



March 24, 2020

Rodrigo Roa Duterte  
President

Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases  
c/o Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, M.Sc.  
Secretary of Health

Eduardo M. Año  
Secretary  
Department of Interior and Local Government, National Capital Region

**Re: Appeal for the formal inclusion of veterinarians, other animal health personnel, and animal rescuers as essential workers to be exempt from the enhanced community quarantine on compassionate grounds**

Dear Officials,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). I humbly implore your good offices and associated agencies to recognize licensed veterinarians and other critical veterinary personnel (such as vet assistants and technicians) as well as animal rescuers with registered nongovernmental organizations as essential workers. Such persons are involved in lifesaving efforts, and their help is desperately needed by animals such as dogs and cats, especially during this national health emergency. Not allowing these workers to provide animals with vital assistance could lead members of the public to take matters into their own hands without professional help, which could be disastrous for humans, animals, and the community at large. Please rest assured that PETA, a nonprofit registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, fully supports the president's initiatives and the stringent measures being put in place to address the spread of the coronavirus. We remain committed to obeying orders from uniformed personnel, and the skeleton team of PETA representatives will adhere to strict personal distancing requirements and present themselves for temperature checks. Proof of employment and/or purpose will be presented at checkpoints.

We stand together in facing this challenge affecting all Filipinos, and we applaud and salute the efforts of all government units and frontline workers in battling the spread of the virus to protect all those who live in this nation.

We hope to receive a positive response granting our request to help animals in need.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Baker  
Senior Vice President of International Campaigns

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