Kate Arnold-Forster Head of UMASCS/Director of MERL Museum of English Rural Life University of Reading Redlands Road Reading, Berkshire RG1 5EX

Dear Ms Arnold-Foster,

I'm contacting you from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK – one of the largest animal rights groups in the country – after hearing about the unlucky mouse who was recently found in an old mouse trap on display in the museum. Following the incident, we respectfully ask that you consider putting up a small informative plaque beside the display to remind the public that humane rodent traps, such as the one I have enclosed, are much more effective and allow the animals to be captured without harm.

Ample evidence shows that lethal methods will never work to keep rodents away in the long run and can actually have the opposite effect. Mice are opportunistic survivors whose populations thrive according to the availability of food, water and shelter. Simply modifying the environment to make it less desirable to them will encourage them to stay away. These modifications can include keeping food in sealed containers and sealing any holes in walls and foundations. Using live traps rather than lethal methods means that your uninvited caller can be harmlessly released into a non-populated area.

Mice are complex, unique beings with the capacity to experience a wide range of emotions. They're natural students who excel at learning and understanding concepts. Much like us, mice and rats are very social creatures. They become attached to one another, love their families and enjoy playing, wrestling and sleeping curled up together. Mice are also fastidiously clean animals who groom themselves several times a day and are less likely than dogs or cats to transmit parasites and viruses. They, like all animals, deserve our compassion, so it's essential that we use humane methods to solve perceived problems with them.

May I please hear from you to discuss the creation of an informative plaque to let museum patrons know that lethal rodent traps belong firmly in the past?

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

K. Henderson

Kirsty Henderson, Campaign Coordinator

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