



Daniel A. Kovich, DVM, MPH
Program Manager
Office of Animal Care and Health Policy
Division of Animal and Food Industry Services
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
102 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23223

24 April 2013

Dear Dr Kovich,

I am writing to declare the support of the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies for the Petition filed by the No Kill Advocacy Center requesting that VDACS take regulatory action to remove People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA) designation as an animal shelter.

PETA operates out of an office building that is not zoned for an animal shelter. PETA does not have a facility open to the public at reasonable hours and can offer no credible defense that they engage in activities with "the purpose of finding permanent adoptive homes for animals".

Citizens have persistently reported that when they inquire about PETA's "shelter", they are told by PETA's own staff that PETA does not maintain a shelter. In fact, I believe you were told that very thing by PETA staff when you inquired in 2010.

Based upon PETA's yearly reports to VDACS, PETA takes in approximately 2,000 animals every year; yet by their own admission, *they have only 3 rooms in their office building designated for animals*. Instead of sheltering and finding homes for the majority of those animals each year, PETA puts to death about 95% of them and, based upon your own 2010 report, most of those animals are dead within 24 hours of being taken in by PETA.

It would appear that PETA is "using" its status as a "shelter" to the great detriment of animals in the Commonwealth and, in doing so, insulting the many shelters in Virginia staffed by faithful employees and dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly every day to find loving homes for the companion animals in their care.

PETA has not met the requirements in the VA state code to operate as a shelter and has also demonstrated a blatant disregard for the lives of companion animals. Your documented inspection of the PETA facility in 2010 also drew the conclusion that it was not an animal shelter.

Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS)
P.O. Box 545, Edinburg, VA 22824
www.vfhs.org/www.spayva.org
info@vhs.org

The Federation urges you to rescind PETA's designation as an animal shelter and looks forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

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Debra Griggs
DocuSigned By: Debra Griggs
Debra Griggs
President

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