



Cllr Colin Huckle
Deputy Mayor
Weymouth Town Council

8 June 2020

Dear Mr Huckle,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) with a *timely* request: we'd like to pay to place an eye-catching temporary banner on the Jubilee Clock Tower that reads, "It's High Time We Went Vegan."

It's time to *face* the facts: the COVID-19 outbreak is believed to have originated in a Chinese "wet market" that sold sea animals, live birds, and exotic animals for human consumption. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 75% of recently emerged infectious diseases in humans came from other species. SARS, which originated in bats, claimed 774 lives. Swine flu, or H1N1 – which originated in pigs – killed as many as 575,400 people. And the COVID-19 death toll has already surpassed 400,000.

Zoonotic diseases aren't limited to a single country or to wet markets – wherever animals are bred, intensively confined in their own filth, and slaughtered, humans risk causing another pandemic. In a paper published in 2018, Belgian spatial epidemiologist Marius Gilbert found that more "conversion events" for bird flu – in which a not very pathogenic strain of the virus becomes more dangerous – had occurred in Australia, Europe, and the US than in China, where it originated.

We can't *turn back the clock*, but anyone worried about the COVID-19 outbreak can adopt a vegan lifestyle to help prevent the next global pandemic. Consuming meat, eggs, and dairy has long been known to be unhealthy and completely unnecessary, and the current coronavirus crisis is just one more reason that we, as a society, need to *ring* the alarm. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Elisa Allen
Director
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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