

Petland USA
Ed Kunzelman, Founder and Chair
Frank Difatta, President
250 Riverside St.; Chillicothe, OH 45601
ph: 740-775-2464, 800-221-5935
fax: 740-775-2575
Petland marketing and communication: elizabeth.kunzelman@petland.com,
lacey.clever@petland.com

Dear Mr. Kunzelman and Mr. Diffata,

I understand Petland closed its Akron, Ohio outlet after employee Elizabeth Carlisle bragged about drowning two rabbits on her Facebook page. I implore you to take one more step: Please end rabbit sales at all Petland stores.

As you are aware, Carlisle not only drowned rabbits, but also dangled their dead bodies on either side of her grinning face for an Internet photo. In Facebook comments, Carlisle says she posed for her manager's camera "swearing at [the rabbits] to just hurry up and die..."

Do workers like Carlisle represent Petland's euthanasia policy and overall mission "to make a difference" in the communities it serves? Carlisle claims the rabbits had been "attacking and eating each other." On Facebook she describes wounds such as a missing eye, broken jaw and lower-body paralysis. Where were other employees as these grave injuries occurred over a span of time?

If the rabbits had been responsibly tended to in the first place, this merciless killing might not have happened.

Animal health and safety seem problematic for Petland, despite statements about "the best health care practices [for] the pets in our care." Petland ought to focus exclusively on pet supplies and counseling, while promoting the adoption of homeless animals in cooperation with local rescue groups.

As a minimum effort — considering the negligence and cruelty in these killings — Petland should terminate rabbit sales at all stores. Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Holland & Muirden Attorneys at Law
J. Jeffrey Holland
1343 Sharon-Copley Rd
P.O. Box 345
Sharon Center, Ohio 44274
ph: 330-239-4480, 866-684-7336; fax: 330-239-6224
email: jjholland@hmlawohio.com

Dear Mr. Holland,

I understand former Petland employee Elizabeth Carlisle faces two counts of animal cruelty after she bragged about drowning two rabbits on her Facebook page.

I respectfully ask for your thorough prosecution in this case, and hope that you'll advocate jail time if Carlisle is convicted. Please also seek to prohibit Carlisle from owning or working with animals. Any animals still in her custody ought to be confiscated now.

Carlisle not only drowned rabbits, but also dangled their dead bodies on either side of her grinning face for an Internet photo. This bizarre behavior warrants mandatory psychological counseling as well. In Facebook comments, Carlisle says she posed for her manager's camera "swearing at [the rabbits] to just hurry up and die..."

Criminologists view the intensity of vicious behavior — regardless of the victim's identity — as a precursor to future violence. Offenders often "practice" on animals before evolving to crimes against humans.

Indeed, documentation of animal abuse via photographs or web comments suggests the perpetrator derives pleasure from violent acts — "a serious indicator that violence will be repeated and/or escalated," says Dr. Randall Lockwood of ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Initiatives and a frequent consultant for cruelty investigators, law enforcers and mental health professionals.

The pet industry typically disregards cruelty in stores. Though complaints are filed about the brutal mistreatment and disposal of sick or "surplus" animals — legal action rarely occurs. Animal care costs are cited as reason to fatally drown, freeze, smash or starve animals.

Please let the pet trade know that animal abuse is not tolerated wherever it takes place. Thank you for your utmost deliberation in this case.

Sincerely,