

May 25, 2007

Roger Goodell, Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Ave.
New York, NY 10017

1 page via fax: 212-681-7599

Dear Mr. Goodell:

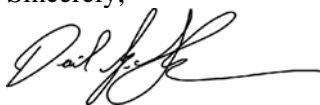
On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.6 million members and supporters worldwide, I am writing to you to offer to lead a free humane education course—or “animal sensitivity training”—for NFL players and staff members. In light of the recent dogfighting allegations against Michael Vick—and the comments made by Clinton Portis and Chris Samuels that downplayed the seriousness of these allegations—it seems that education on the importance of treating animals humanely is in order for the NFL.

Although you have stated that you were understandably “disappointed and embarrassed” by Portis’ comments, the NFL has done nothing to prevent such attitudes. Despite the recent high-profile incident in which current Falcons tackle Jonathan Babineaux allegedly killed his girlfriend’s dog as a result of a domestic dispute—and the fact that several former NFL players, including Nate Newton, Tyrone Wheatly, and LaShon Johnson, have been associated with dogfighting—there is no record of NFL players ever receiving education from the league on the importance of treating animals humanely. Now, Vick’s alleged activities and Portis’ comments show that such attitudes—and, frighteningly, behavior—may be widespread in the NFL. Since violence toward animals has been documented to lead to violence toward humans, now is clearly the time to address this issue.

Humane education is widely recognized as a character-building exercise, as it helps build empathy and compassion not only for animals but also for fellow human beings. Clearly, many NFL players could use some pointers on both counts. PETA would be happy to provide this service free of charge for any NFL players and staff members whom you feel might benefit from the experience. I would strongly suggest Vick, Portis, Samuels, and Babineaux for immediate enrollment.

Please let me know if you’re interested. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Dan Shannon, Assistant Director
People for the Ethical Treatment of 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

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TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS