

Animalvictory.org



Sign a Petition. Save an Animal.

December 12, 2019

ESPN

To Whom it May Concern:

We wrote to you on December 6th and have not received a reply. We are writing once again to voice a major concern.

We are Janelle Babington and Penny Eims, animal welfare petitioners with AnimalVictory.org. On November 30, we created a petition asking for the NFL to remove Michael Vick as one of the NFL's 2020 Pro Bowl Legends Captains. In short order, people from across the nation showed their support of the petition, which has been shared virally across social media. To date, over 381,868 people have taken the time to sign the petition and express their disgust that Vick has been chosen to be honored by the NFL, in a game which will be aired on ESPN. Animal Victory petition continues to grow by the day and we have no doubt that the number of signatures will increase significantly throughout the end of the month not only on our petition but other petitions as well as indicated below.

https://www.animalvictory.org/remove_michael_vick_from_being_a_2020_pro_bowl_legend_captain

Other petitions asking for the same are as noted below:

Change.org 566,000 signatures <https://www.change.org/p/nfl-do-not-allow-michael-vick-to-be-honored-in-the-2020-nfl-pro-bowl>

Change.org 28,000 signatures <https://www.change.org/p/remove-michael-vick-as-a-2020-probowl-captain>

Change.org 18284 signatures <https://www.change.org/p/nfl-remove-michael-vick-from-professional-sports-and-associated-platforms-including-a-job-5d8b2115-b772-4dae-b3b7-812e97b956f9>

Change.org 12086 Signatures <https://www.change.org/p/nfl-remove-michael-vick-as-captain>

Change.org 3463 Signatures <https://www.change.org/p/nfl-allow-michael-vick-to-participate-in-the-nfl-probowl-as-a-captain>

Michael Vick is a convicted felon who played a part in inflicting unspeakable cruelty to innocent dogs. An excerpt from Jim Gorant's book, *The Lost Dogs*, provides a glimpse of the brutality Vick participated in:

"As the little red dog lay on the ground, fighting for air, Quanis Phillips grabbed its front legs and Michael Vick grabbed its back legs. They swung the dog over their head like a jump rope then slammed it to the ground. The first impact didn't kill it. So Phillips and Vick slammed it again. The two men kept at it, alternating back and forth, pounding the creature against the ground, until, at last, the little red dog was dead."

Animal lovers have not forgotten Vick's crimes, and they are shocked and disgusted that he has been chosen, out of all of the upstanding athletes in the NFL, to be honored as a Pro Bowl Legend Captain. Vick went to prison, but he did not serve time for animal cruelty. He is a convicted felon who is not a role model to the nation's youth. Though Michael Vick is allowed to move forward with his life, he should not be celebrated and honored, as if the atrocities he committed simply did not happen.

We respectfully request that ESPN engage in discussions with the NFL about their decision to honor Michael Vick as a Pro Bowl Legend Captain. It is our hope that the league will consider selecting an athlete that our nation's youth can look up to, rather than someone with a sordid, criminal past. If the NFL refuses to select a replacement team captain, we ask that ESPN takes a stand by refusing to air the game.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We hope to hear back from you with regards to this situation.

Sincerely,

Janelle Babington and Penny Eims

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