



Jeffrey P. Helsdon
Delegate to the American Kennel Club
Doberman Pinscher Club of America

July 20, 2007

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner, National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

212-681-7599 *via Facsimile
and Surface Mail*

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA) is the Parent Club of the breed to the American Kennel Club. I write to you today to urge you to suspend Mr. Michael Vick indefinitely pending the outcome of his criminal proceedings.

The basis for the establishment of your recent policy to take disciplinary action against players whose conduct exhibits repeated offenses, irrespective of whether a conviction has yet occurred, is two-fold. First is the recognition by the NFL of the high profile of its players and their influence on children in particular. Second is the tacit understanding that the NFL has a responsibility to its fans – and particularly to those children – to ensure that the high profile of the players so cultivated and developed by the NFL is used for productive and not for destructive ends.

A failure by your office to suspend Mr. Vick indefinitely cannot be squared with your decision to suspend indefinitely Mr. Adam "Pacman" Jones. Mr. Jones has allegedly engaged in repeated incidents of conduct deemed incompatible with the behavior required of a player in the NFL. Those incidents were charged on different dates.

Mr. Vick also has been charged with engaging in repeated incidents of conduct that can only be described as sickening and repulsive by any sense of decency and morality. The fact that the conspiracy with which he is charged, and the multiple incidents of cruelty that are part of the indictment, exist in one common indictment rather than in separate indictments cannot constitute a rational basis to treat Mr. Vick differently than Mr. Jones.

To allow Mr. Vick to escape an indefinite suspension because the alleged conspirators successfully avoided scrutiny from justice until recently, and thus a single indictment occurred alleging the multiple instances of criminal conduct, runs counter to the NFL's

stated policy. Moreover, the conduct in which Mr. Vick is alleged to have engaged is substantially worse than conduct by any other player with which you have been faced, and has been engaged in by one of the highest profile players in the league.

You have an opportunity in this case to establish your policy with the emphasis that will give every parent of every child fan of the NFL the ability to help teach their children the incontrovertible truth about the horrific allegations in the Vick case. While we appreciate the importance of the decision you face, the only consistent, moral and correct decision is to suspend Mr. Vick indefinitely for the horrific conspiracy with which he is charged.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey P. Helsdon
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JPH: tbs

cc: Dr. Sam F. Burke, Jr., President, DPCA
Board of Directors, DPCA