



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

July 21, 2022

The Honorable Sara Sopinski
Dodge County Attorney

Dear Ms. Sopinski:

We respectfully request that your office (and a local or state law-enforcement agency, as you deem appropriate) investigate and file applicable criminal charges against those responsible for 1,000 chickens being burned alive—and another 1,500 being injured—on a tractor trailer that recently caught fire at Lincoln Premium Poultry (LPP), located at 1325 E. Cloverly Rd., near Fremont. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) described the incident in the attached documents, which PETA just obtained via a public records request.

According to the documents, on June 17 the truck caught fire after the rear wheels “exploded” in “huge flames.” LPP management blamed the fire on overheated brakes, and an LPP whistleblower told PETA that they suspected the truck driver had left the emergency brake on. Approximately 6,000 chickens were caged on the trailer. About 1,000 birds were “consumed by the flames” and “completely burnt,” while another 1,500 were injured by the blaze, which burned for 50 minutes. LPP staff broke the necks of chickens who had escaped from the burning trailer and killed all other survivors by gassing them with carbon dioxide over nearly four hours.

Should investigators find reckless failures to provide the 2,500 chickens killed or seriously injured in this blaze with the care reasonably necessary for their health while in transport, such failures could constitute thousands of felony violations of Nebraska Revised Statute § 54-903. FSIS’ action in this matter shows that this conduct does not constitute the commonly accepted practices with respect to livestock that are otherwise exempt from prosecution. Please note that FSIS’ simple report on the incident *carries no criminal or civil penalties* and doesn’t preempt criminal liability under state law for cruelty to animals.

Please let us know if we can assist you. I can be reached at DanielP@peta.org or 757-962-8231. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Paden
Vice President of Evidence Analysis
Cruelty Investigations Department

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.)