

September 18, 2009

Dear Mr. Skinner,

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 2 million members and supporters, congratulations on winning *America's Got Talent*. The inspirational story of your transformation from unemployed chicken catcher to successful country singer has inspired millions. We'd like to propose an idea that would help you to touch the hearts of millions more: Please donate some of your prize money to a farmed-animal sanctuary to help care for chickens abused by the meat and egg industries. Just as you have received a second chance in life, chickens who have escaped the cruelty of the meat and egg industries deserve a second chance too.

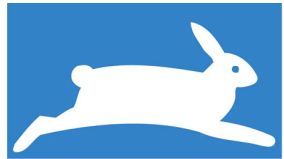
Studies show that chickens are intelligent animals with mental abilities comparable to dogs and even primates. For example, chickens can learn to use switches and levers to change the temperature in their surroundings and to open doors to feeding areas, and they can even do basic arithmetic! They also exhibit sophisticated social behavior, such as mourning the loss of a loved one. In nature, mother hens cluck to their unborn chicks, who chirp back from inside their shells. Despite this, billions of chickens spend their entire lives confined to cramped, filthy sheds. As you probably know, chickens raised for meat are drugged and bred to grow so large so quickly that many become crippled from the weight of their unnaturally large upper bodies. Because outdated equipment is used in most U.S. slaughterhouses, chickens have their throats cut while they're still conscious, and according to the USDA, millions are scalded to death in tanks of hot water.

As you enjoy your new career, the chickens you help will be able to enjoy all the things that were denied to them on factory farms, such as building nests, caring for their young, and enjoying the company of their flock. I would be happy to provide you with information on reputable farmed-chicken sanctuaries. To thank you for considering our proposal, I am sending you a package of our favorite faux-chicken product made of healthy plant protein and spices and 100% cruelty- and cholesterol-free.

Best wishes,



Michelle Cho  
Special Projects Manager



**PETA**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

501 FRONT ST.  
NORFOLK, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA  
757-622-0457 (FAX)

PETA.org  
Info@peta.org

AN INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS