



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Petco Annual Meeting Question

Hi. My name is Alicia Aguayo, and I have a question on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. I worked at Petco when I was a college student, and I witnessed the misery of birds, fish, and other small animals. That harrowing experience helped steer me toward animal advocacy. Petco claims to be a “health and wellness company,” but PETA’s investigations into its animal suppliers have exposed illness, suffering, and death.

PETA’s investigations have also revealed systemic neglect in the reptile trade, including the prolonged confinement of stressed animals to shoebox-size plastic bins for months or even years, during which they’re denied the basic necessities of life. Being able to stretch out to their full length is vital to snakes’ well-being. But Petco uses—and sells—glass aquariums only 18 inches long for snakes who are much longer. It has been estimated that 75% of captive reptiles die within the first year in a person’s home.

Investigations into bird-breeding facilities have also found severe crowding, filth, and neglect. Birds remain distressed even after they’ve been purchased, and the frustration of captivity causes many of them to pull out their own feathers, mutilate their skin, incessantly bob their heads, pace back and forth, and even collapse from anxiety.

Another PETA video exposé revealed betta fish gasping for air on dry trays as workers callously sorted through them. Many went without food for days during international transport. At Petco, they’re confined to minuscule, barren plastic cups in water that just barely covers their bodies.

These animals are denied everything that’s natural and important to them, and they suffer enormously as a result. When will Petco do the right thing and stop selling animals?

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