



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Michael Glasson
Senior Museums Curator
Leather Museum

15 December 2016

Via e-mail: leathermuseum@walsall.gov.uk

Dear Mr Glasson,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA, the largest animal rights organisation in the UK, with more than 1 million members and supporters – including many in Walsall – with an offer to help alleviate some of the Leather Museum's financial difficulties. We'd like to pay for a vegan leather exhibit to feature prominently at the museum, showing that the future of leather lies in sustainable and innovative fabrics that don't harm the planet or the animals who live on it.

It's no secret that leather is a product of cruelty. Most of the millions of cows and other animals whose skins are turned into leather endure the horrors of factory farming. They're often confined to extremely crowded enclosures, deprived of food and water, and exposed to disease. Branding, tail-docking, dehorning, and castration are all performed without any painkillers. The animals are often transported hundreds of miles to abattoirs, where improper stunning means that some are skinned while still alive.

Not only is the leather trade cruel to animals, it's also harmful to the environment and human health. In its production, massive amounts of dangerous chemicals – including formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives, and cyanide-based oils and dyes – leach into the environment. The pollutants used to prevent dead animals' skins from rotting – such as lime sludge, sulphides, and acids – make leather far from biodegradable. These toxic substances can make their way into the soil and nearby water supplies, causing many tannery workers and local residents to become sick.

Fortunately, versatile vegan leathers made from polyurethane, cork, waxed cotton, Piñatex (derived from pineapple leaves), and MuSkin (derived from mushroom caps) – which are kinder to animals and the environment – are increasingly being used by designers and fashion houses. We'd be delighted to work with you to showcase these eco- and animal-friendly fabrics.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Elisa Allen
Director
PETA UK

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
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