



February 18, 2021

Sarah C. Mangelsdorf  
President  
University of Rochester

Via e-mail: [sarah.mangelsdorf@rochester.edu](mailto:sarah.mangelsdorf@rochester.edu)

Dear President Mangelsdorf,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide to share with you the disturbing findings of our undercover investigation into your supplier, Moulton Chinchilla Ranch (MCR), a massive breeding mill near Rochester, Minnesota that confined nearly 1,000 chinchillas to small, rusty cages in an ammonia-ridden shed. **Based on PETA's evidence, authorities executed a search warrant at MCR, seized chinchillas and opened a criminal investigation.**

The [investigative footage](#) and [photographs](#) reveal that chinchillas at MCR were denied veterinary care for severe injuries and chronic infections, deprived of water for days on end, and left to die. One chinchilla, named Charlene, had a mutilated foot, but the breeder denied her care for this excruciating injury, which left a bloody stump with bones exposed. Others were deprived of veterinary care for swollen, pus-filled eyes; severely overgrown teeth; severely matted coats; and abscessed mammary tissue that swelled up and burst.

We understand that you and/or your staff have obtained chinchillas from MCR. As you should know, this company has been cited over 100 times since 2013 for failing to meet the minimal care standards of the federal Animal Welfare Act—even leading the U.S. Department of Agriculture to file a pending complaint against the facility and its operator alleging that he has willfully violated the law. PETA's investigation shows that rampant neglect there persists.

We hope you'll agree that this suffering is unacceptable. Will you please immediately reconsider your relationship with MCR and stop obtaining chinchillas altogether?

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at [AlkaC@peta.org](mailto:AlkaC@peta.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.  
Vice President  
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