



Kevin Lygo  
Director of Television  
ITV

17 October 2019

Via e-mail: [kevin.lygo@itv.com](mailto:kevin.lygo@itv.com)

Dear Mr Lygo,

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)! We are long-time fans of ITV's *Take Me Out* and look forward to the next series. But as much as we're excited to see where the search for true love takes the lucky couples, we cringe when it takes them to ride sensitive, smart camels on the Isle of Fernando's. That's why I'm writing – to ask, on behalf of our more than 1 million members and supporters, that you leave these cruel rides off the itinerary in the new series.

Camels are highly intelligent, sentient beings who respond with noble dignity when treated with respect. The Bedouin people of North Africa and the Khalkha of Mongolia hold them in such high esteem that they're regarded as members of the family. But camels who are forced to give rides to tourists aren't treated like family. [PETA Asia eyewitnesses at tourist sites in Egypt](#), including the Great Pyramid of Giza, saw these regal animals being beaten bloody with sticks by men and children before being sold to the tourism industry. Used for rides in the blistering heat, they were denied access to food, water, and shade. Some were later sold for meat. Likewise, in Petra, Jordan, a [PETA Asia eyewitness saw camels forced to work with fly-infested, open wounds](#) caused by workers pulling hard on their bridles.

This abuse isn't limited to the Middle East – it exists anywhere that animals are used for entertainment. And when ITV showcases these rides, there's a real danger that viewers will be tempted to support this abusive industry when on holiday.

I hope you'll agree that featuring camel rides on *Take Me Out* suggests to viewers that there's nothing wrong with using camels for a fleeting thrill – perpetuating their abuse – rather than treating them with the respect they deserve.

What do you say, Mr Lygo? No ridey, more likey?

Sincerely,

Elisa Allen  
Director  
PETA UK



Elisa Allen  
Director

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