



June 22, 2016

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and its affiliates, which has more than 5 million members and supporters worldwide, and AnimaNaturalis, Spain's largest animal rights organization, we are writing about your upcoming visit to Spain with an urgent request that you steer clear of Pamplona's hideously cruel Running of the Bulls, a barbaric "frat house-style" event that has been condemned by the public internationally and by every animal-protection group in the world.

Before being released onto narrow streets crowded with drunken revelers, bulls are prodded and goaded to make them panic and stampede. They slip on the cobblestones and try to escape screaming people who grab and twist their tails and hit them with sticks and other objects. The bulls frequently lose their footing and fall, breaking their horns and sustaining cuts and bruises. The daytime run is a prelude to the gory killings at night that the bulls endure in Pamplona's bullfighting arena, where they are taunted and stabbed by *picadores*, who run them in circles until they are dizzy, weakened from blood loss, and in pain. The matador—which literally translates as "killer"—appears when the exhausted bull is already nearly dead to deliver a sword thrust between the shoulder blades. The bulls are sometimes still conscious as their ears and tails are cut off as "trophies" and they are dragged from the ring.

There is immense opposition to bull-related events in Spain. Many are already banned, and Pamplona's "run" eventually will be. The overwhelming majority of residents oppose bullfights. This bloody spectacle that is thinly disguised as a "tradition" is kept alive only by naïve tourists who, after seeing the gruesome reality, are often sickened that they had any part of it. We hope their ranks will not include an American president. Please make sure that this violent and archaic event is not on your itinerary. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Ingrid E. Newkirk
President
PETA

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AnimaNaturalis

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OF ANIMALS

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