

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

December 31, 2020

Captain Gaetano Caltagirone  
Mission Station  
Field Operations Bureau, Metro Division  
San Francisco Police Department

Dear Capt. Caltagirone:

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide, I'm writing to urge you to take appropriate action regarding an advertised [foie gras dinner](#) planned for New Year's Eve at The Morris restaurant in San Francisco, in flagrant violation of California law.

The law's prohibition on the sale of foie gras is clear: "A product may not be sold in California if it is the result of force feeding a bird for the purpose of enlarging the bird's liver beyond normal size." Cal. Health and Safety Code § 25982. This is the very process by which foie gras is made. The term "bird" "includes a duck or goose." *Id.* § 25980(a). "Force feeding a bird means a process that causes the bird to consume more food than a typical bird of the same species would consume voluntarily. Force feeding methods include, but are not limited to, delivering feed through a tube or other device inserted into the bird's esophagus." *Id.* § 25980(b). This process causes birds' livers to become painfully diseased and to swell to up to 10 times their normal size. The birds may become so sick that they can barely walk, and in some cases, their organs even rupture.

California Health and Safety Code § 25980 *et seq.* reflects the understanding of the people of California that the process by which foie gras is made is inherently cruel, as the state has joined more than a dozen countries, including Australia, Germany, Israel, and the U.K., in banning its production and sale. In January 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a challenge to California's foie gras ban, thereby reinstating it, and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California has since confirmed that the law prohibits restaurants from selling foie gras to customers in the state. *Ass'n des Éleveurs de Canards et d'Oies du Québec v. Harris*, No. 2:12-CV-05735-SVW-RZ, 2020 WL 5049182, at \*4 (C.D. Cal. July 14,

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- PETA France
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2020). Anyone who violates the ban may be issued a citation by a peace officer, a humane society officer, or an animal control officer, *id.* § 25983(a), and may be prosecuted by the local district attorney or city attorney, *id.* § 25983(c). Violators may be assessed a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation and up to \$1,000 for each day that the violation continues. *Id.* at § 25983(b).

Please find linked [here](#) (and attached) information from The Morris' website showing plans to serve foie gras on Thursday, December 31, 2020.

We respectfully ask that you investigate this matter and issue citations as appropriate. I look forward to your response. Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Amber Canavan  
Senior Campaigner  
PETA

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