

Bob Barker

P.O. Box 57227, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

October 23, 2012

David Freed
PO Box 1105,
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Mr. Freed:

My friends at SHowing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) have for many years exposed the animal cruelty at live pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania, which is notably and sadly one of the last states to tolerate such horrific abuse.

It is very distressing to me personally to see such appalling cruelty. This is not a hunt or sport, but a massacre of the cruelest kind. SHARK's most recent video filmed at the Wing Pointe hunting club documents unspeakable acts of violence against docile, semi-tame and even banded pigeons.

A typical one-day pigeon shoot contest can kill and injure many hundreds, to more than a thousand birds. Even before they are used as live targets, the pigeons are abused. They are illegally captured off city streets and starved for days.

Most of the shot victims are not killed outright. Some of the wounded are picked up by young people and stomped, kicked, beaten, thrown, slammed to the ground, swung around by their necks and more. One club shoots them over the Delaware River during the winter, so many wounded fall into the freezing cold water to drown or are never found.

None of the birds recovered by the killers are eaten. They are disposed of as garbage in large dead piles with living victims suffering and slowly dying. The victims rescued by SHARK members usually die due to emaciation and the terrible stress and injuries they incur. The many victims left wounded in the surrounding countryside die slowly and suffer greatly.

In the state of Pennsylvania not a single pigeon shooter has been

prosecuted for animal cruelty under the Pennsylvania Animal Cruelty statute 5511, which is extremely surprising and distressing. It is my understanding that both Berks County District Attorney John Adams and Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler refuse to prosecute any animal abuse charges against any participants in this cruelty. Furthermore, both Mr. Adams and Mr. Heckler have actively opposed any attempts by Pennsylvania Humane Society Police Officers to bring charges against the perpetrators.

It is equally disturbing to me to watch not only adults committing the abuse, but also young boys being indoctrinated into such gratuitous violence. As I am sure you are aware, teaching children such heartless cruelty and careless behavior toward animals leads down a very dangerous path.

Pigeons are no less worthy of legal protection than other animals. These pigeons are neglected prior to the shoots. Such neglect is illegal. They are abandoned when they are released for shooting. Abandonment is illegal. They are cruelly treated by being shot, and that cruelty is illegal. The many birds left wounded are further illegally neglected as they are left to suffer and slowly die in the surrounding countryside without food, water, shelter or veterinary care, as is required by law.

I urge you to investigate this issue and implement legal action against these horrific live pigeon shoots, and to prosecute all who are responsible for acts of animal cruelty. Here is the link to the most recent footage so you can clearly see for yourself the illegal activity:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o994K5oJ_EA

Yours sincerely,

Bob Barker

Cc: Governor Tom Corbett
Cc: Attorney General Linda L. Kelly
Cc: Attorney General candidate: Kathleen Kane
Cc: Attorney General candidate: Marakay Rogers