

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALSBryan Carroll, CEO
Bristol Zoo Gardens

26 July 2016

Via e-mail: bcarroll@bristolzoo.org.ukPO Box 70315
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Dear Dr Carroll,

I am writing on behalf of PETA UK, along with our hundreds of thousands of members and supporters around the country, including in Bristol, to urge you to cancel your upcoming event "Big Night Out", scheduled to be held on 29 July 2016.

Scientific research shows that during normal opening hours, the presence of zoo visitors can have a detrimental impact on animal welfare. Opening the zoo during the night, when animals would normally be resting, is likely to have an even greater negative welfare impact, particularly if visitors behave in a manner that stresses the animals. During late-night events at the London Zoo in 2014, members of the public were apparently able to disturb and even injure the animals in the enclosures. It was reported that one person tried to pour beer on a tiger and that another attempted to undress and then enter the penguin enclosure.

Bristol Zoo Gardens is responsible for the safety and well-being of the animals in its care. Allowing a late-night event in which visitors consume alcohol and party with loud music does not demonstrate adequate consideration for animal welfare. The intelligent and sensitive animals will likely feel terrified, threatened, and alarmed when subjected to chaotic crowds and the noises of uninhibited partygoers out on a Friday night.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We hope to inform our members that Bristol Zoo Gardens has cancelled "Big Night Out" and committed never to holding a late-night event again. May we hear back from you on this important matter? I can be reached at KirstyH@peta.org.uk or on 0207 837 6327, extension 227.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Henderson
Senior Campaigns Coordinator

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