



Declaration as Conscientious Objectors to the War against Animals.

On the grounds of Conscience, we seek and expect to be excused from forced and compulsory participation in the War against Animals as embodied by the “eradication program” of the Government of Canada / Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Addressing our local CFIA agents from the North Bay, Ontario office, hoping they can consider and also forward this concern to appropriate Government of Canada representatives,

As identified Ethical Vegans, our moral will compels us to opt-out of the exploitation of non-human animals in every way and strenuously oppose animal agriculture every day. We work to build a world where vulnerable animals are safe and the privileged humans act justly. This letter is to articulate how the Government of Canada forcing our participation in a program that is unethical towards animal persons is unconscionable to us. This is only made worse that in this case these animal persons happen to be members of our sanctuary family.

It is our ethical understanding that animal agriculture is a War Against Animals. The phenomenon of immense organized lethal violence towards farmed animals precisely embodies a war. As demonstrated by the horrific number of casualties alone, the sustained bloodshed of the animal exploitation industry bears the unmistakable hallmarks of a legalized war.

But this war is not restricted merely to the blatant and horrific industrialized killing within animal agriculture, a prolific killing that occurs on such a gross scale that it baffles understanding. The unrelenting ambitions of this war have been seamlessly integrated into governmental spaces as well, such as your agency’s “eradication program.”

This “eradication program” demonstrates promiscuous killing, profane control and the desecration of the sanctity of life. None of this is in any way whatsoever in the interest of the animal individuals who are targeted — but rather honestly admitted to benefit the export ambitions of the animal agriculture industry, which is an outside aggressor to the freedom and

lives of animals. The belligerent killing and controlling of healthy individuals of this “eradication program” is very much a part of the broader War against Animals.

In our lives, your Agency’s “eradication program” has blindly assaulted the rights & freedoms of goat-friends who are our family members, living safe here in sanctuary on a Vegan farm as respected individual persons. Specifically your Agency targeted our best friend Sunshine, and by extension the seven other goat-friends who live here free in sanctuary, in Sunshine’s herd. Your Agency obligating our participation in this “eradication program” is uncouth conscription to partake in a war that is intolerably contrary to our Conscience.

With all of our conscience will we object to this war, as levied by the animal agriculture industry and the bureaucracies such as this Agency that enable it. We object to all war because of the principles of our ethical convictions about right and wrong. Explicitly, the War against Animals is wrong.

We respect the rights and individual sovereignty of each animal person. This free-conscience-will governs all aspects of our daily life and every fibre of our being. Forced participation in your agency’s morally grotesque “eradication program” lies well outside of our ethical resolve.

It is widely accepted that an individual cannot be compelled against their Conscience to participate in war when they object to it in the depths of their moral being. Being forced to violate our Conscience would be a flagrant offence of democratic principles. For any public institution, it would be a troubling defiance to persecute individuals for simply preserving their deeply held ethical convictions. Freedom of conscience is the most basic right. It’s also the very first fundamental freedom listed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We assert our freedom to have, hold and act within our conscientiously-held beliefs.

Thus, with an unshakeable determination, we confidently take a conscientious stand to oppose the immoral War against Animals and our forced participation in it.

With the fortitude of a higher duty to obey our ethics of love and equality that guide our life, we affirm ourselves as Conscientious Objectors to the involuntary participation in the War against Animals as forced upon our family by an “eradication program” of the Government of Canada / Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

As conscientious objectors, we expect to be excused on moral grounds and released from the uncouth obligation to participate in the Government of Canada’s involvement in the War against Animals, as embodied here in your Agency’s “eradication program”.

We value love, nothing less; and intend to live within that truth. We believe in dignity and rights for the individual, always, regardless of species. With the authenticity of our ethical resolve, we insist upon it. **We claim the right to act towards our fellow individuals in the manner that our intelligence and convictions guide us through the medium of our Conscience. We embrace and claim authority over our own ethics, and are entirely empowered to do so.**

Confident and unafraid, we question the lusts of the animal exploitation industry and challenge the prerogative of those who profit at the expense of somebody else. It is the responsibility of everyone to respect the rights of others. Correspondingly, we are asking you to respect our right to a freedom of Conscience.

With the ability of our moral strength, it is our intention to oppose the murder, control and desecration of our fellow beings (and our family members) by articulating our conscientious objection. **In the pacifist tradition, our protest is this letter. It is with words infused with the honesty of our ethical conviction that gives us resilience and strength. Our ways are love, and our peace is fierce.**

Just as it is our commitment to obey our own Conscience, we strongly encourage that you too have the capacity to consider your own. Regardless of your own ethical judgments about this war, we have a right to our Conscientious Objection. The wholeness of our Conscience is worth preserving and with moral courage this we intend to do.

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Sunshine has lived with Sherry & Yan at Piebird Farm Sanctuary for seven years as a member of the family



Sunshine lives free as an autonomous individual, with his personhood respected.

An Introduction to Sunshine's tale & the CFIA's #fail

From time to time we all come across a frightful failure of authority's sensibility — boldly interrupting our peaceful lives. For us, this was mid-Winter 2014 when this Agency casually called and coldly stated they wanted to kill a member of our family, Sunshine. Sunshine lives here in sanctuary, on our Vegan farm sanctuary in Ontario. They wanted to kill him to test and see if he is healthy. This ill-mannered behaviour is part of their "scrapie eradication program".

Our friend Sunshine is a very happy and healthy person, he also happens to be a goat-friend. As a member of our family, Sunshine makes us laugh every day and we make him smile -- and oh, he has the biggest smile we have ever seen! He loves to smile and he has a billion reason to — some of those reasons are that he is loved, respected, healthy and free.

Believe me when we say it is our utmost expectation that nobody kills or desecrates the ones we love. That is a very commonly held understanding for families. As is the expectation that nobody defies their freedom, violates their rights or opposes their sovereignty.

That was the beginning of what has grown into a vividly unpleasant relationship with this Agency. The Agency's fierce intentions have been revised somewhat, but their reasoning and tactics have hardened even more. Sunshine's lawyer was able to speak strongly on his behalf, and the Agency lessened their interference — then placed the entire goat family and property under a lifetime legal order, imposing over-zealous oversight to "inspect" four times a year. They invade our peaceful Vegan farm sanctuary and carry the intention to do unethical things to the members of our family (for example: their procedure will be to decapitate every goat-friend who passes away here, at the end of their happy, healthy, free lives). And that brings us to this moment, where we are under the control of those out of control.

This "eradication program" targets one disease by killing & controlling more healthy animals than all infectious diseases combined could ever reach. Sadly, this colouring is no exaggeration. **When those who think they are the doctor are actually the disease, we've gone far from wellness, and into another form of illness.**

The ruthlessness of the program is to satisfy the industry's export ambitions & interests, the payouts when animals are killed satisfies the farmers' interests. Our ethics are to always respect and represent the animal-friends' interests.

Looming now is this order of control the Agency served us. Often it's four inspectors who disrupt the peace of the eight goat-friends who live here. The inspectors search for signs of a disease that doesn't exist here in order to justify their own existence. With a suspicion so untrusting it's hostile, they check each family member to make sure they haven't been secretly swapped for a similar looking individual. They ignore the fact that the animal-friends we live with in sanctuary on a vegan farm have been spared a life of interference to their persons by the "food" industry. They force the animal-friends in our family to be reminded that other humans only consider them "livestock", not lucky enough to be born a protected species, like a "pet" dog or cat would be. **The program's methods are objectionable and the purpose is unconscionable.**

We believe in peace for all non-human animals, for all beings. Our work, for the past eleven years, is to share new forms of connection, friendship, love and living-together with animal-friends that will lead to a broader peace — a peace based on establishing animal sovereignties and respecting each as individuals with sentience, love, language, laughter, family, friendship, community, creativity, imagination, joy and rights. This is the work we do at *Piebird Farm Sanctuary*.

We believe in dignity for the individual, always. With the authenticity of our ethical resolve, we insist upon it. We embrace and claim authority over our own ethics, and are entirely empowered to do so.

Thus, with an unshakeable determination, we take a conscientious stand to oppose the immoral War against Animals and our forced participation in it. **We value love, nothing less; and intend to live within that truth.**



Sunshine with Sherry & Yan, at Piebird Farm Sanctuary

What it means for us to declare ourselves as Conscientious Objectors to the War against Animals

Canada has recognized conscientious objector status since the late eighteenth century. Simply: the practice of respecting conscientious objection is a safeguard to preserve the freedom of conscience for individuals. It is a convention that demonstrates that institutions understand they must not allow themselves to impose participation in an agenda that is unconscionable to an individual.

We opt-out of the War against Animals in every way and oppose it strenuously every day. Every war must end and so must this one. To make that happen, both an evolution in human compassion, and also a revolution in human institutions is required. With an urgent immediacy, we undertake the objective of ending the sickening aggression that has overwhelmed life and profits from death: animal agriculture. We work to build a world where vulnerable animals are safe and the privileged humans act justly. We work to correct the persistent imbalances, making sure that species impoverished by inequality are not made victims to subtle or overt structures of oppression or exploitation.

We oppose the raising or breeding of non-human animals for any “purpose”. We oppose any disrespect or desecration of their person or individual sovereignty. We oppose all elements of the animal exploitation industry as well as backyard animal-exploitation hobbyists.

This free-conscience-will governs all aspects of our daily life and every fibre of our being, but forced participation in this Agency’s morally grotesque “eradication program” lies well outside of our ethical resolve.

In line with the principles of love and equality that guide our life, our moral will prohibits us from being involved in any aspect of this war. We are registering our firm rejection of any wholesale killing, as well as any form of control that obstructs animal sovereignties and are deliberately negligible to the sanctity of life. On the grounds of Conscience, we seek and expect to be excused from forced and compulsory participation in the War against Animals.

We have a very deep-seated ethical position on this matter and have been trying to communicate this to Agency officials for nearly three years. This is a War we renounce formally, absolutely and unconditionally. Respectively, we put forth that even if you do not agree with our beliefs, we ask you to accept the responsibility to honour them. We ask for your understanding and adherence.

We claim the right to act towards our fellow individuals in the manner that our intelligence and convictions guide us through the medium of our Conscience.

With the ability of our moral strength, it is our intention to oppose the murder, control and desecration of our fellow beings (and our family members) by articulating our conscientious objection. **In the pacifist tradition, our protest is this letter. It is with words infused with the honesty of our ethical conviction that gives us resilience and strength. Our ways are love, and our peace is fierce.**



Sunshine, living free in sanctuary at Piebird Farm Sanctuary

The War against Animals must end

Every life is an individual deserving of love and respect. Unfortunately, human's preeminent relationship with non-human animals is indisputably hostile. This uncouth relationship with other lives presents a clear inconsistency to the contemporary values of ethical treatment and justice. But instead of addressing human violence against non-human animals, the dominate institutional forces are set up to bolster the bloodshed.

As demonstrated by the horrific number of casualties alone, the sustained violence of the animal exploitation industry bears the unmistakable hallmarks of a legalized war.

Wars throughout history have been waged for conquest and plunder. Exploiting, dominating and killing animal populations en-mass for the thunderous profit of industry ambition is no different. The War against Animals is the mass exploitation of lives for earnings.

All wars, declared or not, have extreme goals of annihilation that obviously go beyond any possible compliance by those who suffer their fire. All sentient beings resist oppression and exploitation. Farmed animals resist to every part of their slavery, torture, murder, etc. Their individual resistance against the unceasing war upon their communities gives us our resilience to resist too, on their behalf.

Social justice struggles define most of human history. Within that anthology of causes and changes, ill encounters of exploitation are reoccurring. Exploitation is one of the basic crimes of human society and the animal agriculture industry exhibits it in its most crude form. The entire animal agriculture industry is based on nothing else but the vulgar error of exploitation: eggs, dairy, fibre, flesh. Still more troubling is that this exploitation even goes beyond the boundaries of industry and backyard hobbyists, it is backed by this Agency, which has established programs for the maintaining and furthering of these arrogant exploitation accomplishments.

The exploitation of anyone is immoral. It is disgraceful that in this modern era, exploitation continues and accelerates on an industrial scale. Animal agriculture is a form of hatred. It is a

commonly held understanding that animal agriculture is responsible for more pain and misery than all the wars of history put together.

We explicitly oppose a social order in which it is possible for any non-human animal life to be exploited and oppressed. Wherever exploitation appears, in pursuit of profit or plunder, we stand vocally proclaiming our duty of emancipation and love. **Everybody has the right to dignity, respect and justice, simply by virtue of being. Freedom is not merely a human right. We insist upon freedom for our Conscience, and we insist upon freedom for our animal-family.**

We therefore expect to be respected with total exemption from compulsory participation in the War against Animals as it is embodied in this antagonistic eradication program.



Sunshine loves to snuggle with Sherry and Yan who are his friends and family members. He is a free-thinking individual who chooses freedom, love, life, and whom he snuggles with!

The CFIA vs. Sunshine: A very brief history

For almost three years, we have on many occasions communicated to Agency inspectors that their order knowingly violates Sunshine's rights as an autonomous individual, as well as our moral obligation and our creed as ethical Vegans. To no avail. The Agency has also been also unwilling to correctly assess their accusation that Sunshine was born at a farm who later reported scrapie (and collected a half-million dollar payout). We have reminded the Agency that Sunshine is a seven-year-old neutered male living at a Vegan farm sanctuary with absolutely no connection to the "national herd". Since his home is a Vegan farm sanctuary, there is absolutely no participation in any breeding, or animal products, or anything that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has mandate over. For anyone honestly familiar with either administrative law or the science of scrapie, it should be clear that taking away Sunshine's freedom (ie: life-long quarantine for all 8 goats in his herd) or desecrating his person is not justified. He is healthy. He is our friend and family member. He is not a threat to anyone. He is love. Quarantining free individuals who are autonomous over their sovereign rights is not what the legislation authorizes the Agency to do. Furthermore, the Agency's authority must not be an unchecked horror capable of violating Charter Rights.

The CFIA's Eradication Program furthers animal exploitation

Consistently, the consequences of war (declared or not) are conceivably worse than the alleged evils that war is schemed to solve. **This “eradication program” is no different: this Agency is attempting to “eradicate” one chosen disease by killing & controlling more healthy animals than all infectious diseases combined could ever reach. Sadly, this colouring is no exaggeration.**

The intent of war in general is domination but it is carried out by a variety of means and tactics: large scale slaughter, declarations & sanctions, grand or petty apartheid, genocide, punitive detention, judicial application of force, relentless violence, imposing & enforcing forms of control, the manipulation of consent, etc. Within the governmental space thus hides another means that this war is carried out, one that incorporates all the traditional tactics: this Agency's scrapie eradication program.

All wars exercise monstrous deployments of violence and coercive forms of control. All wars bring with them uncouth excesses that are articulated as something else. This War against Animals is no different. Murder on the scale of animal agriculture requires advanced techniques of force to enable this gargantuan slaughter machine to function and grow. This is where this Agency comes into play, augmenting the ongoing War against Animals by using their authority apparatuses to satisfy the market ambitions of industry.

This is not even intense domination of non human animal life under the guise of something good. There are many examples of the industry representatives appealing to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food, calling for this eradication program in the interest of increased foreign market access. Outrageously, the justification for harming individuals is to make an industry more profitable. This Agency is killing and controlling healthy animals so that the animal industry can exploit and kill even more lives through unhindered export.

Maximizing the export extent and human value of non-human animal-life products is the prerogative of this program: more bodies, body parts and bodily secretions exported to more markets. Herein lies the perpetual power humans have to erode non-human rights under the ever-present and arrogant weight of the economy of greed. As part of the War against Animals, this “eradication program” guarantees continued domination for the current human-victors.

The methods of this eradication program are not about public safety, and certainly not about non-human animal health-care. Killing or controlling individuals is never for their benefit. It is not supportive to the organism on the collective level if it is detrimental to the organism on the individual level. **Genocide is not health-care.**

Yes, genocide. This eradication program extends beyond other forms of government supervision because it has genocide at its core. Healthy lives are killed at an unprecedented rate. Healthy lives are controlled pre-emptively. **This is violence against individuals, communities, happiness, freedoms, ethics and Conscience.**

CFIA Tactics: Like the animals exploited, Agency inspectors are victims of this War against Animals too

Our fundamental objection is ethical but our experience with this Agency compels us to also communicate our objections that extend to the contemptible behaviour, process, methods and conclusions of this Agency.

No system is so evil that its people are lacking in virtue, but the conduct of the agents that we have had to bear witness to shows they are unable to discern our concerns, and incapable of understanding our conscience stand.

In this War against Animals, some of the weapons of injustice are the belligerent powers of bureaucrats unable to question the systems they serve. As specialized civil servants, human beings can become tools, able to make a system of exploitation function efficiently without the slightest sense of personal responsibility. They retreat into the language of jargon to mask what they are doing and give to their work a sanitized, clinical veneer — when it is anything but.

We do not blame someone in a position of authority who is unable to shun the intoxicating embrace of their own power. The amount of coercion it takes to suppress obedience to a system and listen to one's own moral courage is measured in seas not teaspoons.

Their inability or unwillingness to think deep in their hearts is but an indication that they, like the animals, are victims of this war too. This war curtails the dignity of their independent moral thought.

What use would it be for us to boast that we heard them say uncouth things? What use would it be for us to complain that they lacked the moral maturity that should accompany authority? — or that their proceedings were undignified, unseemly and lacking in impartiality? They are simply players in a war. And as players in a war, they openly have the loyalty and seemingly boundless blindness of any other foot soldier. It is this calcified focus that makes them capable of anything, no matter how heinous, because they do not reflect upon or question the ultimate objective. Bureaucrats manipulated to murder in the service of industry are unknowingly in the service of monstrosities they don't even see. So we can't then fault them for not seeing or understanding us or the animal-friends who are part of our family.

That being said, we have taken a lively interest in this Agency's mandate and understand very well the legitimate provisions therein, as well as any possible transgressions.

To the latter, our moral imperative requires us to speak out against the injustice towards animals and advocate for peace beyond the boundaries of our own community. In addition to being recognized as conscientious objectors, we request the opportunity to speak before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food to have our intimate concerns with this Agency's eradication program be put on public record.

Over the last several years, we have witnessed and experienced uncouth conduct and procedure from Agency officials that is in need of discussion and scrutiny. It is not our interest or intention to aggrieve individuals — we don't want this head-shaking story to move anybody to fear evil or hate humanity. Rather, it is our expectation that the testimony we are able to provide

will convincingly contribute to the need for a critical examination of this institution and lead to a review of this eradication program, it's objectives and methods.

From our experiences, we have seen that the good behaviour and good judgement of Agency inspectors as individuals is inherently compromised by the uncouth eradication program they are required to enforce. Because the procedures themselves are inappropriate, Agency representatives are put in a position where they have to use inappropriate behaviour to enforce the program (threats, dishonesty, vengeance, etc). It gives a better understand about the structural aspects of this eradication program by being more deeply informed and critically conscious of the phenomenal attitude of how it's enforced.

That the behaviours and methods of eradication are so profoundly repugnant makes the compulsory participation in this war that much more offensive to our conscience. We have utter determination to speak up against the unfreedom of animals.

Just because the animal industry has ambitions to exploit most of the animals, does not mean they can control all of the animals. We are asking you to facilitate full freedom — of their lives, and our conscience. We ask is that the Agency respects that we respect the sanctity of life — and remove all legal orders and our forced participation. Easy.

note

Our moral will prevents us or anyone else from imposing orders of slavery, control or harm upon any animal persons including the animal-friends in our family — including any un-due disrespect to the sanctity of life. Obviously, in the utter unlikely scenario if one of the animal-friends in our family ever showed symptoms of any dreadful reportable disease we would contact this Agency for their expertise (as well as our own veterinarians). But fundamentally, preventing harm and not participating in it is our moral obligation. We must continually question these pre-emptive controls against their freedoms and articulate that the Agency's actions violate the sanctity of our friend's lives and the freedom of our Conscience.



About us — Operating a farm sanctuary & advocating for equality

Contributing alongside the good work of others, our primary act to oppose the War against Animals is to operate a Vegan farm sanctuary (Piebird Farm Sanctuary / Vegan Farmstay) and to advocate for non-human “farm” animals as their friends and their family. While farms inflict misery to amass profit, as a Vegan farm sanctuary we embrace the ethics of a gentle life. **We form friendships and foster love, respect and dignity. We give freedom and create kindness. We live love loudly.**

Our forced participation in this war threatens the possibility of this love by prohibiting and badly mangling the good-natured attitudes of peace and freedom. Freedom is not just the absence of oppression, but an environment that is based on true equality. On behalf of humanity, we work to kickstart the engines of equality — equality for all lives. Equality will bring a peace that is not just a ceasefire in the forceful domination of non-human animal lives, but it will accompany a peace that works towards true respect. **To that: we recognize the sovereign rights that non-human animals have over their own persons.**

Many years ago we recognized our kinship with all of our fellow living beings, and ever since we have devoted our lives to be guardians to those who have escaped the exploitation system and to advocate for those who have not. We have devoted our lives to their interests because we believe in freedom and respect for every individual. We cherish goodness and goodwill. Everyone is worth their birth. Their birthright is to be an individual, to be free — not born-to-die for profit and the superficial pleasure of somebody else’s tastebuds.

Our animal-friends are our family. We live in cohabitation in such a way that our interests converge — and where they do not, we choose to accommodate their interest over our own. This is what it means to live in the service of others. **Respecting the personhood of our animal-friends is to respect our own principles. Defending their freedom is to uphold our own conscience. Safeguarding their future is to attend to our own ethics. Satisfying their rights is to satisfy our own.**

Confident and unafraid, we question the lusts of the animal exploitation industry and challenge the prerogative of those who attempt to survive at the expense of somebody else. **It is the responsibility of everyone to respect the rights of others. Correspondingly, we are asking you to respect our right to a freedom of conscience.**



Forced Participation in a program to further the exploitation of the animal agriculture industry is unconscionable to us as ethical Vegans

Freedom of conscience is the most basic right. It's also the very first fundamental freedom listed in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Compulsory participation in this eradication program (and thus the open conscription to take part in the broader War against Animals) is to act contrary to the depths of our conscience. We do not view this as simply some loathsome annoyance to be endured. It is more than just some deeply unpleasant experience, it is a moral violation against our ethics. Compulsion to participate is an annihilation of our freedom of Conscience. The threats of jail time for not participating very much echo other historical examples of enforced conscription.

We take an abolitionist stand against the War against Animals. This means we cannot be convinced, persuaded, coaxed or otherwise influenced to participate in a thing which destroys both soul and the sanctity of life. Likewise, to the integrity of our character we cannot let our conscience be shunned, stifled or silenced by others — either individuals or institutions. We will not wilfully sacrifice our Conscience. Instead, we speak it, and live it.

We are wholly committed to non-violence, freedom, and identify ourselves positively as pacifists. As identified Ethical Vegans, we spend our lives working for the principle of equality, by not privileging humans over other animals. As identified Ethical Vegans, we spend our lives working for the creation of a world in which the War against Animals has been made impossible, a world wherein all of life may live in peace. This is the mainstay of all of our business, personal, and social pursuits.

All lives are created equal. In respecting that, our sense of duty to others is immense. This is a duty to do unto others as we would like to be done unto us. We are under a moral obligation to not exploit or harm other individuals in any way — to not violate or desecrate their personhood — neither their soul nor bodily person. To us, this responsibility to others is not optional. This conviction is not inspired by any feeble sentimentality, but by the fortitude of a higher duty to obey our Conscience.

Just as it is our duty to obey our own Conscience, we strongly encourage that you have the capacity to consider your own. The wholeness of our Conscience is worth preserving and with moral courage this we intend to do.

On the grounds of Conscience, we seek and expect to be excused from forced and compulsory participation in the War against Animals as embodied by the uncouth “eradication program” of the Government of Canada / Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

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