



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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December 6, 2004

Abraham Rubashkin, President
AgriProcessors, Inc.

2 pages via fax: 563-864-7890

Dear Mr. Rubashkin:

I am writing to you today on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), our 800,000 members and supporters, and the millions of Americans and others around the world who were horrified to learn about the cruelty occurring at your slaughterhouse.

It is our hope that you have reconsidered your indefensible contention that these animals were treated well and that you will now make swift changes. We are still available to work with you, and we are even willing to hold off on our plans to push the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Iowa Department of Agriculture to prosecute AgriProcessors—as well as our plans to continue educating kosher consumers about your practices—if you make things right at AgriProcessors itself, as well as all AgriProcessors suppliers, by implementing the following changes:

AgriProcessors must stop ripping apart live animals, get rid of its electric prods, and hire Dr. Temple Grandin to train its shochets in creating a calm atmosphere for animals and handling them gently. AgriProcessors must train shochets to recognize the physiological signs of consciousness—blinking, bellowing, standing, rhythmic breathing, and attempting to right the head—to ensure that animals' lives are respected and that no animals are touched or moved until they are unconscious. Animals who are not rendered quickly insensible by shechitah should be stunned via captive-bolt gun. All equipment must be inspected to ensure that it is not harming animals (e.g., conveyor belts should not trap chickens and break their legs). The Facoma pen, which terrifies the animals, needs to be replaced with the ASPCA pen immediately. Cameras must be installed so that Dr. Grandin can monitor random samples of footage, or else Dr. Grandin must be hired to conduct periodic audits.

As we noted in our letter last week, we have heard horror stories about kosher slaughter in South America. It is essential that AgriProcessors demand that such facilities follow the same policies specified above.

Animals at AgriProcessors were treated in ways that may warrant felony cruelty-to-animals charges. This was in gross violation of both federal and kosher laws, as well as basic human decency. The horrific cruelty that AgriProcessors perpetrated requires serious corrective action and a specific policy to ensure that these horrors never happen again.

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS

We are happy to work with AgriProcessors in any way that you think might be useful, but we're also happy to step aside—once you've promised to make the changes that we're asking for, under the guidance of Dr. Temple Grandin, who is, as you know, a "friend of shechitah." Please contact me at any time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Friedrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Bruce G. Friedrich
Director of Vegan Campaigns

cc: Nathan Lewin, Esq.
Steven J. Gross, Ph.D.