



Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

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PARTNERS IN PREVENTION NOT DESTRUCTION

Showtime Networks Headquarters
1633 Broadway
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To Whom It May Concern,

On October 14th, we were made aware of several posts on blogs across the Internet about your trailer for your new series, *Shameless*. We would like to add our voice to those that joined in opposition to the image of the cat and the blow torch. We would like to thank you, however, as it appears (based on a new Internet search this morning) that you have changed your trailer and omitted that clip.

We realize that no one in the general public knows, yet, where that particular scene was headed, and we understand that the clip was short and did not actually depict overt animal abuse in progress. The mere implication, though, created by showing an animal and a blow torch in close proximity, particularly while the words "wildly, unapologetically shameless" were spoken by the narrator, among a series of clips that paint a fictional family of people who behave badly, was inappropriate and upsetting to a great many animal-lovers. We are very happy that you heard those who spoke out about it and that you've done the responsible thing and removed the clip.

Many children, and even young adults, have not been properly taught respect and compassion for animals and can be easily swayed by the images and attitudes that they see portrayed on television and in movies. When the suggestion of torturing an animal is seen in the context of comedy, and is presented as acceptable behavior, the perceived (and resulting) lack of empathy permeates our society, one person at a time.

It is widely understood that many of the most notorious serial-killers tortured animals as children. A child generally learns compassion early on, and one important way that compassion is learned is by being taught to treat animals with respect. A young person's behavior toward animals so often predicts their future treatment of people. When respect for animals is not a moral that is upheld by those who have great influence over our children, we believe the future of our society is in great jeopardy.

Thank you again, Showtime, for showing us that you are listening!

Sincerely,

Jean Smith
Paws and Claws Society, Inc.

