

October 17, 2022

Kimberly Cressman
Principal
Troutman Elementary School

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Cressman:

I'm writing as a former elementary school teacher and on behalf of [TeachKind](#), PETA's humane education division, which works with schools across the country to promote compassion for animals. We saw that Troutman Elementary School [hosted Southwest/Southland Dairy Farmers' Mobile Dairy Classroom](#) in September. There's no doubt that your intent was to provide an educational experience. However, since you're a leader in the education community, I urge you to reflect on the problematic message that the Mobile Dairy Classroom sends to young people. It's imperative to devote equal time to other perspectives in order to present students with a balanced view that will enable them to make informed, healthy, and compassionate choices, so we'd love to bring our mechanical cow, [Carly](#), to your school for a free presentation.

In the dairy industry, calves are generally torn away from their mothers within a day of birth so that the milk intended for them can be taken and sold to humans. Practices like cow-calf separation are portrayed by the dairy industry as natural and acceptable. In reality, the bond between a cow and her calf is particularly strong, and there are countless reports of mother cows who have frantically called and searched for their babies after they were taken away. Given the chance, cows nurture their babies and form lifelong bonds with them. But in the dairy industry, they're forcibly and repeatedly impregnated and treated as milk-producing machines. Students were apparently told that three daily servings of dairy are needed to complete a healthy, balanced diet. That is simply not true. Children can thrive without dairy, and cow's milk is one of the primary causes of food allergies among children. Up to 50 million Americans—including 80% of African Americans—are lactose intolerant.

We'd love to bring [Carly](#) to your school for a presentation. She tells her student audiences a compelling story about her past and the kind humans who gave her a chance at a bright future that includes friends and freedom. Carly gives age-appropriate information about the lives of cows in the dairy industry in order to help students understand what's really involved in the production of cow's milk. She has been a big hit at schools around the country. We'd love to hand out free vegan ice cream to all students as well.

We hope you'll consider our offer to help students think critically about this important issue. On behalf of PETA's millions of members and supporters worldwide, many of whom live in North Carolina, we thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Andrew Burton
TeachKind Assistant

cc: Brian Mills, Assistant Principal ([REDACTED])
Kellie Thompson, Instructional Facilitator ([REDACTED])

