

# The Center For Consumer Freedom<sup>®</sup>

January 16, 2008

Todd P. Haymore, Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
102 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Copy via FAX: 804-371-6097**

Dear Commissioner Haymore,

The Norfolk-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) enjoys nonprofit status as a “humane society” and “releasing agency” as defined in Virginia Code § 3.1-796.66. But when PETA filed its required online “Animal Record” report for the year 2006, it reported something startling.

Setting aside the dogs and cats the group sterilized that year, **PETA euthanized (killed) 97.4 percent of all the domestic animals it took in.**<sup>1</sup> This percentage has been steadily increasing each year since 2001, when PETA’s “kill rate” was 72.4 percent. In 2006, the state average for “humane societies” was less than 35 percent.

In 2006, PETA employees killed 2,980 dogs, cats, and other pets; they transferred 46 to other Virginia releasing agencies; they adopted out only 12.

During a 2007 criminal trial in North Carolina, a PETA manager testified that her organization maintains a large walk-in freezer for the storage of animal carcasses. She testified that PETA employs a crematory service to periodically dispose of the bodies. And she also affirmed that (despite its \$32 million budget), PETA does not operate a public “shelter” where members of the public may select dogs or cats and adopt them into their homes.

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<sup>1</sup> PETA’s 2006 “Animal Record” report (copy attached). Animals reported as “received / others” and as “disposition / reclaimed by owner” are those that PETA sterilized.

Given PETA's apparent practice of killing animals shortly after they come in the door (or, in the North Carolina case, inside a cargo van), without making a good-faith effort to find them adoptive homes or provide necessary long-term veterinary care, its classification as a "humane society" and "releasing agency" seems inappropriate.

Accordingly, I am requesting as a resident of Virginia that your office strip PETA of these designations, and regulate it instead in the future as a "slaughterhouse."

I recognize that Virginia law presently provides only for the regulation of slaughterhouses, packing facilities, and stockyards which handle animals defined as "livestock." I respectfully suggest that you should also amend your regulations to account for the fact that at least one Virginia institution (PETA) already operates a slaughterhouse for dogs and cats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David", with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Martosko  
Director of Research  
Martosko@ConsumerFreedom.com

Reporting Year: 2006									
Organization Information:									
Organization Name:	People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals								
Street Address 1:	501 Front Street								
Street Address 2:									
City:	Norfolk								
State:	VA								
County:	Norfolk City								
Zip Code:	23510								
Organization e-mail:	info@peta.org								
Organization Phone:	(757) 622-7382								
Organization FAX:	()								
Organization Type:	Humane Society								
Species Information:									
Received									
Species	On Hand January 1	Stray	Seized	Bite Cases	Surrendered by Owner	Received From Another Virginia Releasing Agency	Others	Total	
Cats	0	17	0	0	1960	0	4398	6375	
Dogs	2	11	0	0	1030	0	2132	3175	
Other Companion Animals	0	0	0	0	52	0	34	86	
Poultry	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6564</b>	<b>9637</b>	
Disposition									
Species	Reclaimed by Owner	Adopted	Transferred to Another Virginia Releasing Agency	Transferred by Approved Out-Of-State Facility	Died in Facility	Euthanized	*Miscellaneous	On Hand December 31	Total
Cats	4410	2	21	0	0	1942	0	0	6375
Dogs	2131	8	25	0	3	988	3	17	3175
Other Companion Animals	34	2	0	0	0	50	0	0	86
Poultry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6575</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2981</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9637</b>
Wildlife Received and Disposition information:									
Picked Up Dead	Relocated/ Released to Wild	Euthanized	Still At Facility	Total					
15	1	248	0	264					
<input type="button" value="Main Menu"/>									
<a href="#">VDACS Home</a>   <a href="#">Office of the State Veterinarian</a>									