



**PETA**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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April 26, 2007

Arthur Blank, CEO  
Atlanta Falcons  
4400 Falcon Pkwy.  
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

1 page via fax: 770-965-2766

Dear Mr. Blank:

As you probably know, in a raid conducted last night and today, local and state law enforcement officials found 70 dogs—including at least 60 pit bulls and many dogs who were reportedly neglected, scarred, and malnourished—on Michael Vick's rural Surry County, Va., property. Some of the animals evidently bear scars and injuries, and paraphernalia commonly associated with dog fighting—including a "rape stand"—are also said to have been found on the property.

This is the second time in just two months that we are writing to you regarding allegations of cruelty to animals and Falcons players. We did not hear back from you in response to our February 23 letter regarding defensive tackle Jonathan Babineaux's felony charges in Gwinnett County, which stemmed from his alleged fatal beating of one of his girlfriend's dogs on February 18.

**On behalf of PETA's more than 1.6 million members and supporters and compassionate people everywhere, we respectfully ask that Michael Vick be immediately suspended pending the outcome of the investigation and that your organization release him if animals on his property are found to have been neglected or used for fighting.**

Mental health professionals and top law enforcement officials consider cruelty to animals to be a red flag. The American Psychiatric Association identifies cruelty to animals as one of the diagnostic criteria for conduct disorders, and the FBI uses reports of these crimes in analyzing the threat potential of suspected and known criminals. You should also know that dog fighting is almost invariably linked to illegal gambling and the presence of illicit drugs and weapons. Raids on animal-fighting operations frequently lead to the discovery of major drug networks and the seizure of large caches of firearms.

The grim discovery of suffering animals on Vick's property is an embarrassment for the Falcons and for the NFL. It is time to send a message to your fans and the general public that your organization—and the league as a whole—has zero tolerance for any form of off-field violence, regardless of the victim's species. Thank you for your diligence in this matter and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Shannon  
Assistant Director

AN INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS