PEOPLE FOR
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OF ANIMALS

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Ullapool Fire and Light Fund

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Dear Volunteers:

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, PETA. As Christmas approaches, we'd like to offer you a bright idea for a twinkling festive centrepiece that truly says 'goodwill to all': replace your crab net (creel) tree with a living Crab *Apple* tree and lights – paid for by PETA.

Christmas is the season of joy, but crab nets represent pain and suffering for thousands of Ullapool residents – crabs and other shellfish. Crabs are sensitive individuals who, like us, feel pain and stress and don't want to die. Clever and social, crabs work together to gather food for their families and for mutual protection. They learn from their mistakes, like to keep their homes neat, and cooperate to achieve everything from neighbourhood peace to finding housing.

Despite decapod crustaceans being recognised as sentient beings, cruel creels imprison crabs *en masse*, triggering territorial fights that they naturally try to avoid – just to satisfy 'shellfish' human appetites. Cooks also continue to stack crabs in tanks with their claws bound; dismember and declaw crabs without pain relief, and boil them alive, resulting in a painful and protracted death.

Crab Apple trees, on the other hand, harm no one, and they look 'claw-some' all year long. Throughout Spring, they sport gorgeous blooms, and in Autumn they bear small, tart fruits that can be used in seasonal jam. Come Christmas, they can be festooned in coloured bulbs, meaning you can still 'shell-ebrate' Christmas in style.

Christmas is a time for peace on Earth, but a 'death tree' made from crab traps is as gruesome a centrepiece as one made from steel jaw traps, which painfully clamp onto the legs of bears and wolves, or one featuring glue traps, which see birds and small mammals writhe in agony and starve.

Ullapool shouldn't be known for abusing sea life. Please let our offer of a compassionate Crab Apple tree grow on you.

I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Dawn Carr
Vice President, Vegan Projects, PETA

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