



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

July 22, 2021

The Honorable Susan Zuiderveen  
Van Buren County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Dear Ms. Zuiderveen:

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to request that your office (and the proper law-enforcement agency, as you deem appropriate) investigate and file criminal charges as suitable against those responsible for depriving dogs of water, shelter, and sanitary conditions—and keeping two tethered—at a puppy mill operated by Jacob Lambright. PETA urges investigators to visit the facility with a veterinarian so that they can identify any animals in need of care and opine on the conditions of and for the animals there.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspector documented the neglect in the attached report. On June 16, the federal agent found three collies deprived of water. The dogs drank for at least 45 seconds without stopping after Lambright provided them with water at the agent's direction. The same day, the USDA inspector found 29 dogs confined with "excessive feces." Seventeen dogs were provided just five doghouses, in which they couldn't all fit at once. One dog was tied with a "heavy chain" to two logs, while another was tethered to a fence.

The above omissions appear to violate Michigan's anti-cruelty statute, MCL § 750.50(2)(a), which requires that Lambright provide his dogs with sufficient water, doghouses of appropriate dimensions for their size, and space free of excessive waste. His tethering of these dogs may also have violated MCL § 750.50(2)(g). Action by the USDA doesn't preclude criminal liability under state law for federally licensed facilities and workers who perpetrate acts of cruelty against animals there. If you'd like to learn more about the USDA's findings, please see the relevant contact information for the office in Riverdale, Maryland, [here](#).

Thank you for your time and consideration and for the difficult work that you do every day. Please let us know if we can assist you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Paden  
Vice President of Evidence Analysis

**Washington**

1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

**Los Angeles**

2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

**Norfolk**

501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

**Affiliates:**

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)