



Susie Allison  
Victorian Secretary  
United Workers Union

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

4 August 2020

Australia

PO Box 20308  
World Square  
Sydney NSW 2002

Dear Ms Allison,

08 8556 5828  
Info@peta.org.au  
PETA.org.au

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). I hope this message finds you well. We weren't surprised to hear that a number of JBS Australia workers felt afraid to return to work at the company's Brooklyn abattoir following the recent COVID-19 outbreak there, and, in light of now-extensive reductions to staff numbers across the state's abattoirs, we'd like to extend an offer we hope your members will like. We'll cover the cost of retraining in a healthy, 100% animal-friendly trade – floral design – for any abattoir workers who turn away from their jobs in one of the country's most dangerous industries.

Abattoir workers know better than anyone that the illness rate for workers in the meat industry is four times the national average, since staff are often forced to work at reckless speeds in order to maximise production. In fact, Cedar Meats staff became aware of a COVID-19 outbreak in May only after a worker was rushed to hospital following a workplace accident in which his thumb was severed. Now, there's the additional concern that, as Victoria's chief health officer, Brett Sutton, noted, "[m]eatworks are particularly vulnerable" to COVID-19. At the time of writing, 339 active cases of the virus have been linked to Victorian abattoirs.

Then there's the fact that the bloody, gruesome process of slaughtering, dismembering, and packaging the corpses of sentient individuals involves constant cruelty to animals and can cause workers to experience psychological and physical health problems.

Cramming animals together on filthy factory farms, at abattoirs, and at meat markets threatens the health of everyone by providing a breeding ground for deadly diseases – and potential pandemics. Long before the novel coronavirus originated in a "wet market" in China, H1N1 (swine flu), which originated in pigs and killed as many as 575,400 people in the year after it began spreading in humans, was traced back to a US factory farm. H5N1 (bird flu), which can be contracted by humans who come into close contact with infected live or dead birds, has a mortality rate of up to 60% and is considered a concern by the World Health Organization because of its potential to mutate and become highly infectious via human-to-human contact.

As the world looks towards a cleaner, kinder way of living, PETA is more than happy to help those who wish to make the transition away from this violent, bloody industry into sustainable, compassionate, and safer work.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)



Aleesha Naxakis  
PETA Australia

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