

October 7, 2009

To: The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America

From: Ingrid E. Newkirk  
President of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

**2 pages via fax:** [REDACTED]

Dear President Obama,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 2 million members and supporters to ask you to declare a National Wildlife Amnesty Day—an official day when wildlife would be left in peace.

Given your opposition to the slaughter of seals in Canada, those of us who appreciate animals were disappointed by your recent proclamation declaring a National Hunting and Fishing Day. Hunting and fishing cause needless suffering, and few people engage in these activities to provide sustenance anymore. The paltry fees that hunters and fishers pay for their licenses support “game management” programs to ensure that there are always enough living targets for them to blow to smithereens or haul out of the water.

Game managers manipulate habitats to increase the number of deer at the expense of other animals and allow hunters to eradicate almost all game species’ natural predators; animals are carted from one state to another specifically to build up game populations for people to hunt. Left alone, most animal populations regulate their own numbers, but animals don’t stand a chance given habitat manipulations and other interventions, including planting browse to fool deer into thinking they can expand their numbers, providing nesting boxes for wild fowl, and stocking lakes with “game” species. If “sportsmen” were concerned about wildlife, they would help animals without expecting a head for their living room wall in return.

Hunters and fishers are “stewards of the land” in the same way that pirates are stewards of the sea. You can find hunters sitting in tree stands in their insulated clothing—often too drunk to shoot straight—equipped with everything from camouflage toilet paper to high-powered crossbows, which make their hunt more exciting but the animals’ deaths more painful. Their actions show that they have no respect for the animals they hurt (please see attached photos). Studies show that one out of every two to three injured deer flee and are never recovered. Fishing can’t be considered harmless now that studies show how sensitive fish’s throats and lips are and how even those who are released often die from the injuries they suffer when the hook is ripped from their bodies.

Fewer than 5 percent of Americans hunt, and many people have abandoned fishing after learning that fish, like other animals, feel pain. We urge you to declare a National Wildlife Amnesty Day and call upon Americans to engage in nonviolent outdoor activities—such as bird-watching, hiking, and canoeing—that foster a true appreciation for nature and wildlife. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Ingrid E. Newkirk  
President



**PETA**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS