

March 5, 2008

Colonel Mark A. Dungan, Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH)
Box 63002
MCB Kaneohe Bay, HI 96863-3002

Dear Colonel Dungan:

On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.8 million members and supporters, thank you for MCBH's initiation of a thorough investigation into the apparent act of extreme animal abuse that was seemingly perpetrated by members of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. As you know, a virally circulating video—which depicts a soldier tossing what appears to be a yelping puppy end-over-end off a cliff in Iraq and into a gully below—has outraged countless Americans. **While we are glad to know that MCBH shares Americans' intolerance for such behavior, will you please assure us that the appropriate action MCBH has vowed to take will—if the video is confirmed to be legitimate—include the suspects' appearance before a court-martial and the most severe penalties under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including discharge from the Corps, if convictions are secured?**

A Corps spokesperson has affirmed that the depicted behavior is “contrary to the high standards” of conduct expected of Marines. Furthermore, the suspects' action—regardless of whether the animal was dead or alive—and the thrower's flippant attitude throughout the incident appear to violate 10 U.S.C. § 934, which orders a court-martial to consider “all conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces” and punish it appropriately.

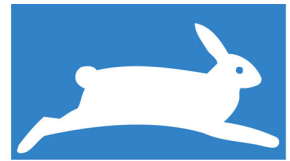
PETA continues to be flooded with e-mails and phone calls regarding the video, many of which come from parties claiming to be military personnel. **Please let us know that in addition to having MCBH investigate this alarming matter with due vigor, you will work to facilitate the establishment of a zero-tolerance policy for cruelty to animals by Marines serving our nation. This would help ensure that this is the last time the U.S. will suspect any of its brave men and women of abusing a defenseless animal during their service to our country.**

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Martin Mersereau, Supervisor
Emergency Response Division



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS