



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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Pedro Martinez
c/o The New York Mets
Shea Stadium
123-01 Roosevelt Ave.
Flushing, NY 11368-1699

Dear Pedro,

As many of PETA's 1.8 million members and supporters are baseball fans, we were disheartened to learn of a video showing you and Hall of Famer Juan Marichal taking part in a cockfight as honorary *soltadores*. While cockfighting may still be legal in the Dominican Republic, we would hope that you, as a role model and future Hall of Famer yourself, would set a better example for baseball fans—particularly children—everywhere.

You may have grown up watching the *gallos*, but take a step back and look at what actually goes on in the cockfighting ring. Roosters used in cockfights are given weapons and drugs in this cruel, lethal blood sport. They are given steroids and amphetamines to make them stronger, more aggressive killing machines. Their spurs are painfully sawed off and replaced with razor-sharp blades that cut through flesh and bone. After they are released into the ring by the *soltadores*, they are forced to fight to the death. Usually, even the injuries that the "winner" sustains are so severe that he dies as well. These roosters, like all animals, have the ability to feel pain and fear and suffer.

Cockfighting sets a terrible example for your fans, particularly children. Cockfights are notorious hotbeds of gambling and illegal drugs. As you are well aware, Major League Baseball discourages gambling of any kind by its players, and certainly they will not take kindly to you exposing your young fans to a ritual that is so steeped in cruelty.

In light of this, PETA is calling on you to publicly apologize to your fans for participating in such a cruel and barbaric activity. We would like to invite you to take part in our Developing Empathy for Animals training seminar, which Michael Vick voluntarily attended after he was charged with dogfighting. Please take this opportunity to send a strong message to your fans that cruelty to animals has no place in baseball or society in general. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dan Shannon,
Assistant Director
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS