

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Marcelo Ebrard
Mayor of Mexico City

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Ebrard,

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), an international animal rights organization with more than 2 million members and supporters worldwide, we share your concern over the deaths resulting from the swine flu outbreak. To help prevent future tragedies, we would like to send you free copies of our "Vegetarian Starter Kit" to distribute to your citizens.

The cause of swine flu is factory farming. Animals on factory farms are crammed by the tens of thousands into filthy sheds and are slaughtered on killing floors that are contaminated with feces, vomit, and other bodily fluids. These unsanitary conditions have led to a rise in foodborne illnesses. Much of the flesh from butchered cows, pigs, and birds is contaminated with dangerous bacteria such as *E. coli*, campylobacter, listeria, and other organisms that live in the intestinal tracts and feces of animals.

The benefits of a vegetarian diet go beyond avoiding dangerous bacteria and disease. According to the American Dietetic Association, vegetarians are less prone to heart disease, specific types of cancer, diabetes, and obesity than meat-eaters are. Encouraging Mexico City residents to stick to healthy, longtime staples such as beans, rice, tortillas, fruits, and vegetables would go a long way toward keeping citizens healthy and safe.

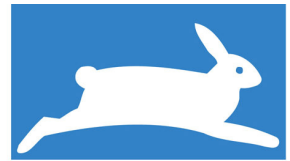
Factory farming is filthy and creates the environment that diseases such as swine flu need to flourish. Encouraging everyone to adopt a vegetarian diet will safeguard their health.

I will be sending free copies of PETA's "Vegetarian Starter Kit" for you to begin distributing; please contact PETA if you would like additional copies, which will help give citizens the tools to protect themselves from meat-borne illnesses and to greatly reduce the cruelty to animals that is inherent in the meat industry.

Sincerely,



Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS