

April 7, 2009

Ambassador Daniel Fried  
Guantanamo Closure Czar

1 page via fax: [REDACTED]

Dear Ambassador Fried:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 2 million members and supporters worldwide with a proposal for reinventing and rehabilitating the image of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Center.

As we all know, Gitmo is now associated with torture, violence, and prejudice. We would like to change that impression in the most forward-looking way by turning it into an "empathy center" where the values of justice, respect, understanding, and compassion for all beings could be taught. PETA would like to establish an exhibit space to help visitors explore ways in which they can promote nonviolent and non-exploitive relationships with all the living beings in this diverse world—regardless of race, religion, ability, gender, or species.

The exhibit would prompt people to ask how it is that we can simply forget to be kind, how we can set aside the Golden Rule that says to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and how we can disregard the fact that all others, no matter what package they come in, are individuals like us who feel pain and fear and crave understanding. We envision the Guantanamo Bay Empathy Exhibit (GBEE) as an ideal home for PETA's Animal Liberation Project (ALP), a display that reminds viewers that suffering is suffering, no matter who the victim is. ALP shows that it is a lack of empathy that has allowed humans to attack, kill, enslave, exploit, and discriminate against other beings throughout history—from the Crusades to the Holocaust, from the Roman Games to modern animal circuses, and from human slavery and child-exploiting sweatshops to all the ways that people have belittled others based on race, gender, and species.

Last week, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators called for a repeal of the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba. Whether that initiative succeeds or not, Cuba's citizens as well as visitors from all over the world – including from Europe, which has no restrictions on tourist visits to Cuba – would all benefit from the GBEE's powerful, pro-democracy message. Please consider PETA's proposal at your earliest convenience and contact me so that we can make GBEE a reality. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tracy Reiman  
Executive Vice President



**PETA**

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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ORGANIZATION DEDICATED  
TO PROTECTING  
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS