

From: Farm Sanctuary [REDACTED] on behalf of Kianna LeVay

Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:56 PM
To: AGSEC - OES
Subject: Petition Number #13-08, humane poultry slaughter

Mar 19, 2014

Secretary Thomas Vilsack
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 228-W
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing to thank the USDA for repeatedly recognizing that cruelty to birds is an issue that demands your attention, over which you have authority.

In 2005, for example, a Federal Register notice declared that stopping the abuse of birds is a "high priority" for the USDA, and a 2009 agency directive noted that "humane methods of handling and slaughtering ... increase the likelihood of producing unadulterated product," which the agency is legally obligated to address.

Please take the next step by acting on petition 13-08, which was filed by Farm Sanctuary and the Animal Welfare Institute, requesting that the USDA promulgate humane poultry regulations.

A key regulation that the USDA should require is the humane euthanasia of all birds who arrive at the slaughterhouse with broken wings or legs. Just try to imagine the agony of arriving to slaughter with broken limbs only to be dumped from your crate, snapped into shackles by hurried workers, and electrocuted -- it is beyond our worst nightmares.

Chickens are interesting individuals who compare favorably to dogs in scientific tests of cognitive and behavioral complexity, and they deserve better.

Please let me know of your decision at the address below.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kianna LeVay
[REDACTED]

Poultry welfare.txt

From: Farm Sanctuary [REDACTED] on behalf of Diane Gilbert
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 3:07 PM
To: AGSEC - OES
Subject: poultry slaughter

Mar 24, 2014

Secretary Thomas Vilsack
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 228-W
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing to thank the USDA for repeatedly recognizing that cruelty to birds is an issue that demands your attention, over which you have authority.

I am however, APPALLED THAT BIRD ABUSE CONTINUES AFTER YEARS OF INACTION. THIS IS LEGALIZED ANIMAL CRUELTY AT ITS WORST!

In 2005, for example, a Federal Register notice declared that stopping the abuse of birds is a "high priority" for the USDA, and a 2009 agency directive noted that "humane methods of handling and slaughtering ... increase the likelihood of producing unadulterated product," which the agency is legally obligated to address.

Please take the next step by acting on petition 13-08, which was filed by Farm Sanctuary and the Animal Welfare Institute, requesting that the USDA promulgate humane poultry regulations.

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Chickens are interesting individuals who compare favorably to dogs in scientific tests of cognitive and behavioral complexity, and they deserve better.

I look forward to hearing what you plan to do to stop this cruelty to factory farm birds that already endure cruel confinement before they are cooked alive.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Diane Gilbert
[REDACTED]

Pennel Poultry Handling 8015576 INCOMING.txt

From: Farm Sanctuary [REDACTED] on behalf of Emily Pennel

Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 10:57 AM

To: AGSEC - OES

Subject: Please take action on Petition #13-08 for more humane poultry slaughter

Apr 11, 2014

Secretary Thomas Vilsack
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 228-W
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

Thank you for recognizing that cruelty to birds is an important issue, such as your 2009 directive stating, "humane methods of handling and slaughtering ... increase the likelihood of producing unadulterated product."

Please act on petition 13-08, which was filed by Farm Sanctuary and the Animal Welfare Institute, requesting that the USDA promulgate humane poultry regulations. A key regulation is the humane euthanasia of all birds who arrive at slaughterhouses with broken wings or legs.

Chickens compare favorably to dogs in scientific tests of cognitive complexity. Injured animals who are in already in pain deserve better than to undergo the further pain and suffering of the slaughter process.

Please let me know of your decision at the address below.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ms. Emily Pennel
[REDACTED]

June 26, 2014

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing in support of Farm Sanctuary's legal petition calling on the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service to improve the treatment of poultry at slaughterhouses immediately (petition number 13-08).

Birds represent 8.8 billion of the 9 billion animals slaughtered annually in the U.S. It is unconscionable that the USDA exempts poultry from protections provided under the Humane Slaughter Act and refuses to grant any relief under the Poultry Products Inspection Act.

Without the USDA to protect them, countless birds are subjected to abuses that would warrant cruelty convictions under federal law if cows or pigs were the victims. USDA records indicate that almost a million chickens are boiled alive every year at slaughterhouses when they miss the neck-slicer and are dropped into the scalding water bath used for feather removal while they are fully conscious.

The New York Times reported that an undercover investigator at a poultry slaughter factor witnessed:

Hundreds of acts of cruelty, including workers tearing beaks off, ripping a bird's head off to write graffiti in blood, spitting tobacco juice into birds' mouths, plucking feathers to "make it snow," suffocating a chicken by tying a latex glove over its head, and squeezing birds like water balloons to spray feces over other birds.

That such abuses (also including workers that kicked birds, sexually abused them, stomped on their heads, slammed them into walls, and squeezed their innards out just for fun while the birds were still alive) are committed against living animals occur with no repercussions or accountability is indefensible.

It is time for the USDA to act and stop the cruelty. In a review of more than 18 months of records, USDA inspectors at more than half of the poultry slaughterhouses were not doing anything on the issue of cruelty or abuse. The most the agency has done to address cruelty in poultry slaughterhouses is to tell its inspectors to be on the lookout for slaughterhouse employees who "breaking the legs of birds to hold the birds in the shackle" or "driving over live birds with equipment or trucks." The agency also asks inspectors to watch for birds "frozen inside the cages or frozen to the cages themselves." (a horrible death)

Noticing abuse is not the same as stopping it. It is time to stop the horrors committed against billions of sensitive birds. Every day in the factory farm industry, these individual animals are treated as mere commodities to be caged, crushed, abused, even boiled alive.

We cannot stand by as billions of individual chickens suffer in the factory farm industry. It is time the USDA created long overdue humane regulations for poultry slaughter. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

It has wisely been said that, The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Yours truly,  J. Capozzelli 

Mrs. Mary Anselmo

April 20, 2014

Secretary Tom James Vilsack
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

Please act on Farm Sanctuary's petition #13-08 which would work to create poultry regulations and stop some of the worse abuses to these beings.

In the past you have worked to end the needless suffering of farm and experimentally used animals and I sincerely thank you. Please continue in your efforts with full support from many individuals.

Respectfully,
Mary Anselmo