



Lauren Eynon  
Manager  
Queens

11 January 2019

Via e-mail: [info@queens.london](mailto:info@queens.london)

Dear Ms Eynon,

I am writing on behalf of PETA and our more than 1 million members and supporters to urge you to cancel plans to allow customers to skate with real penguins and to adopt a policy against having live animals at your venue in the future.

Anyone who has seen the beautiful film *March of the Penguins* knows that penguins who live free in the wild have rich, meaningful lives, and they don't deserve to be held in captivity, subjected to the stress of transportation, and exploited as "props". We hope you'll agree that a busy, noisy venue such as yours, filled with bright lights and excited children and adults, is an entirely unsuitable environment for penguins or any other animals. Humboldt penguins belong in the cold water and on the rocky islands off the coast of South America, not at an entertainment venue in London.

What's more, Humboldt penguins, in particular, are known to experience stress in the presence of humans. They don't habituate well to life in captivity, much less to being toted around and displayed. Breeding colonies of Humboldt penguins in UK zoos have approximately half the number of chicks that free-living, undisturbed wild colonies do (see [here](#) for more information), and aspergillosis – a stress-related, opportunistic fungal infection – is more prevalent in captive populations of this and other penguin species than it is in wild ones.

We urge you to follow the examples of famed London toy shop Hamleys and Nottingham's intu Broadmarsh shopping centre, both of which cancelled plans to include penguins in their events after a public outcry and now refrain from featuring similar displays. There are many other ways to attract customers that would not compromise animal welfare.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,

Elisa Allen  
Director

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315  
London N1P 2RG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327  
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

[Info@peta.org.uk](mailto:Info@peta.org.uk)

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.

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