



Martin Glenn, CEO  
The Football Association

18 May 2016

**Via e-mail:** christina.magill@thefa.com

Dear Mr Glenn,

I am writing on behalf of PETA UK – an affiliate of PETA US, which is the world's largest animal rights organisation and has more than 5 million members and supporters worldwide, many of whom are fervent football fans. It has come to our attention that the Football Association (FA) has granted permission to Hereford Football Club (FC) to parade Hawkesbury Ronaldo, a bull they have made their team mascot, for 30 minutes before the start of the FA Vase final on Sunday at Wembley Stadium. Animals are not props, so I'm writing to ask you to revoke the permission granted to Hereford FC and implement a policy against allowing the use of live animals in football stadiums.

Bulls are sensitive animals who are extremely intelligent and aware of their surroundings. Ronaldo would likely be terrified and alarmed if subjected to crowds of shouting football fans at Wembley Stadium. When exposed to such a stressful and unnatural environment, any animal's reaction would be impossible to predict, which creates a potential risk to spectators and staff at the match.

Rather than encouraging a sporting atmosphere, by allowing Hereford FC to exhibit Ronaldo at Wembley Stadium, the FA would be sending the message to football fans around the world that it's acceptable to treat animals as objects and to use them for entertainment. There are so many alternative ways to entertain a football crowd rather than by distressing Ronaldo. Why not encourage Hereford FC to have two of their supporters dress up as a bull and promote their team in a manner that avoids all cruelty to animals?

As the leading football organisation in the UK and one of the most highly respected worldwide, the FA should set a compassionate example for others. Please act immediately and use your influence to stop Ronaldo from having to endure the stress and misery of being paraded in front of thousands of screaming football fans on Sunday and thereby ensure that such prestigious competitions are not tainted by cruelty.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We hope to inform our members, including football lovers, that the FA has put a stop to this and committed to refraining from using bulls or any other live animals at all future football events. May we please hear back from you on this important matter?

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Henderson  
Campaign Coordinator

PEOPLE FOR  
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