

Alfred Almanza  
Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250



May 22, 2013

Dear Mr. Almanza,

Over the past two weeks 50,000 citizens have taken a stand against foie gras by signing the Animal Legal Defense Fund's petition, "Stop Abusing Ducks and Geese - No more Foie Gras!" on Causes.com. They have done so because they care about the welfare of animals and they know that force-fed foie gras is inhumane. But they've also signed because they don't want diseased food products in the human food supply, and that is just what foie gras is: the diseased liver of ducks and geese.

By not properly regulating foie gras, the USDA is failing animals as well as failing the public. As a federal agency that is responsible for protecting the public food supply, it is time to fulfill your duty.

**To: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Alfred V. Almanza,  
Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Services, USDA**

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I join the Animal Legal Defense Fund in urging the USDA to ban foie gras, the fatty liver of a force-fed duck or goose. Foie gras products are not "wholesome," as stated on the USDA inspection seal. Currently, on U.S. foie gras farms, ducks are force fed three pounds of mash a day through a pipe shoved down their throats -- the equivalent of force-feeding 45 pounds of food to an adult human -- inducing liver disease known as hepatic lipidosis that often cripples and poisons the birds. The cruel and unhealthy force-feeding of birds for foie gras production has been banned in over a dozen countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Israel, and in the state of California.

Foie gras comes from birds who, in addition to being horribly abused, are diseased. Foie gras is unfit for human consumption. We call on you to remove foie gras from the U.S. food supply immediately, for the wellbeing of animals and the citizens who count on you to protect them.

Sincerely,

Stephen Wells, Executive Director  
Animal Legal Defense Fund

Winning the case against cruelty

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