



August 8, 2023

Anko van der Werff  
President & CEO  
SAS – Scandinavian Airlines

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Dear Mr. van der Werff:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to respectfully urge Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) to stop transporting dogs to be used in experimentation. This request is all the more urgent as PETA has recently obtained records documenting the transportation of more than 5,300 dogs from U.S. suppliers to testing laboratories across Europe between April 2021 and May 2023. It appears that SAS was responsible for most or all of these shipments. You may not be familiar with the miserable conditions present in intensive dog breeding facilities across the U.S., or the torment suffered by dogs in laboratories in Europe. After reviewing the details presented below, I hope you will consider whether you wish your company’s reputable image to be linked with such abusive treatment of “man’s best friend.”

### **Intensive Dog Breeding Facilities in the U.S.: Marshall Farms, Inc.**

Based on the records acquired by PETA from the UK organization [www.thecampbeagle.com](http://www.thecampbeagle.com), 4,996 dogs were transported from Marshall Farms, located in North Rose, New York, to laboratories in Europe between June 2021 and May 2023. Marshall operates massive factory farms and on any given day, the company confines more than 20,000 beagles and other dogs inside its sheds. The company, which also breeds and sells tens of thousands of other animals, has been cited for dozens of violations of minimum animal welfare standards mandated by U.S. law. The company has housed dogs in unsanitary, dilapidated wire cages inside buildings infested with mice and flies and has failed to provide adequate veterinary care to the animals. Although U.S. regulations require only that cages holding dogs be large enough to permit them to stand up, sit down, lie down, and turn around, Marshall Farms has failed to meet even these basic requirements—and dogs have sustained injuries as a result.

In 2012, a whistleblower worked with PETA India to expose Marshall’s Chinese facility for lying to authorities in declaring that the 70 beagles the company was shipping to India were “pets” who would not “be hurt or killed as Lab Animal [sic],” when, in fact, the dogs were headed to a laboratory where they were slated to be used in cruel and deadly poisoning tests.

You may be aware that Marshall faces intense opposition worldwide. In the U.K., Marshall-owned B & K Universal was temporarily blocked from opening a new facility after protests by PETA U.K. and others. And in 2012, Marshall’s Italian dog factory farm—Green Hill—was shut down by government

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officials after allegations that dogs there were mistreated. In 2015, three members of management at Green Hill were found guilty of “unjustified killing and mistreatment of dogs” and sentenced to 12 to 18 months. Since July 2021, animal protectionists in the U.K. have set up a protest camp outside of Marshall’s beagle breeding facility in Wyton, Cambridgeshire. The campaign has garnered backing from prominent personalities, including celebrities, scientists, politicians, and other noteworthy individuals.

### **Intensive Dog Breeding Facilities in the U.S.: Envigo RMS, LLC**

The records obtained by PETA also indicate that 401 dogs were transported from Envigo, located in Cumberland, Virginia, to laboratories in Europe between December 2019 and May 2022. As you may know, in 2021, PETA conducted a [groundbreaking undercover investigation](#) that blew the lid off neglect, intense confinement, suffering, and death at Envigo’s massive beagle-breeding facility, sparking a historic domino effect that paved the way for closing that dog prison.

Following our investigation, nearly 450 dogs and puppies were seized, [federal citations](#) for dozens of violations of animal welfare laws were issued, and a legal battle between the company and the U.S. Department of Justice ensued. The facility closed, and nearly 4,000 dogs held there were liberated for adoption into loving homes.

No more dogs will be bred or born at this beagle factory farm. It’s worth noting that the conditions documented at Envigo by PETA and U.S. inspectors are not markedly different than the conditions at Marshall Farms or other dog breeding operations. This is an abusive industry that frequently runs afoul of the law, and operates outside the bounds of widely held ethical standards.

### **The End of the Road: Dogs Tormented and Killed in Toxicity Tests**

The records acquired by PETA document that 2,007 dogs were transported between October 2021 and September 2022 wound up in facilities operated by [Charles River Laboratories](#) in Hungary, France, and the Netherlands. This animal testing behemoth conducts painful tests on animals for companies that produce industrial chemicals, pesticides, food additives, and pharmaceuticals. In these tests, the animals are force-fed test compounds, have experimental chemicals smeared onto their shaved skin, and are forced to inhale toxic substances. The animals may endure severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, convulsions, seizures, paralysis, and bleeding from the nose, mouth, and genitals before they ultimately die or are killed.

A summary of Charles River Laboratories’ animal welfare violations in the U.S. reads like a criminal indictment: inadequate veterinary care; failure to provide suffering animals with pain relief; inadequate housing, causing a high incidence of foot injuries in dogs; shoddy surgical methods resulting in the misery and eventual death of a dog; and failure to investigate non-animal alternatives to experiments involving severe suffering. Rabbits with skin lesions 4.5 inches deep were given no medical care, and unqualified personnel caused such severe injuries to monkeys’ fingers that the digits had to be amputated. At Charles River’s Nevada facility, [32 monkeys were baked alive](#) when a thermostat malfunctioned and no one noticed. A monkey was scalded to death when her cage was run through a high-temperature cage washer—while she was still locked inside. Charles River posts annual revenues in excess of a billion dollars, but the company has apparently failed to institute simple safeguards to ensure that animals aren’t being burned and baked to death.

**Association with Cruel and Deadly Experiments on Dogs Risks Reputational Risk**

Many leading airlines and transport companies—including FedEx, UPS, Cathay Pacific, Korean Airlines, British Airways, Aer Lingus, Cargolux Airlines, Qantas Airways, and EVA Air—refuse to ship animals destined for laboratories. All commercial airlines have stopped transporting primates for experimentation and Lufthansa has banned shipments of cats, dogs, and primates destined for laboratories.

While we understand that your airline is committed to providing essential services and connecting people and goods across the globe, we believe the transfer of dogs from breeding facilities in the United States to laboratories in Europe contributes to the suffering and exploitation of vulnerable animals.

As you know, dogs have long been considered beloved companions and integral members of families worldwide. The inhumane conditions and practices prevalent in breeding facilities can lead to immense distress, health issues, and neglect for these animals. The subsequent transport to testing laboratories only adds to their suffering as they are tormented and killed in painful tests.

I ask that you kindly contact me within the next 24 hours so that we can discuss this important issue. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Alka Chandna, Ph.D.  
Vice President  
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