

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

September 3, 2024

Dear HSUS, CIWF, and ASPCA Board Members:

I hope this letter finds you well. As you may recall, PETA was on the Global Animal Partnership (GAP) Board of Directors when the organization was founded but left shortly after it became clear that this initiative was not realistically going to reduce animal suffering. Farm Forward remained on the board for years afterward but also finally [came to the same conclusion](#) and resigned as well. We understand that your organization may feel that working from within the system is better than not having a voice at all and that you may have held out hope that the program could still improve animals' lives, but there is clear evidence that it doesn't. In fact, it now does real harm by promoting factory farming, sometimes including the worst forms of abuse. I'm asking that you please take a step back, look at the big picture, and consider the damage that remaining on the board of GAP is doing to animals. If you look at it critically with fresh eyes, as others have, you should arrive at the decision that the time has come for your organization's representative to resign.

I think you know that we've uncovered rampant abuse and suffering at all 12 GAP-certified sites we have visited, demonstrating that claims that standards and third-party inspections are somehow beneficial to animals are false. The sometimes sadistic torture of animals took place every night on every farm—but would never have been observed during GAP's announced inspections once every 15 months. To remind you, in 2021 [we saw workers kicking and stomping on turkeys](#), breaking their necks, and hitting them with an iron bar, as well as simulating having sex with them, among other atrocities at the GAP-approved Plainville Farms. That investigation resulted in the largest number of cruelty charges in any factory-farm case, and [10 workers have been convicted so far](#).

The Better Chicken Commitment (BCC) was supposed to make the industry move away from the "broiler" chicken, yet it, too, has failed on every count. The breeds allowed to be factory-farmed under the BCC's much-anticipated breed standards are still the same overweight, unhealthy birds who can barely walk more than a few steps at a time and spend their entire lives in pain, forced to stand or sit in their own waste on a crowded shed floor. It's appalling to any decent person that these companies were ever allowed to breed these birds into such a sad state of existence in the first place and that these new breeds are being passed off as in any way "humane." Despite years of efforts, not one of the hundreds of companies that signed on to adopt the BCC by 2024—**not even Whole Foods**—has done so. This is partly because the study that helped establish these breed standards simply doesn't work in commercial practice. Former GAP Executive Director Anne Malleau is [quoted in a 2022 article](#) as saying that an additional study in a commercial setting was unlikely because its

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purpose **wasn't to determine commercial viability**. In 2024, chickens are still suffering in the same hideous, inarguably severely cruel conditions as in the past.

When we put animals first and ask for what we all truly want—a world in which consumers have been persuaded to try non-animal foods, rather than enticed to continue paying factory farmers to perpetuate the massive suffering inherent in raising, transporting, and killing animals—we can move the market and make changes that once seemed out of reach but are now achievable. I believe that if you look critically at this issue, you can only step away with all due haste from endorsing such horrors.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Newkirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ingrid Newkirk
President