

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALSLt Col Mathew Woodward
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

10 June 2024

Via Regimental Adjutant
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Dear Lt Col Woodward:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our 1.3 million members and supporters to share our concerns about reports that at least three of the five Household Cavalry horses injured in April will likely perform in Trooping the Colour later this month, with the two who were most severely injured predicted to soon follow them back into service. Clearly, these horses are easily agitated and sensitive to noise. Forcing them to perform at a crowded event marked by drums *and* a 41-gun salute would place them and the public at risk.

The whole world was rightly shocked to see images of scared, blood-soaked horses running through the streets of London after getting spooked during April's failed exercise. The fear and pain these animals experienced – and more recent photos that show Vida and Quaker relishing their recovery time in an open pasture – should remind us that they are feeling individuals, not military equipment. As prey animals, horses have a strong natural flight instinct, which is impossible to fully desensitise them to, and no matter how well trained they are, it can *never* be guaranteed they won't react while “on duty”.

In 2024, animals are no longer a necessary part of the military. As society modernises, so should our institutions to reflect our values and protect the vulnerable, which includes animals, from harm. Tradition is never an excuse for animal suffering, and each horse deserves to live free from the stress they endure when paraded through a busy, loud capital city with a human on their back, all for the amusement of noisy, unpredictable crowds.

Please retire Trojan, Tennyson, Vanquish, Vida, and Quaker without delay and work to end the use of horses in the military altogether.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Werner
Senior Campaigns Manager

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
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