

## All animals feel pain. All animals can suffer.

While PETCO does not sell cats or dogs, the chain sells many other species of animals as merchandise.

*"Because of the overpopulation of cats and dogs and the controversial practices of some breeders, we have elected to limit our selection of animals to birds, fish, reptiles and other small animals."* – PETCO file, U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission

PETCO refuses to acknowledge the overpopulation of small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, and mice. PETCO not only sells these animals as pets, but allows them to mate while in the stores. PETCO contributes to the overpopulation of these animals at animal shelters and rescue organizations.

PETCO obtains much of its "livestock" from pet mills whose breeding practices are just as controversial as those of puppy mills, yet PETCO has no ethical problem with purchasing and selling these animals.

### What you can do:

- **Boycott PETCO!** Buy your pet supplies elsewhere.
- Write to:

**Brian K. Devine, CEO**  
**PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc.**  
**9125 Rehco Road**  
**San Diego, CA 92121**

Ask him to stop selling live animals in PETCO stores, and tell him that you won't be buying supplies at PETCO until the sale of live animals stops.

Visit <http://think.100acrewood.net/boycott/>

## Eyewitness Reports

### Round Rock, Texas:

An unweaned baby caique parrot is seen crying and begging for food, unable to reach the feeder. The PETCO employee claims that she has not been told how to hand-feed. She and other store employees refuse help offered by customers. After several days of ceaseless crying, the baby dies.

### Ann Arbor, Michigan:

A delicate soft-shell turtle in a filthy cage without water develops a fungus that eats away his shell. PETCO employees turn a blind eye.

### Elk Grove, California:

PETCO visitors find nine parakeets in one cage without food and water, eating their own feces through the grate.

### Des Moines, Iowa:

A hamster with a severe ear infection and blood dripping from her nose receives no veterinary care. A PETCO employee puts a sign on her cage:  
"Dying, just leave her alone."

### Washington, D.C.:

Customers return a parakeet after cutting off her toes and clipping her wings and tail close to her body. Even though they had maimed the bird, the PETCO employees sell them another bird.

### Davis, California:

Birds are found to have psittacosis, a disease that can sicken and kill both birds and people.

[www.HelpingAnimals.com](http://www.HelpingAnimals.com)



### Imagine...

you go to the pet store to purchase a new companion and you find a cage full of dogs, without water, lying in their own feces. A dead dog lies in the corner of the cage.

### Imagine...

you buy a dog or cat, bring it home and have it die two days later from a respiratory illness.

### Imagine...

your new companion animal has an unexpected litter of puppies or kittens because the male and female animals were allowed to mate in the store.

### Now imagine...

your companion animal is not a cat or a dog, but a bird, a rabbit, a ferret, a rat, a hamster, an iguana, or a goldfish.

The dead, sick, and pregnant animals at PETCO are not cats or dogs, but are small animals, birds, fish and reptiles, just like your own companion.

**Do you feel differently about your companion animal because she or he is not a dog or a cat?**

# The appalling catalog of abuse includes regular discovery of dead and dying animals in PETCO's stores.

**PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc.** is the second largest chain of pet superstores, with over 570 locations in the United States.

Originally, PETCO sold only pet supplies, but CEO Brian Devine decided live animal sales were necessary if the company was to turn a profit.

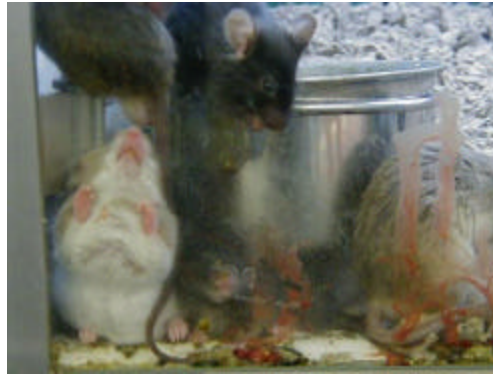


*Dead fish in dirty aquarium.*

**"By having the live fish you sell five times as much of the hard goods as you do without the live stock." - Brian K. Devine, CEO, PETCO**

## The complaints against PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc. include, but are not limited to:

- Obtaining and selling animals from pet mills.
- Keeping animals in overcrowded and inadequate housing/enclosures
- Failure to separate sexually mature male and female animals
- Failure to provide veterinary care for sick or injured animals



*Overcrowded, injured mice in dirty enclosure.*

For years, animal advocates, including PETCO employees, have complained to local PETCO management and to PETCO's corporate headquarters regarding the treatment of the animals in PETCO stores.

PETCO's corporate headquarters refuses to acknowledge any problem with company policies, blaming incidents of neglect and abuse on individual stores and store management, despite the fact that these are not independently franchised operations.

## **PETCO Employees Report:**

- "One of my main concerns was that upon being hired at PETCO, I was told by the store manager that our store no longer had a veterinarian due to a conflict of interest involving a former employee. It had been this way for a few months and he had no plans to find another veterinarian. I was also told numerous times that only animals that would benefit the store's profits by their veterinary care would be considered in obtaining that care."
- "I worked for six months at PETCO. I saw animals frozen to death and not being taken to the vet because they did not want to spend the money on it. I also worked in grooming where the grooming manager was very rough with the dogs and would cut them with the clippers and not tell the owners."
- "We are not permitted to take any sick or injured animals to a vet. We have asked many times to be allowed to take an animal to get medical treatment, only to be told that 'No, because the vet bill would cost more than the animal costs.' The only thing that the managers tell us to do is put the animal in the freezer to die. I have even been told to drown animals, or to have someone run over them with their car."

## **PETA Campaign Against PETCO**

**Allegations of abuse pour into PETA's headquarters from across the United States.**

PETA's staff has filed reports against PETCO with local law enforcement agencies since 1999. PETA has also urged PETCO, at a bare minimum, to train its employees to provide veterinary care for all animals in its care and to screen buyers. Yet, conditions at PETCO have worsened. Now PETA is demanding that the chain stop selling animals altogether.



*Overcrowded lizards walk over their own dead.*