

February 16, 2011

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PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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Tonya Woods
Director for Freedom of Information
USDA
4700 River Road, Unit 50
Riverdale, MD 20737-1232

One page via fax: 301-734-5941

Dear Ms. Woods:

This is a request for public records made on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the accompanying USDA regulations, 7 C.F.R. §§ 1.1 - 1.25.

PETA requests all agency records, between February 15, 2010 and the date on which this request is processed, related in any way to Monalisa Laucomer, a private possessor of 33 primates in Russell, Kansas, including but not limited to investigation / inspection notes from Tracy Thompson and Investigator Raymond Williams' February 9, 2011 visit to Ms. Laucomer's property. If records which are responsive to this request are located in other USDA offices, please forward this request to all appropriate offices.

The term "agency records" includes, but is not limited to, reports, studies, correspondence, memoranda, meeting notes and minutes, drafts and working papers, notes and summaries of conversations and interviews, e-mails, photographs, videotapes, Animal Care inspection reports, records of violations and alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act, records of complaints and response taken, veterinary care programs, necropsy reports, inventories, records of acquisition and disposition, and any other forms of written or recorded communication. Please note that e-mails are specifically requested, as often these agency records are excluded from the agency's FOIA responses.

PETA is a non-profit public interest organization and as such PETA requests that all fees be waived pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(4)(A)(iii). PETA has no commercial interest in the requested information, and its disclosure will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the USDA's administration of the AWA. For this reason, the USDA has routinely granted PETA a fee waiver. However, should you need additional information to process this request for a fee waiver, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact me at TeresaM@peta.org.

or

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Verv truly yours.

Teresa Marshall, Administrative Assistant
Captive Animals Legal Enforcement Department

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