

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
24 WOLCOTT HILL ROAD
WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06109

Ms. Stephanie Boyles
PETA
501 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

May 23, 2007

Dear Ms. Boyles:

I am writing in response to your letter of May 23, 2007, regarding the efforts of the Connecticut Department of Correction to reduce the woodchuck population at the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution in Enfield, Connecticut.

The agency has undertaken this action because the growing population of woodchucks at the prison has risen to the level of a safety and security issue for the facility. Their burrows have caused correctional staff to be injured while attempting to respond to emergencies and their digging has caused damage to our buildings and electrical system. Currently there are approximately 150 sizable holes on the compound, which have been caused by the animals.

As a result, the agency hired a licensed exterminator, approved by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to remove the animals. The method of capturing the animals was left up to the experience of this individual.

Our intention is certainly not to cause any undue suffering to these animals. We however are ultimately concerned about the welfare of our staff and the safety and security of a correctional institution.

Yours truly,


Brian A. Garnett
Director of External Affairs