



Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham St
London
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4 August 2023

Via e-mail: mark.spencer.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Mr Spencer,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally – with a recommendation regarding your proposals on milk labelling. In the interests of honesty in advertising, we should call cows' milk what it is: bovine mammary secretions.

In accordance with your focus on consumer protection, the label “bovine mammary secretions” should help the public understand that they are ingesting pus-filled mother's milk from a cow. Cows aren't the only animals who make milk for their babies, and their mammary secretions aren't meant for humans any more than cats' milk, rats' milk, or bats' milk is, so drinking it is just as ridiculous. The Cambridge dictionary defines plant-based products that resemble and are used in place of cows' milk as “milk” (only without the pus and suffering). Another definition of “milk” offered in the dictionary is “to exploit”. And it's easy to see why when we look at the cruel dairy industry.

Using what industry insiders have called a “rape rack”, farmworkers sexually assault cows, impregnating them via artificial insemination to force them to produce mammary secretions for their calves. Then the mothers, who bond with their babies just as human mothers do, are heartbroken when their calves are stolen from them – often within hours or a day of birth, causing them both extreme distress. Ask anyone who lives near a dairy farm and they'll tell you that mother cows can be heard frantically lowing for their calves for many days after this trauma.

According to the RSPCA, between 40 and 60 of every 100 cows used for bovine mammary secretions suffer from mastitis – a painful inflammation of the udder – which makes them produce pus that contaminates their milk. It's such an unavoidable part of the dairy industry that government regulations even specify the amount of pus from infected cows allowed in every jug of bovine mammary secretions.

Consumers are not the least bit confused by vegan milks, but they have been misled by the dairy industry about the impact of cows' milk production on animals, the environment, and human health. Cows' milk is suited to the nutritional needs of calves – who have four stomachs and will grow to weigh hundreds of kilograms – not humans, many of whom

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Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands



are lactose-intolerant.

PETA will support your proposals to ensure “clear differentiation” between plant-based and dairy milk, as long as the language used is transparent for both. The label “bovine mammary secretions” should clear up any misunderstandings. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Kind regards,

Elisa Allen
Vice President of Programmes
PETA

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