

## Letter to write to organisers of events featuring petting zoos or other live animal displays

*Please add in the relevant details before you send your letter. Let us know if you receive a positive response by e-mailing [Action@peta.org.uk](mailto:Action@peta.org.uk)*

Dear **Sir/Madam**,

I am writing to urge you to cancel plans to feature a **petting zoo/live animal display** at **[Name of Venue]** on **[scheduled date]**.

A busy public space, filled with noisy crowds and excited children, is a highly unsuitable environment for animals. Being handled and forced into close proximity with strangers can be a stressful and traumatic experience for most animals, especially shy prey animals such as rabbits and chinchillas. For children, there's nothing educational about seeing terrified living beings kept in extremely unnatural conditions.

What's more, petting zoos contribute to a cruel cycle of breeding, abandonment, and killing. Exhibitors take young animals on the road and, if they survive the stress of transport and handling, typically dispose of them when they become more difficult to handle or less "cute".

These exhibits can also present a risk to human health. Experts indicate that petting zoos are hotbeds of serious pathogens, including *E coli* and salmonella. The area surrounding an animal's cage can be teeming with bacteria. According to the [Health and Safety Executive](#), infections can spread through direct or even indirect contact with animals, and in some cases, the illness can be fatal.

Please do the right thing by cancelling this unethical event. There are many other family-friendly activities – such as face-painting, bouncy castles, and craft workshops – that will keep children entertained without posing a risk to their health or causing suffering to animals.

Sincerely,

**[Your name and address]**