

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALSPO Box 70315  
London N1P 2RG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327  
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

Info@peta.org.uk

His Majesty the King  
Buckingham Palace  
London  
SW1A 1AA

**4 February 2026**

Sir:

I admire your determination to leave the planet and its inhabitants protected as your legacy. I share that same ambition and am of the same age as Your Highness. Please consider my most respectful and urgent request: embrace one truth that we must face, however inconvenient—no human choice affects the environment more than what we eat. Your Majesty holds a privilege that few can emulate: the ability to reduce your environmental impact and the suffering of animals by raising them outside of factory farming. That said, the evidence is clear and consistent: reducing everyone's detrimental impact on the environment requires a transition away from animal-based diets.

Considered the most detailed research of its kind to date, a [study](#) from the University of Oxford has found that animal-free diets produce roughly 75% fewer emissions than high-meat diets and reduce water use by 54%, wildlife destruction by 66%, and methane production by 93%. Research published in the journal [Climate](#) has hypothesised that, if we all choose vegan foods over non-vegan foods, the world's food-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could drop by 68% – the very reduction needed to avoid the two-degree “tipping point” – within 15 years.

With one in six British species now at risk of extinction, we can surely no longer ignore that using 85% of the UK's total agricultural land for methane-emitting animal agriculture is untenable. Given that dairy and meat products provide just 32% of the UK's calories and less than half our protein, I believe that Your Highness will agree that decimating the Earth to torture living, feeling individuals while feeding them the plants we could eat ourselves is what's truly bonkers.

Aside from being land-hungry, water-intensive, and incredibly cruel, animal agriculture threatens nature's delicate balance in other ways: zoonotic diseases are currently brewing in crowded, filthy sheds, and avian flu has already infected 78 UK bird species, otters, seals, and red foxes, and now at least one British human.

Our appetite for flesh and other bits and pieces from cows, chickens, and the rest is condemning us to climate catastrophe.

For animals, your health, and true environmental harmony, I beg you, please, Your Highness, to set an example for the nation, actually for the world, and decide to go vegan.

Yours faithfully,

Ingrid Newkirk  
Founder, PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
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company limited by guarantee,  
with its registered office at  
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,  
London EC4N 6AF.  
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