October 6, 2005

Secretary Gale Norton
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Director Fran P. Mainella
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Regional Director Jon Jarvis
Pacific West Region
National Park Service
Owl Jackson Center
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Superintendent Brian O’Neill
Golden Gate National Recreation Area
Fort Mason, Building 201
San Francisco, CA 94123

Dear Secretary Norton, Director Mainella, Regional Director Jarvis, and Superintendent O’Neill:

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our 850,000 members and supporters, I urge you to support the adoption of regulations requiring dogs to be leashed while in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, as described in the petition dated August 16, 2005.

As the largest international nonprofit organization dedicated to animal protection, our main concern is for the countless birds and other wildlife species that are terrorized and killed by dogs roaming off-leash. The majority of dogs will chase any species of wildlife if given the opportunity, regardless of whether they are hungry or aggressive. In recognizing the critical importance that the GGNSA plays in the conservation of wildlife, it is our position that off-leash dog walking has made it exceptionally difficult to ensure that imperiled species in the park are not jeopardized.

These impacts need not occur. Dogs and imperiled wildlife can coexist at the GGNSA, but only if the National Park Service’s reasonable leash law is promulgated at the GGNSA and enforced. In order to preclude unnecessary threats to other animals, we hope you will give this petition serious consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Boyles, Wildlife Biologist
Domestic Animal and Wildlife Rescue & Information Department