



October 11, 2000

Ingrid Newkirk, President
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
501 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Ms. Newkirk:

Thank you for your letter and accompanying petition, on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) chemical testing programs. As you may be aware, this issue has been brought to my personal attention and it is one to which I have given considerable thought.

While I do not always agree with PETA's positions or tactics, I have appreciated and supported PETA's efforts to open a constructive dialogue with the EPA about how the agency's programs can reduce the use of animal subjects in testing without diminishing the public's right-to-know about chemical risks, compromising principles of sound science, or delaying needed standards or research.

I am pleased to commit to you that, if I should win the presidency, I will appoint an EPA Administrator who will end the use of animal test subjects where alternative, non-animal test methods are feasible that have been accepted in the scientific community. I also agree that the EPA should expand its research investment in developing and validating non-animal testing alternatives.

As a general matter, reducing exposures and emissions to well-known hazards is a first priority for public health and environmental protection, as your letter suggests. I do believe, however, that we must better understand the potential health and environmental impacts of thousands of other chemicals used in our communities and workplaces, chemicals about which we know too little to make informed judgments about potential risk.

PETA's dialogue with the current Administration has persuaded me that this challenge can be met while reducing the agency's long-term reliance on test methods using animals, and while promoting reliable non-animal alternative test methods now under development in the international scientific community.

Thank you for your letter, and for your continued focus on opportunities for the EPA to address animal protection concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Gore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Al" and last name "Gore" clearly distinguishable.

Al Gore