



Governor Steve Bradford  
 HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs  
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PEOPLE FOR  
 THE ETHICAL  
 TREATMENT  
 OF ANIMALS

15 April 2016

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Dear Mr Bradford,

Info@peta.org.uk

I am writing on behalf of PETA UK, an affiliate of PETA US, which is the largest animal rights organisation in the world and has more than 3 million members and supporters worldwide, including many here in Britain. It has come to our attention that Wormwood Scrubs currently has some “uninvited guests” residing at the prison, namely rats. I am writing to urge you to use only kind and humane methods when removing the rats from the property. I have enclosed one such example of a humane trap, which is far more effective and captures the animals without harm, for your use.

Lethal methods never work to control unwanted rodent populations in the long term and can actually have the opposite effect. Rats are intelligent, 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. Rats who do get in should be removed using humane box traps, which must be checked several times a day to prevent captured rats from suffering from dehydration or starvation. Once caught, they can then be harmlessly released into an unpopulated area. Lethal measures such as glue traps, which cause animals to die slowly and painfully of starvation or dehydration, and poisons should never be used.

Rats are complex, unique individuals with the capacity to experience a wide range of emotions. They're natural students who excel at learning and understanding new concepts. Much like us, they are very social creatures. They become attached to one another, love their families, and enjoy playing, wrestling and sleeping curled up together. They 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.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We hope you, as the governor of one of the largest prisons in the UK, will set the right example for prisoners and demonstrate that all living beings deserve to be treated in a non-violent, compassionate and respectful manner. May we hear back from you at your earliest convenience?

Yours sincerely,

*K. Henderson*

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
 TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
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Affiliates:

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- PETA Netherlands

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