

Sark Carnival Committee c/o Le Vallon D'Or Sark

4 June 2025

Dear Sark Carnival Committee Members,

I'm writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to urge you to leave sheep out of the next Sark Sheep Race and hold a carnival involving only willing human participants instead.

Sheep are many things, but they are *not* clowns for human entertainment or professional athletes on whom to wager. They are gentle, good-natured, playful, and loving animals with complex emotions. They are also protective parents and resourceful problem-solvers. Above all, they're individuals who feel pain and fear.

Corralling these prey animals into pens, exposing them to noisy spectators, and making them run out of fear amounts to abuse. The sheep do not consent to participating in this confusing and stressful event and should be left in peace. Holding sheep races sends a dangerous message to young people that it is acceptable to objectify animals and use them as little more than living props.

Using animals as exhibits has no place in modern entertainment. Blackgang Chine, Butlin's, Moulin Rouge, and Thorpe Park are some of many animal-free attractions. And South Tyneside, Wirral, Oldham and Knowsley councils have ended the use of live animals at events and festivals.

There are plenty of fun and family-friendly rural activities without animals that can be celebrated. How about a *potato* and spoon race, a hobby horse jump competition, or a tractor tug of war?

Will you embrace a compassionate future by ending tawdry sheep racing and holding a modern animal-friendly event that *everyone* can enjoy?

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Carys Bennett

Senior Corporate Projects Liaison

Cays Finell

PETA

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

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