



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 open letter to Michael Moore:

Dear Mike,

Let me assure you that in some regards I am a big fan. I've followed your career since *Roger and Me*. I've watched your movies and your TV shows (all of which I own), read your books and articles, heard you speak a few times, cheered your emails, and sat in delight as you saved Ralph Nader when I attended the *Politically Incorrect* filming at Howard University. I've even met you a few times. In fact, we got our picture taken together with PETA's "Cut the pork: Tax Meat" pigs at the McCain victory party in New Hampshire. The best thing I've read in years was your open letter to the President, "Couldn't you at least pretend you think we care if you're lying?"

But what's with the tunnel vision on animal rights? What are you thinking—denigrating animals, vegetarians, and animal rights activists and applauding hunting and meat eating? If you want to say that Bill O'Reilly makes some good points, that progressives can't speak real English, and that we need to learn the names of baseball stars and stop fighting with ourselves, I'm with you. But why take pot shots at animal rights; your actions in that regard are **the opposite** of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.

Mike, can you see that you are on the wrong side of history on this one? Only a supremacist thinks other animals shouldn't have rights; only prejudice denies that they're made of the same stuff we are. In your head, if not in your heart, you must know that differences between humans and other animals are only differences in degree. We are all made of flesh and blood and bone, we share the same senses and the same biological and physiological needs. They have mothers and fathers; they love, they grieve, they fear, they feel pain. They have eyes and noses and mouths and lungs and hearts and... you get the picture. Carl Sagan, an animal rights advocate and vegan asked, rhetorically, how intelligent does an animal have to be before killing him constitutes murder?

In fact, chickens and pigs perform better on cognition tests than dogs or cats, and pigs do better than some primates. It may be inconvenient to recognize it, but we know nowadays that animals learn from one another, can learn from television, form complex social structures, perform complex tasks, and so on. That's better than a fair number of the TV pundits, don't you think? And of course, physiology 101 tells us that where the capacity to feel pain is concerned, humans have the same

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS



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

capacity as other mammals, with birds, and with fish. The dog, or chicken, or pig, or you, feel physical pain in the same way, and to the same degree.

Alice Walker wrote, in her introduction to a book that compared human slavery from the 16th to 19th slavery to animal slavery today (*The Dreaded Comparison*) that “the animals of the world exist for their own reasons. They were not made for humans any more than black people were made for white, or women created for men.”

You say in your new book, “yes, Tyson foods and the others that ‘harvest’ chickens are disgusting...” but I wonder if you know just how disgusting. It was so great on *The Awful Truth* when you and Willie Nelson agreed that chicken factory farms are “concentration camps for chickens” but I’d think that if you really owned that understanding, you’d have stopped eating animals and that’d you’d stop denigrating animal rights. Tyson and the others breed and drug these innocent, intelligent, feeling birds so that they grow so quickly that they cripple under their own weight. They’re cooped by the tens of thousands in their own stinking excrement, carted to slaughter through all weather extremes, and then at slaughter, they’re frequently still conscious through the entire process of being snapped into shackles by their often-broken legs, having their throats slit open, and finally, being scalded to death or drowned in the scalding tanks. That’s reality, and they feel it all with the same intensity you would if it were done to you. The story is similar for all farmed animals, all of whom have no legal protection at all. You’d go to jail for paying people to treat a dog or a cat so badly, yet there’s no difference other than some people are stuck in the habit or eating chickens and don’t want to deny themselves a taste.

A few quick points to answer two things you stated explicitly. I think you must have been joking (I hope you don’t believe these things), but just in case, and since the other stuff in this section was legit—well, other than the thing about Ann Coulter:

- Animal rights activists have never released chickens, so calling this “idiotic” is unnecessary. If it happened, it would be idiotic, but it hasn’t, so it’s not (*The Onion* did a wonderful piece about animal activists releasing cows, but that was *The Onion*);
- Vegetarianism is not unhealthy; on this one, I’m **sure** you were kidding! Mike, look at yourself! You need to go on a vegetarian diet, if only for self-preservation. On CNBC, when Tim Russert asked you how you would label yourself—“film maker,

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS



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

propagandist, provocateur?" you replied, "I would just say I'm overweight and leave it at that." This was a cute reply, but, if only for the sake of your own health, you might act on the recognition that you are *overweight* and lose some it. Vegetarians, in addition to having a fraction of the heart attack and cancer rates of meat-eaters, are 1/10th as likely to be obese (about 2 percent of vegans are obese, compared to almost a fifth of the general population). You'll feel better. I promise.

Thanks for listening Mike. I think you're great, but you're just so totally wrong on the animal thing, and the stakes for animals, who are being abused in ways that shock the conscience of any kind person, are great. Please stop picking on the most defenseless beings around; it's beneath you, and it's pathetic.

I'm enclosing a free vegetarian starter kit (you can get more by calling 1-888-VEG FOOD) and a copy of a video Alec Baldwin narrated for PETA, called *Meet Your Meat* (you can get more copies at MeetYourMeat.com on the Web; it's not copyrighted, so copy away!). See for yourself how bad it is for these animals.

Call me back if you like. I'd like to talk with you about all this.

Yours,

Bruce Friedrich

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS