

PETA's 12-Point Animal Welfare Plan for Land O' Lakes, Inc.

Following the 2009 investigation inside a Land O' Lakes, Inc., supplier—an investigation that revealed deplorable, unsanitary conditions and routine neglect of animals—PETA is calling on Land O' Lakes to implement and enforce the following 12-point plan to govern all cooperative members' dairy-farming operations:

1. Require supplier facilities to hire and/or contract with a licensed large-animal veterinarian to provide thorough herd checks as well as on-call service for emergency needs. These visits should occur a minimum of once per week.
2. Require supplier facilities—in consultation with the facility's attending licensed large-animal veterinarian—to develop and update twice per year a herd health plan that provides detailed protocols for daily observation and body-score monitoring of all animals; prevention, proper diagnosis, and immediate treatment of animals with a body score of two or below (on the Elanco Body Scoring Chart for Dairy Cattle), illness, or injury; and euthanasia, in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association's *AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia*, June 2007 (and subsequent editions), and/or the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.
3. Require suppliers to establish procedures to address the care and treatment of non-ambulatory cattle, including prohibiting suppliers from sending to market or transporting cattle who cannot stand and walk on their own and cattle who resist standing; prohibiting the dragging of such animals; requiring that non-ambulatory animals who must be moved and cannot be carried be moved with an appropriate sled, sling, or bucket; and requiring that non-ambulatory cattle who are given the opportunity to recover under veterinary care be separated from the herd and provided with shelter, water, and feed as well as protection from predators. Non-ambulatory cattle who have a poor prognosis or who have been treated with drugs that have a withdrawal period should be euthanized.
4. Require suppliers to keep all animal areas, including outdoor pens and stalls to which animals are confined, dry and sanitary; all areas to which animals have access, including housing areas, must be scraped and flushed clean of manure a minimum of twice per day.
5. Require suppliers to provide safe, nonslip flooring throughout areas of the facility that are accessible to animals (e.g., rubber flooring, concrete floors with grooves, etc., can be used in order to prevent slippage).
6. Require suppliers to provide dry, sanitary, and comfortable bedding for all animals housed and kept at the facility.
7. Require suppliers to implement and adhere to a comprehensive hoof-care and lameness-prevention plan that includes the appointment and professional training of a staff member to evaluate and address herd hoof-care and lameness issues on a daily basis. The supplier's hoof-care and lameness-prevention plan must include immediate treatment of lame cows, implementation of recordkeeping and a hoof-maintenance schedule, a consistent nutrition plan, and mandatory allowance for cows to lie down comfortably for 11 to 14 hours per day and to exercise for a minimum of four hours per day.
8. Prohibit tail-docking of cattle at supplier facilities unless recommended by a veterinarian for an individual cow for medical reasons, in which case, the procedure must be performed by the farm's attending veterinarian and the animal must be provided with the appropriate anesthesia and analgesia.

9. Require that supplier facilities ban the use of electric-shock devices and replace them with flags, ribbons affixed to light poles, and other humane driving aids.
10. Require that suppliers comply with minimum standards of care for newborn calves, including providing dry and sanitary calving and weaning areas; observing and carefully handling calves to reduce stress and prevent injury; feeding the calves colostrum at recommended times and intervals; providing constant access to clean water and clean, dry bedding; not transporting calves off the premises until the animals are dry and able to walk and stand without assistance; etc.
11. Require suppliers to install cameras in all areas accessible to animals, to notify all employees of the cameras, and to implement a system in which a credible third party monitors the video footage.
12. Require suppliers to perform a criminal background check on all employees, ensure that no employee with a history of violence or drug or alcohol abuse is hired, and regularly test all employees for drug use.