

Petition You Can Sign:

<https://greatergood.com/blogs/petitions/citi-field-dogs-petition>

Representatives to Contact

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Hello Representative,

I am reaching out to your office because of an issue around potential animal abuse, mistreatment, and financial exploitation happening in your district.

For the past 16 years, a man who goes by both Norberto Fernandez and Charlie Fernandez, has been dressing up multiple dogs in Mets gear and having them sit outside events at Citi Field, and other local venues in Queens, for prolonged periods of time in questionable conditions. This has been highly controversial in the community.

The following is a brief rundown of concerns related to this man's treatment of his dogs over the last 16 years

1. Photographic evidence of past dogs having no teeth ([See Gothamist article](#)).
2. Photographic evidence of past dogs wearing a shock collar and allegations that a shock collar is still used to train this behavior (See [Gothamist](#) and [New York Times](#) articles).
3. Reports of the dog being forced to hold a fake "Pipe" in its mouth for hours at a time, which prevents the dog from panting, which is necessary to regulate body temperature (See [New York Times](#) article).
4. Reports of the dog standing in a single location for hours at a time before, during, and after events, regardless of the weather conditions.
5. Reports of the dog being forced to wear multiple layers of clothing, including a hat and sunglasses, while being forced to sit still for hours, regardless of the weather.
6. Frequent lack of water access and no evidence of food provided to the animal.
7. Aggressive behavior from the dog owner, chastizing people who photograph his dog but do not give him money (See [New York Times article](#)).
8. Years-old video from an instagram account, run by the dog owner, showing his dogs in questionable physical conditions being forced to balance beer bottles on their heads as well as opening beer bottles with their teeth (Please see this [TikTok](#) that compiles said videos, as well as a link to said [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) page connected to the owner).

The two most recent national media organizations to write about this are the New York Times, the New York Post, and PETA, articles listed below:

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6549106/2025/08/13/mets-dog-citi-field-animal-abuse-questions/>

<https://nypost.com/2025/08/28/us-news/protesters-renew-outrage-over-alleged-abuse-of-pipe-smoking-mets-dog/>

<https://www.peta.org/news/citi-field-dog-suffering/>

Previous articles have been written by Gothamist, Huffington Post, and 7 Line Army (the largest Mets fan club), listed below:

<https://gothamist.com/news/onlookers-claim-beloved-baseball-dog-coffee-is-being-abused>

<https://gothamist.com/news/new-photo-shows-coffee-the-baseball-dog-doesnt-have-teeth>

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/norberto-fernandez-defend_n_866828

<https://the7line.com/blogs/the-7-line/its-not-cute-its-cruelty-dog-abuse-at-the-ballpark>

A protest against this trainer has thus far raised over \$1200 for charity and resulted in social media postings with millions of page views and hundreds of thousands of “likes” on [TikTok](#) and Facebook, indicating clear support for ending this practice. Links to two examples are below, as well as a petition with almost two thousand signatures:

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TikTok:

<https://www.tiktok.com/@mikeamorycomedyclinician/video/7538964481905364279?q=mikeamory&t=1757291104261>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/nytimes/posts/from-the-athletic-mets-dog-aka-sushi-the-pitbull-is-a-fixture-outside-citi-field/1150225606959901/>

I am contacting your office to express my concern about this potentially illegal activity occurring in your district, as well as to request the following actions:

1. Your office contacts the relevant animal welfare agencies to investigate the dog owner at his home and place of business.
2. Your office contacts the relevant government agencies to investigate the legality of this dog owner’s business, busking for money on public property (Potentially without a business license to do so), as well as if he is reporting said income from his business to the IRS.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.