

May 6, 2021

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Dear Mr. Coughlin:

I'm writing to follow up on a letter I sent on September 19, 2020, regarding Petco's involvement with Marshall BioResources, through the sale of Marshall Pet Products and ferrets from Marshall. It's come to my attention that in a recent statement to WIVB in Buffalo, NY, Petco claimed:

*"At Petco, the health, safety and well-being of animals is always our top priority. We don't do business with Marshall BioResources. We do purchase ferrets and ferret products from Marshall Pet Products, which is a separate entity that breeds ferrets as pets in a facility that meets all of Petco's industry-leading standards for animal care."*

I'd like to believe that Petco is not intentionally trying to mislead its customers and the public, and that perhaps you've been misled yourself by Marshall. **Marshall Pet Products is not a "separate entity" from Marshall BioResources.** It is merely a different name to try to distance themselves from their notorious animal cruelty. All of the animals Marshall sells to both pet retailers and labs are in the same facility, registered as a breeding operation through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the name "Marshall Farms Group Ltd." According to the New York Department of State's Division of Corporations, the CEO of Marshall Farms Group (DBA Marshall BioResources) and the CEO of Marshall Pet Products is the same person: Scott Marshall. Marshall Farms as a brand has been controversial for their mistreatment of animals for decades, so just as Phillip Morris changed their name to Altria Group to try to distance themselves from the controversy of tobacco-caused deaths, Marshall began using different brand names like Marshall BioResources, Marshall Pet Products, MBR Acres, and MBR Waverly. But the same people profit, and the same animal suffering continues.

In the most recent USDA inspection of Marshall's breeder license facility in 2019 (attached), the inspector saw 41,688 ferrets and 23,354 dogs. This facility is located at 5800 Lake Bluff Road in North Rose, NY. You can see drone footage of the facility at [riseforanimals.org/marshall](http://riseforanimals.org/marshall), or look at [satellite images](#) on Google Maps yourself to see the facility for what it is—a factory farm. Some of their ferrets are sold to Petco. Others, along with the beagles and other dogs, are shipped to labs across the country, where they are victims to hideous and deadly experiments.

When customers learn that Petco has a 'Standards of Excellence Program' for its vendors, they are led to believe that Petco would not support a breeder that confines tens of thousands of ferrets and dogs to small wire cages inside windowless sheds. Indeed, Petco staff themselves are shocked to learn where their ferrets come from. 'Petco's Think Adoption First' philosophy has positively impacted countless dogs, cats, and rabbits. Not only the ones who find homes with the help of Petco's partnership with local rescues, but also for the unseen ones who were never born into a miserable existence inside abysmal breeding operations. For the same reasons you have never sold dogs and cats, we're hopeful you will cut ties with the Marshall puppy mill, and will bring Petco's standards up for ferrets to where you have with dogs and cats.

I hope to hear back from you by May 20, 2021, and am willing to provide further documentation about Marshall if needed. The only ethical and brand-consistent response for Petco is to immediately phase out ferret sales and stop selling Marshall Pet Products. Rise for Animals is happy to support that transition however we can, and we look forward to the day we can tell our supporters that Petco has made this right decision.

Sincerely,

Amy Meyer  
Director of Grassroots Organizing  
Rise for Animals