

PETA and KFC

Facsimile

To: Jonathan Blum, Dr. Temple Grandin, Ian Duncan, Adele Douglass,
Bruce Webster, Dr. Joy Mench, Jim Ayers, Ellis Brunton, Paul Sinowitz,
Brian Riendeau, Sandy Chastain
From: Bruce G. Friedrich & Dr. Steven J. Gross, PETA
Re: PETA's Animal Welfare Recommendations
Date: September 7, 2001

Mr. Jonathan Blum has advised PETA that Tricon Global Restaurants' animal welfare panel will meet within the first two weeks of September and will consider animal welfare proposals from PETA. PETA would like to suggest the following animal welfare improvements:

Chicken Breeding

- Currently, chickens are at full slaughter weight in less than two months. These birds suffer chronic leg pain and bone cracks, as well as heart failure and lung collapse, as their upper bodies are forced to grow so quickly that their legs and organs cannot support their weight. Tricon suppliers' breeding programs must place animal welfare as a top priority, and focus on eliminating the severity and incidence of these metabolic and skeletal problems. As a beginning, breeding programs should select leaner strains.
- Because of high rates of leg pain, chickens should be fed an analgesic drug to reduce leg pain, and vitamin C should be added to their diets.

Chicken Housing

- Birds denied all that is natural to them are unhappy and frustrated and may attack one another. Litter and space should enable birds to perform many of their highly motivated behaviors such as foraging, scratching, dust bathing, preening, wing flapping, feather ruffling and stretching. Birds should be granted at least two square feet each and a thin layer of sand covered by approximately 3.9 inches of chopped straw to provide a suitable substratum for foraging and scratching. Litter should be replaced every 2-3 weeks as demanded by wetness and flock size. Litter moisture should never exceed 25%.



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- Unnatural lighting schedules lead to frustration and fighting. Lighting must be a minimum of 20 lux. Lighting should follow a normal daily pattern of 16 hours light and 8 hours darkness.
- To ensure that birds do not suffer for weeks on end, farm inspections should require adequate time to evaluate each bird's welfare.
- Chickens exposed to toxic ammonia suffer from chronic respiratory diseases, weakened immune systems, bronchitis, and "ammonia burn," a painful condition of the eye that can lead to blindness. Tricon should require suppliers to adopt air-quality guidelines for chickens by limiting ammonia exposure to 5-10 parts per million. Dust levels must be such as not to negatively impact birds breathing.
- Denial of food and water is frustrating and can lead to fighting. Continuous and easy access to food and water is critical. There should be no restriction on food and water, and this should include just prior to catching. Some food should be scattered into litter to allow birds to forage.
- Beak trimming is painful and should be totally eliminated.
- The birds' environment should be enriched to meet their behavioral and social needs. Flightiness is reduced by adding perches. Enrichment through the placing of golf balls, bottle tops, lengths of string, etc. will help birds adapt to novelty and therefore be less reactive to new situations such as catching, transport, etc. Access to sand boxes will improve bone strength. Hanging toys that birds can manipulate and explore with their beaks will add to overall contentment.

Chicken Transport

- Chicken-catchers routinely break bones as they gather chickens in sheds, remove hens from cages, and load them into crates for transport to slaughter. Suppliers can curb this problem by financially rewarding workers who treat chickens more gently, thereby reducing the frequency of broken bones and hemorrhaging. Additionally, all handling of birds must be incentivized for gentleness not speed. This is particularly important for vaccinations and catching for transport.
- Long journeys on the backs of trucks in tiny crates are clearly frustrating and often painful for birds. Birds should not be shipped for longer than 6-8 hours; climate control should be required; and birds should be protected from snow, rain, wind, and any significant changes in temperature, particularly if temperatures go above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Chicken slaughter

- It is often the case, presently, that before their throats are cut, chickens' heads are passed through an electrically charged water bath that immobilizes them but does not render them insensible to pain. The



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amperage is so low that chickens are often alive and bleeding to death after their throats are slit and enter the scalding tank (for feather removal) still partially conscious. Many of them miss both the immobilization bath and the automated neck-slicer and are scalded while fully conscious. All agricultural animal welfare experts agree that live shackling can cause serious injuries and the entire slaughter process can be painful and frustrating. Tricon should immediately require suppliers to set water “baths” at 200 mAmps to ensure that all animals are killed by the bath, and humane gas killing for chickens should be phased in. We are sending each of you a copy of PETA’s research on this subject for your review.

- Chickens routinely arrive at slaughterhouses unable to move, with broken bones, lame, and so on. Tricon should require that suppliers immediately euthanize any animals who arrive at the slaughterhouse unable to walk, with broken limbs, or in severe pain (frozen, suffering from heat stroke, etc.).

Broiler Breeders

- The breeding animals who “supply” the nation’s 9 billion chickens have been called *Gallus neglectus* (“neglected chickens”) because their welfare is so often ignored entirely. The suffering of broiler breeders is extreme and must be addressed. These birds suffer from many of the same conditions forced on other chickens, but suffer from them for longer. All of the above recommendations should be applied also to broiler breeders, except the recommendation regarding feed withdrawal (stimulation for broiler breeders should take into account that items should be large enough that the birds attempt to swallow them). Broiler breeders, because of genetic breeding, can not be fed unrestricted diets in the same way as other chickens.
- Ultimately, it is absolutely crucial that leaner strains be used in the broiler industry so that feed restriction for broiler breeders may be phased out. Immediately, in order to address the issue of bird welfare, feed should be mixed with bulky inert substances, so that birds can eat more without gaining weight.
- As one additional means of adding stimulation and assisting birds in their natural desires, birds should be given food by allowing them to forage, rather than giving them all their food at once.
- The “skip-a-day” feeding regimen should be altogether eliminated.
- In addition to analgesic drugs, chemical anorexic agents (to reduce hunger-induced stress) may be useful. • In order to ensure proper development and overall welfare, it is important that young chicks be allowed ad libitum access to food at all times during their formative stages.
- Unrestricted access to water is essential for well-being and should be provided at all times to broiler breeders. The increased excretory



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wetness resulting from overdrinking should be addressed by more frequent improvement to the litter substrate (see above).

- Broiler breeders undergo a series of mutilations that cause both acute and chronic suffering and should be stopped. Mutilation always addresses not the problem itself, but an effect of the problem. For example, if birds attack one another out of frustration, debeaking is not the solution; environmental enrichment is. Thus, debeaking (especially for females, where there is absolutely no justification for it), declawing, despurring, dubbing, the use of intranasal implants, and toe removal should all be eliminated immediately.

Verifiability

- All the above must be accompanied by announced and unannounced audits. Audits should be conducted by both independent animal welfare experts such as Drs. Grandin, Duncan and Mench as well as trained Tricon Quality control personnel. If a supplier is found to be violating these guidelines there should be immediate and significant economic consequences.

These guidelines represent a good beginning. With such fine people on its panel, we expect Tricon to address these and other issues promptly.

Let us reiterate that PETA is extremely pleased that Tricon has pledged to address animal welfare issues and work with us. As the world's largest purchaser of chickens, Tricon is in a unique position to change the entire chicken industry.

Thank you all very much for your work on behalf of animals. Please don't hesitate to call either of us, at any time, if we can lend assistance in some way.

Sincerely,

Bruce G. Friedrich

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Senior Campaign Coordinator Consultant



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