

Pawan Kumar Agarwal, IAS
 Chief Executive Officer
 Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
 FDA Bhawan Near Bal Bhavan
 Kotla Road
 New Delhi 110 002

26 October 2017

Subject: Labelling Milk and Milk ‘Products’ as ‘Non-Vegetarian’

Dear Mr Agarwal,

I am writing to you from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India on behalf of our many members and supporters to request that FSSAI amend Regulation 1.2.1.7 of the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, remove the exemption for milk and milk “products” from the definition of “non-vegetarian food”, and make the “brown dot” mandatory for milk, milk “products”, and “products” containing milk solids.

There are several good reasons for this:

These days, the production of dairy foods commonly involves violence such as eventual slaughter, taking calves away from their mothers, and other forms of cruelty. Moreover, it is largely because of the dairy industry that India’s beef industry exists: here in our country, there is no such thing as cattle raised solely for beef, and so, quite shockingly, the dairy industry is the *primary* supplier of cattle to the beef industry, especially for export to the Middle East and other parts of Asia. Ethical vegetarians who want to refrain from supporting the beef industry and cruelty to animals are being duped because they commonly believe that a “green dot” designates products which have not involved animal suffering or the slaughter of cattle.

Furthermore, dairy milk, like eggs, is derived from animals, not plants. Plants foods do not contain cholesterol since plants lack a liver to produce it with. In contrast, all foods that come from animals – including meat, eggs, and milk – contain cholesterol, the consumption of which has been linked to the development of heart disease.

It is also important to differentiate plant-based foods from those derived from animals, because about 75 per cent of the world’s public, including three out of four Indians, cannot properly digest milk, as they lose their enzymes for doing so after weaning. Medically, those who are not able to digest milk after infancy are now considered “normal”, while those who can are recognised as being

PEOPLE FOR
 THE ETHICAL
 TREATMENT
 OF ANIMALS

PETA India
 PO Box 28260
 Juhu, Mumbai
 400 049
 (22) 4072 7382
 (22) 2636 7383 (fax)

Info@petaindia.org
 PETAIndia.com

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)

Registered Office:

14 Doctor Lane
 Classic House, Gool Market
 New Delhi 110 001

able to do so because of a genetic mutation. When individuals who cannot digest milk consume it, they commonly experience symptoms such as bloating, pain, gas, diarrhoea, or vomiting.

The inability of most humans to digest milk properly goes to show that humans, like other mammals, have not naturally adapted to drink this animal-derived “product” after infancy – and certainly not the milk of another species. Cows and buffaloes produce milk for their own calves, not humans, just as dogs produce milk for puppies, cats for kittens, rats for their babies, and so on. Human milk is the perfect food for a human baby – likewise, cow and buffalo milk is just what’s required to help a four-legged bovine with a multi-chambered stomach to grow hundreds of kilos very quickly.

Please see the enclosed investigation video and report concerning India’s dairy industry. Cows and buffaloes on today’s commercial dairy farms are raised by a Western method – i.e., they are repeatedly artificially inseminated, a crude and painful procedure that is actually rape, and forced into multiple pregnancies, only to have their calves, especially male calves (who are considered “useless” to the industry), taken away from them so that the milk that is meant for them can be sold. This leaves both the mothers and the calves bellowing in distress for days.

Male calves, who are of no commercial value to the dairy industry, are typically abandoned on the streets to be hit by cars, are left to starve, or are sent to be slaughtered for beef and leather. Female calves are commonly fed milk replacer and then endure the same fate as their mothers, including being chained or tied in place, roughly handled, and made to stand in their own filth.

It has been regularly reported in the media that although the use of oxytocin is prohibited and causes painful uterine contractions, the hormone is actually still widely used to cause animals to produce more milk. Oxytocin residue in milk is thought to be a key factor in premature puberty in females and gynaecomastia (breast enlargement) in males.

Once cows are “spent” – that is, unable to produce amounts of milk deemed satisfactory by the industry – some end up in gaushalas, but countless others are illegally smuggled into states where they can be killed or into Bangladesh. Buffaloes are routinely sent to slaughter. All these animals are transported in severely crowded conditions, resulting in broken bones, suffocation when live animals are trapped under the fallen dead, and ripped nostrils as they are tied to a careening vehicle by nose ropes. Video footage from slaughterhouses shows them being hacked at with dull knives in full view of each other.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

PETA India
PO Box 28260
Juhu, Mumbai
400 049
(22) 4072 7382
(22) 2636 7383 (fax)

Info@petaindia.org
PETAIndia.com

Affiliates:
•PETA US
•PETA Asia
•PETA Australia
•PETA Germany
•PETA Netherlands
•PETA Foundation (UK)

Registered Office:
14 Doctor Lane
Classic House, Geol Market
New Delhi 110 001

CIN: U74899DL2000NPL103217

And because animals produce milk for their own species, doctors now warn that the consumption of dairy “products” is linked to cardiovascular disease, childhood onset diabetes, higher rates of certain types of cancer, and other ailments in humans.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

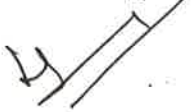
I hope you concur that dairy “products” can in no way be considered “vegetarian”. In view of all these types of cruelty and the indisputable fact that dairy milk does not come from a plant, and as it cannot be properly digested by most of the population, we respectfully request that FSSAI label all milk and milk “products” as *non-vegetarian* with a “brown dot” to distinguish them from ahimsa-produced and truly vegetarian products.

PETA India
PO Box 28260
Juhu, Mumbai
400 049
(22) 4072 7382
(22) 2636 7383 (fax)

Info@petaindia.org
PETAIndia.com

If you have any questions, you can contact me at ManilalV@petaindia.org or on 991087382

With best regards,



Dr Manilal Valliyate
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure

PETA India’s investigative video and report regarding the Indian dairy industry

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)

Registered Office:
14 Doctor Lane
Classic House, Goal Market
New Delhi 110 001