



December 7, 2023

The Honorable Rick Meyer  
Sheriff of Jackson County  
Jackson County Sheriff's Office

Via e-mail: [info@jacksoncountysheriffin.org](mailto:info@jacksoncountysheriffin.org);  
[animalcontrol@jacksoncountyin.org](mailto:animalcontrol@jacksoncountyin.org) (without exhibit) and overnight delivery  
(with exhibit)

Dear Sheriff Meyer:

We're writing to request that your agency investigate and, as suitable, file criminal charges against those responsible for neglecting cats at The Veterinarians' Blood Bank (TVBB), an animal-breeding facility and blood-banking operation owned by Dr. Darren D. Bryant and Dr. Ron E. Harrison. TVBB operates sites at 1851 W. County Rd. 600 N., near Brownstown (a cat-breeding facility, where the conduct described below occurred), as well as at 3849 SR-135, near Vallonia (a dog-breeding facility). Attached is a declaration from an eyewitness who worked at TVBB through November 27, referencing video footage and photographs that she captured there. (See USB drive, Exhibit 1.)

The eyewitness saw and documented that TVBB and its management failed for more than 36 weeks to provide adequate veterinary care to Vivi, a cat TVBB staff believed had an oral infection, who was later diagnosed with stomatitis—an extremely painful and potentially life-threatening disease that, if left untreated, can attack vital organs and/or cause starvation or dehydration when it becomes too painful for the animal to eat or drink. The eyewitness also documented that TVBB and its management failed to seek veterinary care for Fox—a thin 13-year-old cat with bloody diarrhea—who was later found to have a systemic infection and was eventually diagnosed with gastrointestinal cancer.

These failures appear to violate IC 35-46-3-7, which states that a person who “recklessly ... neglects” an animal in their custody “commits cruelty to an animal.” IC 35-46-3-0.5(5)(D) defines “neglect,” in part, as “failing to provide reasonable care for; or seek veterinary care for ... an injury or illness to a ... cat that seriously endangers the life or health of the ... cat.” The eyewitness adopted Vivi and Fox and transported them to a veterinary hospital for numerous examinations. The attached records from the veterinarians who examined these cats confirm that they required extensive veterinary care for critical conditions—including urgent surgical removal of all Vivi's teeth. (See exhibits 2 to 6.) The eyewitness provided Vivi and Fox with all recommended care.

PETA respectfully requests that your agency investigate the conduct described in the attached declaration and file charges against all appropriate parties. We urge investigators to visit both TVBB sites with veterinarians who have expertise in feline and canine health and welfare—and who are unaffiliated with TVBB—so

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Washington  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

that they can identify any animals in need of care and opine on conditions of and for the nearly 900 animals confined there.

The eyewitness is available for an interview upon request and will testify to the facts in her declaration and verify that she captured the referenced video recordings and photographs. I can be reached at 757-581-7442 or [SarahD@peta.org](mailto:SarahD@peta.org). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Deffinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "S".

Sarah Deffinger  
Senior Evidence Analyst  
Cruelty Investigations Department