



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Statement regarding Petland store in Fairfax, Virginia**

**(Chillicothe, Ohio: April 2, 2019)** – Petland, Inc. is shocked and horrified at the allegations of today's news report regarding the Petland store in Fairfax, VA as it relates to the mistreatment of rabbits and has immediately begun its own investigation. The store is individually owned and operated by a local family.

This information is appalling and in no way reflects the values, policies and procedures demanded of Petland stores. Petland is saddened and outraged at this alleged gross violation of Petland's animal care standards. Petland, Inc.'s VP of Animal Welfare is currently on his way to the store to conduct a thorough investigation. We find the timing of the deaths of these rabbits and HSUS' undercover 'investigation' highly suspicious. We are further disappointed that once again, HSUS did not reach out directly to us in January when they claim this occurred so we could immediately investigate and instead, we were notified by a reporter this morning. As a matter of fact, HSUS's John Goodwin, who is quoted in the story, met with Petland's VP of Animal Welfare two weeks ago and made no mention of any concerns. This further reinforces our belief that their interest is not animal welfare, but the furtherance of their political agenda against pet stores.

Petland puts the health and welfare of its pets first and does not tolerate any mistreatment of animals. Petland will take any and all action necessary as this does not, in any way, represent the culture and dedication to animal care of the thousands of caring Petland employees working across the country every day.