

RYAN GOSLING

September 9, 2011

Dr. Gregory Parham
Administrator
USDA/APHIS

Via e-mail: gregory.l.parham@usda.gov

Dear Dr. Parham,

I was alarmed to learn from my friends at PETA that the USDA has endorsed the use of an extremely cruel foam-based suffocation system for chickens and turkeys who have been exposed to disease. This method causes birds intense and prolonged suffering before they suffocate to death. If dogs and cats were killed in this way, the person committing these acts would be charged with cruelty to animals.

I urge you to use instead “whole-house gassing” (WHG), which painlessly renders birds unconscious with carbon dioxide before they are killed. WHG is internationally recognized as the most humane option and is successfully used throughout the world to suppress disease outbreaks. It also limits human exposure to disease by minimizing contact with the birds and promotes biosecurity by requiring that the birds remain in closed quarters during the process.

Won't you please end the foam-based suffocation practice immediately and require chicken and turkey suppliers to use WHG in cases of disease outbreak?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ryan Gosling', written in a cursive style.

Ryan Gosling