



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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Martin Green  
Director, Eurovision Song Contest, European Broadcasting Union

Dear Mr. Green,

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and congratulations on the success of Saturday's Eurovision Song Contest finale. As superfans, we were thrilled not to spot any of the contestants wearing feathers. Was this the first *ever* feather-free Eurovision? Please keep it this way and help to spread a message of compassion for *all* by updating the event's dress code to specify that only glorious *faux* feathers may be worn by contestants.

Part of the fun of Eurovision is the outlandish outfits, but all too often, over the show's history, this has come at the expense of terrified birds who were painfully live-plucked and had their throats cut before their feathers were stolen. Contrary to myth, ostriches don't 'drop' their feathers for fashion. Rather, these clever individuals, who in nature run at speeds of seventy kilometres per hour, are confined to barren dirt lots before being [slaughtered](#) at just a year old, and the feathers torn from their still-warm bodies. Brightly coloured feather boas, hats, and trims come from terrified turkeys and chickens who have suffered the horrors of factory farming for so-called 'marabou' feathers, where they are kept in dark, filthy sheds. Peacock farms are another atrocity, where as many as 10,000 birds can be confined in crowded conditions, and sickness and injuries are common. The Eurovision dress code prohibits 'full nudity', but we suspect you'll say 'I'd rather go naked than wear feathers' after watching [PETA exposés](#) of birds being live-plucked and dunked in scalding hot defeathering tanks whilst still conscious for their plumage.

Farming birds for their feathers and flesh is also a risk to human health. Intensive farms cause catastrophic damage to the environment and pollution and pave the way for a crippling [avian flu pandemic](#). Eurovision was a victim of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, so this is yet another reason to champion cruelty-free faux feathers.

Like fur, feathers are falling out of fashion, which could account for their absence from Saturday's show. Designer [Stella McCartney](#) has launched a feather-free fashion pledge in collaboration with PETA, the BBC's [Strictly Come Dancing](#) is foxtrotting away from feathers, and fashion events in Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki, and Melbourne are showcasing faux feathers made from tulle, pampas grass, silicone, embroidery, and much more.

As an event founded on equality, social justice, and joy, we hope you agree to champion extending those values to all, including birds, by updating the Eurovision Song Contest dress code to permit only fabulous *faux* feathers at all future events that no one had to die for.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,



Mimi Bekhechi  
Eurovision Superfan and Vice President of PETA UK, Europe, and Australia

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
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