

*A Non-Profit Organization — Lighting The Way Since 1960*

# The American Vegan Society



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DECLARATION from the American Vegan Society, Malaga New Jersey  
January 21, 2003 regarding McDonald's Settlement  
(Block Et Al. V McDonald's Corporation 01 CH9137)  
Recommended Allocation of Cy Pres Funds, under the heading



## VEGETARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

A list of organizations recommended for allocation of cy pres funds has been brought to our attention. (It is our understanding that the list was prepared by Cory Fein.) We are concerned that the meaning of the word **vegetarian** is not being adhered to under this heading.

### Definition:

A **vegetarian** is anyone who lives on the products of the plant kingdom with or without the use of eggs and dairy products to the entire exclusion of the flesh of all animals (fish, meat, and fowl) for food.  
(International Vegetarian Union, established 1908, c/o Veg Soc UK, Cheshire England)

**vegetarian:** *n.* a person who abstains from animal food, especially that from slaughtered animals, though often not eggs and dairy products *adj.* excluding animal food, especially meat (*a vegetarian diet*).  
(DK Oxford Dictionary 1998, Oxford University Press, Inc., New York NY)

**vegetarian:** a person who eats no meat, and sometimes no animal products (as milk, eggs, etc.); one who advocates a strict vegetable diet as the proper one for all people for reasons of health or because of principles opposing the killing of animals.  
(Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary 1983, Simon & Schuster, NY NY)

It therefore follows that to be recognized as a **vegetarian organization**, an organization would advocate a vegetarian diet and be administered by practicing vegetarians. On the other hand, organizations or entities that do not advocate vegetarian practice and/or are administered by non-vegetarians cannot be considered vegetarian organizations.

The American Vegan Society is a vegetarian organization. In evidence of our vegetarian advocacy we refer you to our magazine (already in file with the court). See page 2 column 1. Our trustees and executive officers are required to be vegetarian (vegan).

Regarding the McDonald's Settlement Allocation of Cy Pres Funds:

Organizations set to receive funds under the heading of **Vegetarian Organizations** should be required to submit proof of their vegetarian practice, advocacy and commitment in addition to proof of their nonprofit status.

In particular, we question the qualifications under this heading of:

Tufts University Dept. Nutrition  
UNC, Chapel Hill, Dept. of Nutrition

Muslim Consumer Group for Food Products  
Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA)  
Sound Vision Foundation

The universities, by virtue of their unbiased academic and scientific inquiry, do not take a stand for or against vegetarianism and therefore cannot be considered vegetarian organizations even if they propose a study of vegetarian diets, or scholarships for vegetarian nutrition studies.

Since the three Muslim groups are concerned with Halal dietary laws that include instruction on how permissible meats such as beef, sheep, chicken etc. are slaughtered – naming Allah when the throat is slit; they fit more closely under the Kosher heading. They certainly do not belong under the vegetarian heading.

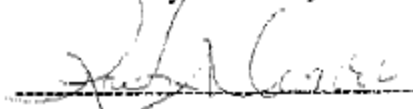
We petition the court to remove the non-vegetarian organizations from the list of vegetarian organizations. Rather, there are nonprofit vegetarian organizations of national scope that are not presently set to receive funds from the settlement allocation that would legitimately and superlatively fulfill the settlement agreement under the designation of vegetarian organizations.

Submitted by



Freya Dinshah, President AVS

Subscribed and affirmed before me  
This 22nd day Of January 2003



Notary Public in and for the County  
of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

ROSEANN DEMERS  
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY  
My Commission Expires April 28, 2004

Declaration by American Vegan Society, Malaga New Jersey, January 21, 2003. P.2