



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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April 22, 2004

David Novak, CEO
Yum! Brands
1441 Gardiner Ln.
Louisville, KY 40213

1 page via fax: 502-874-8315

Dear Mr. Novak,

Once again, I am writing to alert you to an investigation that has turned up hideous abuse of chickens—this time at one of your suppliers in Queen Anne County, Md. That this is also a Perdue supplier—when KFC touts Perdue’s “animal welfare standards” as an indication that all is well in the chicken shed—makes this investigation even more disturbing.

Investigators from Compassion Over Killing, a Washington, D.C.-based organization, visited the farm on a weekly basis for 45 days, the lifespan of chickens raised for KFC, and documented the living conditions for these birds at each stage of their miserable lives. Video footage and photos taken by the investigators show, among other abuses, numerous chickens who are so crippled from being bred and drugged for fast growth that they cannot walk; chickens who have become trapped in water feeders, either starving to death or already dead; and chickens suffering from severe ammonia burns over large areas of their bodies, as a result of living their entire lives in unchanged litter contaminated with their own waste. Large numbers of the birds were so crippled that they could not even walk to their water feeders, and many were severely dehydrated or already dead from lack of water.

In light of this investigation, your company’s claims that it has a comprehensive animal-welfare program sufficient to protect the animals raised for its restaurants from abuse seem ludicrous. In fact, the investigation makes clear that KFC has no enforced humane standards at all.

I would be happy to discuss with you the ways in which our recommended animal-welfare guidelines, specifically the ACS program, could have prevented the tragic deaths of many of these birds and saved KFC the black eye of having such abuse exposed to the public. As always, I can be reached at 413-549-0268 or via e-mail at SteveG@peta.org. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Gross, Ph.D.
Consultant

cc: Jonathan Blum, Senior Vice President, Yum! Brands
Gregg Dedrick, President, KFC