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September 9, 2020

Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster DeJoy:

I am deeply disturbed by recent press reports recounting animal fatalities in parcels carried by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS). I request that you review USPS guidance regarding the shipment of live animals.

Unlike other parcel carriers, USPS lacks clear guidance on humane care and safety of live animals during transportation. This is deeply concerning and appears to be out of step with not only industry best practices, but also inconsistent with the humane treatment of these animals. Section 521 of USPS Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted and Perishable Mail states that animals included in USPS parcels may be subject to extended times without access to food or water in transit.¹

I ask that the USPS undertake a thorough policy review and a comparative review of the policies of other major parcel carriers to determine how live animal transportation can be done safely and humanely. It is my expectation that the Postal Service will make meaningful reforms regarding live animal shipments following its internal review process.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

CC USPS Office of Inspector General
CC U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission

¹ "52 Animals | Postal Explorer." 2020. *Pe.usps.com*. https://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/pub52c5_003.htm (9 September 2020).