

Lee Schrader DVM
Suburban Veterinary Clinic
102 E. Spring Valley Rd. Dayton, OH 45458
Ph: 937-433-2160 fax: 937-433-4412

November 4, 2013

Mr. Sebastian Arsac

Dear Mr. Arsac:

Following are my comments on a video you provided to me two duck facilities. As a veterinarian for 33 years, I have extensive knowledge of animals both in a clinical setting and as an expert in abuse and neglect. I have experience in examination of abused and neglected animals in my position as a humane society veterinary advisor, as well as in providing expert opinions on video recordings of animals.

Video footage shows a worker force feeding the birds using a large, rigid metal tube. The tube is forced down their throat and into their esophagus. This procedure is known to cause damage to the esophagus and crop, to the point of rupturing these organs, as well as causing pain and stress to the birds. The bird's behavior changes when approached by the workers. They crouch and attempt to move away, indicating a negative association with the presence of the workers. The force feeding procedure puts far more food into their bodies than the birds would ever normally consume, resulting in marked weight gain and massive fat accumulation in the liver, causing a pathological syndrome called fatty liver. The severe enlargement of the diseased liver results in pressure on the lungs causing difficulty breathing, distortion of the gait due to obesity, and illness and suffering of the birds caused by this disease state. Many of the birds are panting heavily and appear to be in distress. This panting is most likely to be the result of the enlarged and diseased liver interfering with the bird's ability to breathe. A bird vomits, a very unusual occurrence in birds and likely the result of over distension of the crop.

The video shows the birds confined in tiny, barren wire cages. Some of the cage floors are covered with feces. The birds can perform no normal behaviors; they are unable to turn around, move forward or backward, or extend their wings. Some birds have their wings caught in the wire of the cages and are unable to free them because they cannot move. Water was not available to the

birds; ducks require water to perform their normal preening behavior. Because ducks are water fowl, the skin of their feet is very susceptible to damage from rough and sharp surfaces, such as wire, and this type of cage is likely to traumatize the duck's feet and be very painful.

In summary, the process of force feeding birds in order to deliberately induce a disease state is patently inhumane, causing severe physical pain and psychological distress. The birds live in an environment of deprivation, in tiny wire cages that do not allow them to move normally and result in injuries and pain. It is my belief that the production of foie gras is unconscionably cruel.

Sincerely,

Lee Schrader, DVM