

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

April 2, 2020

The Honorable James Kenney  
Mayor of Philadelphia

Dear Mayor Kenney,

As the country shuts down because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's shocking that city officials in Philadelphia are allowing live-animal markets to remain open. Public-health experts believe that COVID-19 originated in a wet market in China, yet it has been business as usual for similar operations in densely populated Philadelphia. On behalf of PETA and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, including nearly 23,000 in Philadelphia, we urge you to shut down these dangerous live-animal markets with all due haste and to keep them closed.

Deadly outbreaks—including of avian flu, swine flu, SARS, HIV, Ebola, mad cow disease, and hoof-and-mouth disease—have originated because of the use of animals for food. Live-animal markets are perfect breeding grounds for diseases that can jump from various other species to humans, since stressed, injured, and sickly animals are confined in areas where feces, blood, and offal can lead to contamination. At such markets in Philadelphia, public-health officials have reported cages covered with animal feces and urine, bloodstains in prep areas, unsanitary shelters, and birds who lacked access to water or food.

As long as live-animal markets operate, the human population will be at risk. Yes, social distancing can help stop the spread of COVID-19, but stopping deadly diseases at their source is a lifesaving necessity that we all understand now.

Please, help spare animals' lives and protect the health and safety of Philadelphians as well as that of visitors from around the world by shutting down live-animal markets immediately.

Sincerely,

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