

Dr. Marc Bekoff  
Professor  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0334

---

February 10, 2006

Leana Stormont  
Counsel, Research & Investigations  
PETA  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510

RE: DVD Footage of Dogs Engaged in Stereotypic Behaviors

Dear Ms. Stormont:

I have reviewed the footage on the DVD labeled “PETA Investigation Stereotypic Behaviors.” What I saw made me ill. The dogs in the video are **very disturbed** and **extremely** mistreated. I have studied the behavior of dogs and their wild relatives for more than thirty-five years and this is some of the **worst** stereotypic behavior I have ever seen. The dogs can be seen frantically spinning, circling, side-stepping and jumping as they desperately clamor for attention in their cramped kennels. Some of the dogs appeared downright afraid. The noise the dogs make as they cry, bark, whine, howl and beg for attention is almost deafening. In fact, it appears that some of the dogs have barked so much that they have completely lost their ability to vocalize—at times one can hear their hoarse rasps among the din of desperate dogs.

When I viewed the footage I was absolutely shocked at how advanced and serious the stereotypies were. Some of the behaviors were so pronounced and advanced that I wondered if the dogs had ever received any attention at all—it was if they were begging for anything. The dogs were so far gone that they reminded me of cases where neglected and abused dogs approach the people who have harmed them out of sheer desperation for attention. The distress of the dogs in this hideous lab was palpable—it was if they were never taken out of their cages for walks or given any attention or socialization. The dogs exhibit signs of chronic stress which is manifested by stereotypical behavior. These behaviors indicate an extreme psychological disturbance among these animals which undoubtedly causes tremendous and inexcusable suffering. The failure to provide adequate enrichment and socialization for these highly social animals is a form of cruel mistreatment and neglect.

All of the footage is horrid but the footage dated 4/18/05 and 5/27/05 was particularly appalling. In addition, the footage dated 7/8/05, 8/17/05, 9/27/05, 10/11/05, 10/17/05, and 10/20/05 documents behaviors that were off any scale of “normalcy” I’ve ever seen. These dogs are in sorry shape—they are anxious, mistreated, and they should be removed from the facility immediately.

All in all, these are severely abused dogs and the people who run this lab should be taken to task for their egregious and reprehensible treatment of these beings. Every one of these dogs

is suffering immensely as a result of cruel neglect; the people who run the lab are an embarrassment to humanity.

My credentials are as follows (for details please see my homepage at <http://literati.net/Bekoff>; and the homepage of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Citizens for Responsible Animal Behavior Studies (co-founder with Jane Goodall [www.ethologicaethics.org](http://www.ethologicaethics.org)): I am a Professor of Biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, a Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society, and a former Guggenheim Fellow. In 2000 I was awarded the Exemplar Award from the Animal Behavior Society for major long-term contributions to the field of animal behavior. I have authored over 200 papers and 18 books in my field of expertise.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Bekoff', written in a cursive style.

Marc Bekoff  
Professor

### **Biographical information**

In addition to the credentials set forth above, I am also regional coordinator for Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program, in which I work with students of all ages, senior citizens and prisoners, and I am a member of the Ethics Committee of the Jane Goodall Institute. I am on the Board of Directors of The Fauna Sanctuary, The Cougar Fund, the Skyline Sanctuary and Education Center, and the Prairie Preservation Alliance and on the advisory board for Animal Defenders and for the Laboratory Primate Advocacy Group and the conservation organization SINAPU. I have been part of the international program, Science and the Spiritual Quest II and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) program on Science, Ethics, and Religion. I am also an honorary member of Animalisti Italiani and Fundacion Altarriba, and on the Scientific Review Board of the Great Ape Trust.

In 2006 I was named a Fellow of the Dancing Star Foundation and an honorary board member of Rational Animal. In 2005 I was presented with The Bank One Faculty Community Service Award for the work I've done with children, senior citizens, and prisoners.

My main areas of research include animal behavior, cognitive ethology (the study of animal minds), and behavioral ecology, and I have published extensively on animal issues. I have published more than 200 papers and 18 books, including Species of mind: The philosophy and biology of cognitive ethology (with Colin Allen, MIT Press, 1997); Nature's purposes: Analyses of function and design in biology (edited with Colin Allen and George Lauder, MIT Press, 1998), Animal play: Evolutionary, comparative, and ecological perspectives (edited with John Byers, Cambridge University Press, 1998), Encyclopedia of animal rights and animal welfare (Greenwood Publishing Group, 1998), and a book on the lighter side, Nature's

life lessons: Everyday truths from nature (with Jim Carrier, Fulcrum, 1996). My children's book, Strolling with our kin (Foreword by Jane Goodall), was published in Fall 2000 (Lantern Books) as was The smile of a dolphin: Remarkable accounts of animal emotions (Random House/Discovery Books). The cognitive animal: Empirical and theoretical perspectives on animal cognition (edited by Marc Bekoff, Colin Allen, and Gordon Burghardt) appeared in 2002 (MIT Press), as did Minding animals: Awareness, emotions, and heart (Oxford University Press) and The ten trusts: What we must do to care for the animals we love (HarperCollins) (with Jane Goodall). I've edited a three volume Encyclopedia of animal behavior (Greenwood Publishing Group, 2004) and am writing a book on the evolution of cooperation and morality in animals titled Wild justice and fair play: Cooperation, forgiveness, and Morality in Animals (for the University of Chicago Press). I am also writing a book titled Animal Emotions and Why They Matter for New World Library. A collection of my essays titled Animal Passions and Beastly Virtues: Reflections on Redecorating Nature was published by Temple University Press in 2005. I am also editing a four-volume encyclopedia on human-animal relationships for Greenwood Publishing Group.

My work has been featured on 48 Hours, in *Time Magazine*, *Life Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The New York Times*, *New Scientist*, *BBC Wildlife*, *Orion*, *Scientific American*, *Ranger Rick*, *National Geographic Kids*, on NPR, BBC, Fox, Nature GEO, in a National Geographic Society television special ("Play: The Nature of the Game"), in Discovery TV's "Why Dogs Smile and Chimpanzees Cry," and in Animal Planet's "The Power of Play" and National Geographic Society's "Hunting in America". I have also appeared on CNN and Good Morning America.