

October 7, 2008

Tommy Thomas, Sheriff
Harris County

1 page via fax

Dear Sheriff Thomas:

I am writing on behalf of PETA's more than 2 million members and supporters—including many thousands in Texas—in regard to inmate Timothy Wayne Shepherd, who confessed to killing his ex-girlfriend and is also charged with dismembering and cooking her. Please prevent Shepherd from being involved in any more senseless killing while in your prison by providing him exclusively with vegetarian meals.

This tragedy is repeated every day in this country when millions of chickens, pigs, fish, and cows are killed, dismembered, and cooked. Like humans, animals are made of flesh, blood, and bone. They have the same five senses that we do, and they have the same capacity to experience suffering and fear. And all animals share the desire to live their lives free of pain and to avoid a violent death. But in today's industrialized meat industry, chickens and turkeys' throats are cut while they are still conscious, and piglets' teeth, tails, and testicles are cut off without painkillers. Cows are often skinned alive, and fish are suffocated or cut open while still conscious.

It is up to you to prevent Shepherd from contributing to any more suffering and death by placing him on a healthy, humane vegetarian diet. Feeding inmates bean burritos rather than burgers will go a long way toward ending the cycle of violence. Vegetarian meals are also cost-efficient and easy to prepare. We would be happy to help you design meatless meal plans for Shepherd—or even the entire prison population.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Reiman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President