, reportedly leaving instructions that his “pet” chimpanzee should be shot rather than rehomed. The Endangered Species Act outlaws killing chimpanzees without a permit — but laws are only as good as their enforcement. Peet drafted an urgent complaint to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and an Indiana-based FWS agent was quickly dispatched to serve notice that killing Toby would be a federal crime.

Above photo: Toby in a temporary quarantine enclosure at the Center for Great Apes. Photo at left: Toby prior to his rescue.



A Fresh Start

ALDF worked to find sanctuary placement for Toby, soon securing him the perfect new home at the Center for Great Apes in Florida. Supporters like you helped fund Toby's transport and the services of expert veterinarians who traveled with him.

At the sanctuary, he's been excited to explore new toys, enrichment items, and foods. (For most of his life, he'd apparently subsisted largely on pizza, burritos, and Mountain Dew, but his new species-appropriate diet includes fresh fruits and vegetables.)

Likely for the first time ever, Toby now gets to make choices for himself — like sleeping outside on a warm Florida night in a nest he built from soft blankets. (When it rained the next evening, he wisely moved his nest indoors.)

At press time, Toby remains in a routine quarantine period. But already, his life has dramatically changed. After spending decades alone in a garage, he's on the verge of joining a troop of his fellow chimpanzees. Caregivers have observed him watching another sanctuary resident housed nearby and intently listening to the calls of other apes across the grounds.



WHO WE'RE FIGHTING FOR: Meet Bow

Over the years, many chimpanzees have been forced to live as solitary "pets," often leading to tragedies like those of Travis (a Connecticut chimpanzee who attacked his "owner's" friend before being killed) and Buck (an Oregon chimpanzee with a similarly bleak outcome).

But with Toby's rescue complete, Bow is now the last chimpanzee held as a solitary "pet" in the U.S. — and rescue is in reach.

ALDF has submitted an official complaint to the FWS and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), seeking to have Bow transferred to a reputable sanctuary.

About Bow: Taken from his mother and sold as an infant, Bow has spent approximately 24 years isolated from other chimpanzees. He is kept in a Missouri home where his "owner" exhibits him to the public online, including through a monetized YouTube channel. To legally exhibit a captive chimpanzee, an exhibitor must obtain a special license under the Animal Welfare Act. Bow's "owner" has not done that, and has indeed been cited by the USDA for exhibiting him without a license. But thus far, the USDA has taken no further action to protect Bow.

How You're Helping: You're powering ALDF's fight to send Bow to sanctuary, while enabling us to keep up the pressure in Congress to pass the Captive Primate Safety Act to protect *all* primates from being kept as "pets" and promote public safety. Turn the page to learn more.

Q&A: ALDF'S BRITTANY PEET TALKS PRIMATE PROTECTION

ALDF Transparency and Regulatory Affairs Program Director Brittany Peet has devoted her career to helping nonhuman primates and other wild creatures kept in inhumane captivity, such as ill-equipped human homes and cruel roadside zoos. (If she looks familiar, it might be that you recognize her from documentary series such as *Tiger King* and *Chimp Crazy*.)

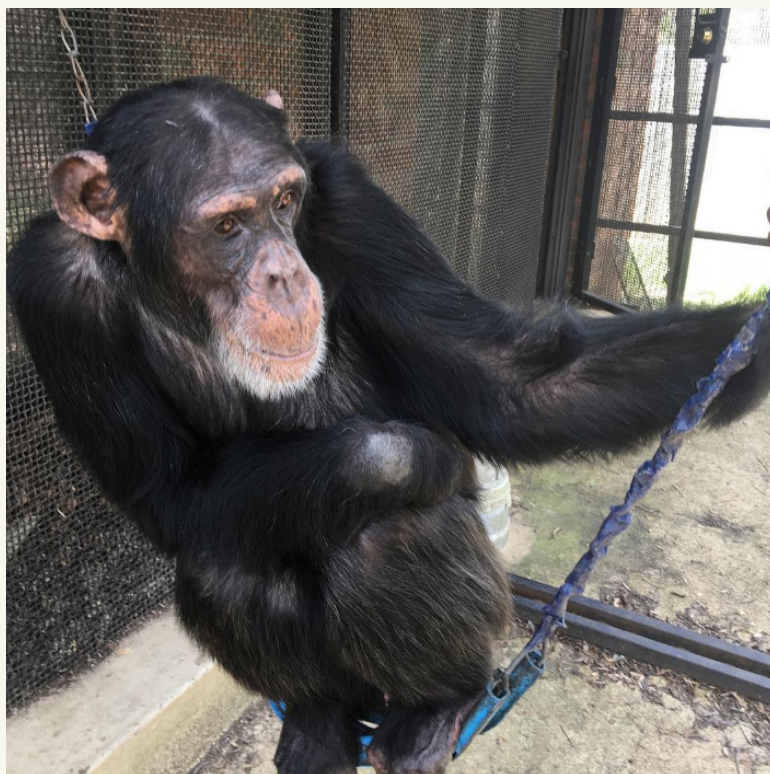
Peet spearheaded ALDF's work to get Toby to sanctuary, and now leads our campaign to create a happier life for Bow. She shares her insights in a Q&A:



What do you think the average animal advocate might not know, but should, about primates kept as “pets”?

Peet: How many there are! We don't have an exact number given the patchwork of laws around the country — some states don't regulate the private possession of primates at all; this is why ALDF is fighting so hard to pass the Captive Primate Safety Act. But from paperwork that's legally required to transport animals between states, it's clear that there are thousands of primates being held as pets in human homes where none of their complex needs are being met.

Left: Bow is kept at a private home in Missouri.



TAKE ACTION: Only one known remaining chimpanzee is still being held as a solitary “pet” in the U.S., but untold thousands of nonhuman primates from other species are still suffering in private homes that can't possibly meet their complex needs. With your help, ALDF is hard at work fighting for the passage of the Captive Primate Safety Act, which would end the primate pet trade in the U.S. — building on the promise of the Big Cat Public Safety Act, which was enacted in 2022 with your help. Urge your lawmaker to support this vital bill at aldf.org/cpsa.

Can you tell us about an animal you've met who helped shape the way you think about the issue of captive wild animals kept as "pets" and the trade in these animals?

There are so many. I wrote a piece discussing Buck, another chimpanzee whose story is eerily similar to Bow's. It's also hard not to think of Tonka, the chimpanzee whose story was told in the HBO docuseries *Chimp Crazy*. Tonka was taken from his mother as an infant to be exploited in the film & television industry, then dumped at a chimpanzee breeding mill. Finally, PETA secured a court order mandating his transfer to a sanctuary, and he was ultimately hidden away in a basement in Missouri all because of one woman's disturbed belief that he could not live without her. Today, he's thriving as a high-ranking member of a chimpanzee group at the Save the Chimps sanctuary, but his story is a great example of how human fascination with these magnificent animals can become twisted and result in severe cruelty to animals they claim to love.

Buck's Story: A chimpanzee kept as a wild "pet" isn't just an individual who's been denied the proper conditions and social opportunities they need to thrive — they're also a ticking time bomb, a wild animal never meant to be in a home. The urgency of Bow's story is underscored by the tragedy of another chimpanzee who endured similar deprivation: Buck. Peet shares Buck's story at aldf.org/buck.



Above: Toby taking in his new surroundings from a temporary quarantine enclosure at the Center for Great Apes sanctuary.

What do Toby and other already-rescued chimpanzees show us about what life could be like for Bow?

It's shocking and heartening to see how quickly so many chimpanzees adapt to their new lives in sanctuaries. When they first arrive, the expansive spaces, change in diet, and even enrichment items can be frightening to them after so many years in cramped, barren enclosures. But even chimpanzees like Toby, who was held in solitary confinement for decades, slowly, and often with the help of their first chimpanzee friends, learn how to be chimpanzees.

What gives you hope for wild animals in the pet trade?

The successes that we have achieved for chimpanzees and big cats in the pet trade show that there is public support and political will to move the needle forward for even more wild animals in the pet trade. All of us will need to step up and lend our voices, but we will make it happen. First up, the Captive Primate Safety Act!



Proven Track Record: In 2011, ALDF called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to extend the same Endangered Species Act protections to chimpanzees held in captivity that were already afforded to chimps in the wild. The agency ultimately decided to end the so-called "split listing" and protect *all* chimpanzees under the law.

STANDING UP FOR DOGS & PUPPIES

Your support powers all of ALDF's work to end the inhumane puppy mill industry and protect dogs from cruelty and neglect. Recent progress includes:



VICTORY! Delaware Bans Puppy-Mill Pet Store Sales

With advocacy from ALDF and our Delaware supporters, state lawmakers passed a new retail pet sale ban, becoming the 10th U.S. state to enact one.

Retail pet sale bans address the fact that virtually all puppies sold in pet stores come from cruel commercial breeding mills, where they can suffer from inadequate space, socialization, exercise, sanitation, and veterinary care. These laws instead encourage pet stores to partner with shelters and rescue groups to offer rescued animals for adoption.

VICTORY! Puppy-Laundering Lawsuit Moves Forward as a Certified Class Action

ALDF doesn't just advocate for new laws — we also work to ensure they're enforced. In our lawsuit *Carey v. J.A.K.'s Puppies*, we've taken on a network of puppy dealers, fake rescue groups, and others that we allege conspired in an illegal "puppy laundering" scheme to evade California's retail pet sale ban. Our case outlines how puppies sourced from mills were transported into California, where they were falsely sold as "rescues" in retail pet shops. As a result, well-meaning consumers who intended to adopt animals in need were instead duped into supporting the puppy-mill industry.

The case is ongoing, but it's already achieved several important wins. In August, the court ruled that our case may proceed as a class-action lawsuit encompassing our full proposed class — an estimated 2,600 deceived puppy purchasers who can now pursue damages together.



Sonnie is one of the puppy-mill-sourced puppies who was falsely presented as a "rescue" when sold in a California pet store. Her loving guardian is among the plaintiffs in the case.

ON-THE-GROUND ASSISTANCE: Supporting Authorities in 'Miranda's Rescue' Case

It's a tragic case, but we're honored to be of assistance: This summer, ALDF was on site helping law enforcement and coordinating forensics work in a cruelty and fraud investigation in Northern California. There, authorities had recovered the remains of more than 100 dogs, many of whom bore evidence of having been shot.

“The horror is only amplified when you learn this happened at a dog rescue facility, a place where the expectation is that dogs will be safe and protected from harm,” ALDF Managing Attorney Emily Lewis reflects of the investigation, which centers on a facility called Miranda’s Rescue Animal Sanctuary. The forensic evidence gathered will be vital to the criminal case, and ALDF will continue supporting authorities in the pursuit of justice for these dogs. Learn more about the case and how we can prevent similar tragedies at aldf.org/mirandasrescue.



ANIMAL-FRIENDLY RECIPE: Pamper Your Pup with Homemade Pumpkin Treats!

This recipe from ALDF Project and Process Manager Natasha Falke is simple, plant-based, and perfect for fall — or a special Thanksgiving treat!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup oats
- 1/3 cup pumpkin puree (*not pie filling*)
- 1/4 cup organic, no-salt creamy peanut butter (*note that a few commercially available peanut butters contain xylitol — sometimes also called birch sugar or wood sugar — which is toxic to dogs. Be sure to check your label*)
- Buckwheat flour (*for dusting*)

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 325°F.
2. Add oats to a food processor and blend until they’ve reached a flour texture.
3. Add pumpkin and peanut butter to the oats and blend until a dough forms. (*If needed, you may wish to add around ½ tsp or more of water to help form the dough.*)
4. Dust your rolling surface with organic buckwheat flour; turn the dough out and roll out to desired thickness. (*The dough can be sticky, so keep the flour close by.*)
5. Using a cookie cutter, cut out treats and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
6. Bake for 10-12 minutes and repeat until all dough is used.
7. Allow to cool; place treats in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator for up to 10 days.

IN COURT: Holding Puppy Traffickers Accountable!

ALDF received information that a Southern California family — previously found liable for animal neglect and fraud for selling puppies they knew to be desperately ill — had returned to selling puppies in violation of a court order. At press time, we expect to return to court next month to enforce our earlier victory and ensure that the defendants are held accountable.



FIGHTING FOR FARMED ANIMALS

Every October brings **Speak Out for Farmed Animals Month**, and this year there's much to feel hopeful about.



Preserving State Farmed Animal Protection Laws

Our legislative experts, a broad coalition of stakeholders, and thousands of ALDF supporters have teamed up to stop an effort to invalidate state-level farmed animal protection laws, including California's Proposition 12, through the **Farm Bill**, a key federal law that governs a wide variety of food and agriculture issues. At press time, anti-Prop 12 language has been kept out of the Senate version of the legislation, and we're continuing to fight efforts to use the bill to benefit the mink fur-farming industry. Learn more at aldf.org/farm-bill.

We're also part of a coalition that has intervened to defend Prop 12 from yet another industry lawsuit, this one brought by a pork-processing company called Triumph Foods. In March, the Court dismissed Triumph's preemption claims and the majority of its dormant Commerce Clause claims. In July, the Court again ruled in the animals' favor by dismissing an additional remaining constitutional claim.

Victories for Ducks and Geese

Foie gras is considered by some to be a "delicacy," but it's produced through severe animal suffering. Our coalition has been working for years to pass a foie gras ban in **Portland, Oregon**. Now, following advocacy from ALDF and our Portland-based supporters, the ban has passed!

Meanwhile, **New York City's** ban, which has been tied up in a years-long legal battle, reached a major milestone when a court cleared the way for it to move forward at last. ALDF was part of the coalition that initially advocated successfully for the NYC ban; we've also urged New York state officials to accept the ruling and end the effort to overturn it.

New Hampshire Farmed Animals and Horses Protected

In **New Hampshire**, a dangerous bill would have imposed new barriers in animal cruelty cases involving farmed animals and horses, making it harder for animal victims to be seized from suspected abusers and hindering the evidence-gathering process. The bill also would have resulted in the unnecessary euthanization of many, if not most, such animals who were victimized by cruelty. ALDF built a detailed case for why Gov. Kelly Ayotte should veto the bill, then helped to successfully defend her veto from a legislative effort to override it.



MATCHING-GIFT OPPORTUNITY: When you give to ALDF in October, your gift can be triple-matched to support all of our work for animals, including the effort to stop a government plan that would drastically increase the speed at which chickens and turkeys are allowed to be killed in U.S. slaughterhouses, and entirely remove the limit on slaughter speeds for pigs. This would increase animal suffering while endangering workers and consumers — so it's vital that we fight back. Make your 3x-matched gift to support all of ALDF's work online at aldf.org/EndFactoryFarming2026.

A LEGACY OF PROTECTION

What legacy do you want to leave for the animals? Creating your estate plan today can provide you with peace of mind knowing your wishes for the people and causes you care about most are addressed.

By joining the Justice Legacy Society with a gift in your estate, you afford us the ability to continue to fight for animals into the future. Legacy gifts are essential to the success of our work to protect animals, and every contribution makes a difference.

To make a gift in your will or trust, just a few key pieces of information are needed, including:



Animal Legal Defense Fund
P.O. Box 96041
Washington, D.C. 20077-7136

Tax ID: 94-2681680

If you would like to discuss your legacy gift options, or have any questions about making a gift to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, please reach out to estates@aldf.org or call 707-795-2533 x1034.

Have you already included the Animal Legal Defense Fund in your legacy plan? If so, we would love to hear from you at aldf.org/ShareYourLegacy.

35TH ANNUAL ANIMAL LAW CONFERENCE

MARCH 12–14, 2027
PORTLAND, OR, AND ONLINE



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THE LIVES YOU SAVE: CHECKING IN WITH RECENT RESCUES

Your steadfast support of ALDF ensures that we can stay in the fight, even if it takes years.

Our work to protect the animals at a rural Pennsylvania zoo was one such case — ultimately reaching a settlement that secured the promise of sanctuary for dozens of animals who had suffered under inadequate conditions and care. That process is ongoing, but to date, 10 of these animals have begun their new lives at sanctuary. They include:



Credit: Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary



Nina & George, *vervet monkeys*

Now loving life at the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary in south Texas, Nina and George's new caregivers report that the monkeys have been thriving during their routine quarantine period (a precaution taken with all new sanctuary residents). Soon, caregivers will look to integrate the pair with one of the monkey groups already living at the facility. Staff report that Nina and George are "growing in confidence" and share that "Nina is never without her teddy bear!"



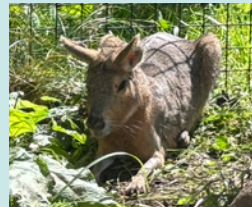
Mick Jackal, *black-backed jackal*

There are so many factors at play when placing a rescued animal. In Mick Jackal's case, Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

in Indiana was willing to welcome this new resident, but there was one problem: A new habitat would need to be built to accommodate him. Thanks to supporters like you, ALDF was able to fund the project, which at press time is in progress while Mick completes his quarantine period.

"He's very shy, but he is so smart and great at enrichment, which makes our hearts happy," his new caregivers share.

Credit: Black Pine Animal Sanctuary



Claudia, Celeste, and Pierre, *Patagonian caviars*

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary was no stranger to Patagonian caviars, having cared for the species in the past — making the facility an ideal new home for Claudia, Celeste, and Pierre. The three

caviars live with lingering neurological damage due to a parasite infestation that was not properly treated, and Claudia and Pierre have significant vision loss as well. (Celeste, who appears to have full vision, helps sister Claudia navigate.)

Credit: Black Pine Animal Sanctuary



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