

Whole Foods misleadingly claims that its animal welfare standards for meat and other animal-derived products “are stronger than most anywhere; encompass how the animals are raised, transported and slaughtered; and that a traceable audit system tracks animals from birth to slaughter.” Yet Whole Foods has a history of selling animal-derived products from suppliers implicated in an array of atrocities to animals.

At Whole Foods’ self-proclaimed supplier of “happy meat,” Sweet Stem Farm, sick and injured pigs languished for weeks without veterinary care, several with bloody rectal prolapses. Chickens at Nellie’s Free Range Eggs, another Whole Foods supplier, had the tips of their beaks cut off to prevent stress-induced cannibalism.

Last October, , following a PETA investigation into a Whole Foods supplier, Pennsylvania State Police filed **141 cruelty charges**—the most charges in any case of cruelty to factory-farmed animals in U.S. history—against 12 former workers at Plainville Farms, a company claiming to produce “humane” turkey. Workers repeatedly and viciously kicked and stomped on turkeys on a nightly basis and birds convulsed after workers tried but failed to break their necks. Two workers were recorded mimicking masturbation and rape with injured and dying birds.

Most recently, PETA Asia's latest investigation into the use and abuse of monkey labor in the Thai coconut industry implicated a supplier of Whole Foods 365 brand. Endangered pig-tailed macaques are illegally snatched from the wild, chained, whipped, and forced to spend long hours picking heavy coconuts.

Whole Foods’ history of selling meat and other animal-derived products from suppliers in blatant violation of its animal welfare standards jeopardizes our company’s reputation.

We urge shareholders to vote to support the request that Amazon.com Inc. issue a report evaluating the efficacy and shortcomings of Whole Foods’ animal welfare standards and auditing procedures that have failed to prevent egregious cruelty in the company’s supply chain.