

Marianne Sammann
UK & Ireland General Manager
Lufthansa

2 pages via email to: Marianne.sammann@dlh.de

13 April 2010

Dear Ms Sammann,

I am writing on behalf of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Foundation (PETA), the UK-based affiliate of PETA US which has more than two million members and supporters. On behalf of PETA UK's 130,000 supporters, I urge you to press Lufthansa management to **adopt a policy prohibiting the transport of dogs and other animals to facilities where they will be used for experimentation.**

PETA US initially made this request to Lufthansa Vice-President The Americas Jens Bischof in January 2009, after they received some disturbing information and documentation which indicated that Lufthansa had transported a minimum of 50 live beagles from Marshall Farms (also known as Marshall BioResources) via airplane from John F. Kennedy Airport in New York to Brussels where they were then taken to Charles River Laboratories (CRL) in Scotland. Unfortunately a satisfactory response was not received from Mr Bischof and we are writing today to draw your attention to this issue and to further developments since that communication.

CRL is one of the world's largest breeders and testers of animals, condemning tens of millions of animals to confinement, poisoning, mutilation and death in its own laboratories and those of its customers. The company was recently fined \$14,000 by the US Department of Agriculture after 32 monkeys were literally cooked alive when a room at its facility in Nevada overheated and employees ignored an alarm alerting them to the system malfunction and another monkey was scalded to death when employees failed to remove him from his cage before it was sent through an automated cagewasher.¹ While CRL is likely to describe these as unfortunate but isolated incidents, the fact is that since 2007 the company has been cited for as many as 25 violations of the US Animal Welfare Act.

Marshall Farms, the supplier of the dogs on the above mentioned flight, is a major breeder of dogs, pigs and ferrets for use in experimentation. In recent experiments using animals obtained from Marshall, pigs have been given heart attacks, and dogs have been killed after having their spinal cords severed and having their stomachs cut open to test surgical staplers. The company has been cited for more than 20 violations of the Animal Welfare Act since 2007, including failure to



PETA

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provide adequate veterinary care to animals.

Serving as a link between these two companies is a morally indefensible position. They are responsible for a level of suffering that is quite simply unacceptable.

It may also be of interest to Lufthansa to know that transporting and handling animals in this manner has been found to be extremely detrimental to their well-being resulting in a level of fear and distress so profound that it can alter the animals physiology, biology, and behaviorⁱⁱ even when all regulations are being met.

Unlike CRL, Marshall Farms, and many other companies, harming animals is not in the interests of Lufthansa. We therefore once again urge Lufthansa to adopt a policy ending the transport of animals to facilities where they will be used for experimentation. We believe that this is the only effective way to protect animals completely from the trauma of transport and for Lufthansa to be confident that it is not facilitating the abuse of animals in laboratories.

May I please hear from either yourself or someone from Lufthansa's global headquarters about this grave matter at your earliest convenience? I can be contacted at +44 207 357 9229 ext 245 or at AlistairC@peta.org.uk. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,



Alistair Currie
Policy Adviser, PETA UK

ⁱ Scott Soner. "Research Monkey Deaths Prompt Calls for Crackdown," *Associated Press*. 18 Mar 2010.

ⁱⁱ Jonathan P. Balcombe, Ph.D., *et al.*, "Laboratory Routines Cause Animal Stress," *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science* 43.6 (2004): 42–51.