

# DIRECT ACTION *DAE* EVERYWHERE

*For immediate release*

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## Activists Protest at Homes of Perdue Executives, After Court Denies Temporary Restraining Order

*Protesters are asking Scott Fitzpatrick and Jason Arnold, executives at Perdue's Petaluma Poultry, to address documented criminal animal cruelty at the company*



*Animal rights activists protest outside the home of Perdue's Live Production Manager, Scott Fitzpatrick, in Sebastopol on July 26, 2025, urging him to stop animal cruelty at the factory farms he oversees. (Credit: Direct Action Everywhere)*

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*July 26, 2025, SEBASTOPOL, CA* -- Around thirty animal rights activists with [Direct Action Everywhere](#) (DxE) held a peaceful protest outside the home of [Scott Fitzpatrick](#), the Live Production Manager for Perdue's Petaluma Poultry, after Sonoma County Judge Patrick Broderick [denied](#) Fitzpatrick's application for a temporary restraining order on Friday, citing "insufficient evidence." Fitzpatrick had sought to bar animal rights activists from protesting on public property outside his home in Sebastopol following two protests DxE activists held there.

The protesters held photos of injured and distressed animals inside of the Petaluma Poultry factory farms which Fitzpatrick oversees and gave speeches asking him to stop the animal cruelty happening under his watch.

The protest lasted approximately one hour, and then the group headed to Santa Rosa to protest outside the home of Jason Arnold, Director of Operations at the Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse. Police were called to both locations and observed the protests. Arnold and Perdue Foods previously filed a separate lawsuit against DxE seeking to stop public protests outside of Arnold's residence.

Free speech experts say that the Perdue executives' lawsuits are classic SLAPP suits, or Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, intended to silence activists, burden them with legal fees, and intimidate them from protesting. DxE [filed an anti-SLAPP motion](#) to dismiss Perdue and Arnold's lawsuit, which will be heard in the Sonoma County Superior Courthouse on August 20, 2025.

DxE investigators have [documented](#) systemic animal cruelty at Petaluma Poultry factory farms and its slaughterhouse, including sick and injured birds left without access to food or water and evidence of birds who entered the slaughterhouse scalding tank while still conscious and were boiled alive. DxE says the findings demonstrate clear violations of [California Penal Code Section 597](#), which prohibits subjecting an animal to "needless suffering" or inflicting "unnecessary cruelty upon the animal."

Prior to these residential protests, DxE activists had repeatedly emailed Arnold, Fitzpatrick, and other Perdue executives requesting a meeting about the findings of their investigation. They received no response. Activists have also protested at the Petaluma Poultry slaughterhouse dozens of times since 2018.

"We have exhausted every channel to hold Perdue accountable, from reporting the abuse to law enforcement, requesting meetings with the company, and holding protests outside the slaughterhouse for years," said Karin Lease of Sebastopol. "Our every effort has been ignored or met with retaliation, but we keep speaking up because the animals are still suffering."

"We've seen the animals with their bruises, open wounds, diarrhea, and lameness," said DxE investigator Lewis Bernier of Petaluma. "We've seen the light leaving their eyes as

they are on the brink of dying in front of us. And we have rescued some of these animals, but we don't have the power to help them all. That's why we are calling on those in charge to do the right thing and stop the cruelty."

*Investigators with [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) enter farms, slaughterhouses, and other facilities to document abuses and rescue sick and injured animals. DxE's investigatory work has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [WIRED](#), and [Vox](#). DxE activists have been [subjected to FBI raids](#) and [felony prosecutions](#) for their investigative work. In 2022, DxE activists won the first-ever [acquittal](#) in an open rescue case. Visit DxE on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and at [directactioneverywhere.com](#).*

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