



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

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Town Centre Team
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham, OL1 1UG

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA – the largest animal rights organisation in the UK – and our more than 1 million members and supporters, many of whom have contacted us to express dismay over plans to host a petting farm at the ["Spring Into Oldham" Easter event in Oldham town centre on 24 March](#). I hope you'll consider cancelling the event and introducing a policy against hosting such exhibits in the future after reviewing the information below.

A busy space filled with a noisy crowd is a highly unsuitable environment for many animals. Being forced into close proximity with strangers and handled by them is a stressful and traumatic experience for most species, who, unlike the human visitors, cannot leave the event when they've had enough.

Experts have indicated that travelling animal shows are hotbeds of serious pathogens, including *E coli* and salmonella. The area surrounding an animal's enclosure can be teeming with bacteria. According to the [Health and Safety Executive](#), infections can spread through direct or even indirect animal contact and can, in some cases, be fatal. Those with weakened immune systems are especially at risk. People who come into contact with *E coli*, for example, can develop bloody diarrhoea, anaemia, chronic kidney failure, and neurological conditions such as seizures and strokes.

What's more, these displays also 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 control, replacing them with new animals. Every year, sanctuaries have to turn away requests to house large animals, while other cast-offs end up entering the exotic pet trade.

Easter is a celebration of life and love, and a petting farm with stressed, miserable animals has no place at such a joyous occasion. Oldham residents can enjoy the many other wonderful activities you have planned – without putting themselves and animals at risk. I implore you to reconsider hosting this exhibit and to make a formal commitment to not including animal displays in your events in the future.

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
London EC4N 6AF.
Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands



Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. May we hear back from you at your earliest convenience so that we can inform our members of your decision?

Sincerely,

Teodora Zglimbea
Outreach Coordinator

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