

24 September, 2026

Joel D. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
Petco

Dear Mr Anderson:

PETA shared its latest [investigation](#) into the bird trade with me, and the footage was heartbreaking.

I live with a bird named Sweetie who I love just like family. Anyone who has ever shared their home with a bird knows they are curious, emotional, intelligent individuals with their own personalities and preferences. They feel joy, fear, loneliness, and excitement just like dogs, cats, and humans.

That's why it was so difficult to watch PETA's investigation exposing a mass breeding factory in Petco's supply chain. The footage revealed that thousands of parakeets were confined to cramped, filthy cages with no opportunity to fly, explore, or engage in the natural behaviours that make them who they are. Some birds suffered severe injuries, including a bird who had lost an eye and a chick whose wing had shrivelled, blackened, and fallen off.

Perhaps most shocking of all: Instead of providing veterinary care to sick or injured parakeets in need of aid, an owner and worker killed them by hand, including by crushing their necks, slamming them to the ground, or ripping off their heads. No one confirmed the birds were dead, and some languished in misery before dying.

Please, take a hard look at what PETA uncovered and end the sale of birds in your stores to prevent future suffering for birds.

Sincerely,

Dame Judi Dench