

April 23, 2010

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals - PETA
501 Front St.,
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear PETA,

In response to your January 21, 2010 letter concerning the unethical treatment of groundhogs, I present to you P.H.I.L., an animatronic groundhog to replace Punxatawney Phil.

During the past three months, I have developed a robotic version of Phil that simulates the appearance and behavior of the real Punxatawney groundhog. P.H.I.L. is programmed to run away from any visible shadow and thus continue to predict the signs of an early spring as the traditional Phil has been doing for the past 123 years.

The animatronic P.H.I.L. is equipped with a programmable microcontroller, photosensors and electric motors that adapt to different light conditions. His erratic behavior is comparable to that of a live groundhog.

It is my hope that P.H.I.L. fits your petition of a more futuristic, interactive, versatile and humane Groundhog Day in Punxatawney, Pennsylvania.

Yours sincerely,

Esteban García
Doctoral Student
College of Technology
Purdue University