

February 4, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

PETA's headquarters continues to be flooded with inquiries from Americans concerned about the U.S. government's refusal to assist U.S. citizens in Egypt evacuate the country with their animal companions. We are writing again today to respectfully urge the Department of State to allow U.S. citizens evacuating Egypt to take their companion animals with them.

According to the 2009/2010 [National Pet Owners Survey](#), 62 percent of American homes have companion animals. When Americans live abroad, there is no reason to believe that this cultural trend abates. More likely, Americans living abroad are exposed to a population of homeless animals suffering in the streets that surpasses what the typical American witnesses on a daily basis and react by rescuing those animals from miserable fates. Most surely take their own beloved animal companions with them when they relocate.

The evacuation of companion animals from disaster zones is a life-or-death issue affecting animals *and* people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) now offers a wealth of information about traveling with pets and evacuating pets from disaster zones. Recent disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, the 2006 war in Lebanon, and the earthquake in Haiti prove over and over that **many people will not seek safety if their animal companions cannot also be saved, and many others will jeopardize their own safety in order to rescue abandoned animals and their caregivers.**

The 2005 Gulf Coast hurricane disaster spurred the passage of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act. As you know, the law requires emergency-preparedness authorities to include in their plans accommodations for household pets and service animals. **The safety of Americans and their families—human and nonhuman—should not be subject to boundaries.**

Just days ago, the February 2 Office of the Spokesman Media Note ("[Status of U.S. Citizen Evacuations From Egypt](#)") stated, "... the Department continues to send personnel into Cairo and to our safe haven locations to assist U.S. citizens." Secretary Clinton, if it's true that "[t]he welfare and safety of U.S. citizens in Egypt remains one of the State Department's top priorities," won't you please provide companion animals with a **safe haven** and allow them to evacuate with their human guardians?

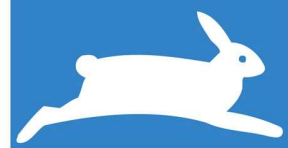
Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter. We look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



Daphna Nachminovitch
Vice President
Cruelty Investigations Department

cc: The Honorable Margaret Scobey, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt



PETA

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