



To: Mark Hardy, Group Catering Manager, Squire's Garden Centres
From: Elisa Allen, Director, PETA UK

Dear Mr Hardy,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) with a proposal that we hope you'll consider. After learning that Squire's Garden Centre in Cobham will be emptying its fish tanks to create space for an extended dining area, I wanted to get in touch to request that you also, fittingly, declare the newly refurbished café a fish-free zone.

Instead of dishing up sea animals, perhaps you'd consider offering your visitors vegan options such as fish-free fish fingers, fish-free tuna pâté, and vegetarian prawns. These are delicious, environmentally friendly, and free of the toxins and cholesterol found in fish flesh, and – most importantly – no one has to die for them.

Human consumption of sea animals causes catastrophic destruction in the Earth's oceans. Factory trawlers and fishing fleets are vacuuming the oceans clean of life at an alarming pace. Fish farms introduce non-native animals into sensitive ecosystems, and commercial fishing ships "clear-cut" the ocean floor and inadvertently maim and kill billions of non-target marine animals, including porpoises and sea lions.

Although fish may not always express suffering in ways that humans can easily recognise, experts around the world agree that they're sensitive, intelligent animals who feel pain and have complex social structures. In fact, a 2014 study from the University of Cambridge showed that fish have good memories, work collaboratively to achieve goals, and have cognitive abilities that can actually surpass those of dogs and some primates. Leading marine biologist Dr Sylvia Earle says that "fish are sensitive, they have personalities, they hurt when they're wounded."

We'd be delighted to promote the addition of cruelty-free faux fish to your menus, and we hope you'll consider rolling it out across all Squire's branches.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Best wishes,

Elisa Allen

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Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

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