



The Reverend Jackie Taylor
Fore Street
Kingsbridge
Devon
TQ1 1PP

14 July 2017

Dear Ms Taylor,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing today on behalf of PETA – and our more than 1 million members and supporters, many of whom live in Devon. We were disappointed to learn that as part of the Kingsbridge Fair, St Edmund's Church will allow visitors to “get close to” various owls and other birds of prey. Because of the numerous animal-welfare concerns surrounding such encounters, we respectfully urge you to cancel plans to use live animals in the event immediately.

Owls are solitary predators, and it's completely against their nature to be tethered, surrounded by other birds of prey, and exposed to crowds. Subjecting these sensitive animals, who have especially acute hearing and vision, to the stress of travel, a cacophony of sounds, and hordes of strangers at a fair would be a tremendously frightening experience for them. As nocturnal animals, they should be allowed to sleep during the day, not gawped at by fair-goers.

What's more, owls don't enjoy the company of humans, and so much as touching them can cause them stress and interfere with the natural oils in their feathers that keep them warm and dry. And while owl attacks on humans are rare, they do happen – and are often quite devastating – when these wild animals are held captive.

We hope you'll agree that the best place for kind owl enthusiasts to admire these birds is in their natural environment, not at a fair. Removing this one aspect of the event would do nothing to diminish the community's enjoyment of the day – for the animals, though, it would make a world of difference.

May we hear from you about this important matter? I can be reached on 020 7837 6327 or at LukeS@peta.org.uk. I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Luke Steele
Campaigns Strategist
PETA UK

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