



The Hon. Julie Collins, MP
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)

Cc: Victoria Anderson, Secretary

12 March 2026

Dear Minister:

I'm writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding the current conflict facing Australian citizens in Gulf states and their companion animals as they attempt to flee missile attacks. Reports suggest that people are abandoning companion animals on the streets because they are faced with the impossible decision of leaving their beloved animals behind due to Australian animal import regulations. **We urge you to relax these regulations to allow people to bring their animal companions into Australia.**

Conflict creates exceptional circumstances, and governments must be flexible. During the Ukraine crisis, several European countries—including Austria, Belgium, Hungary and Croatia—temporarily relaxed animal import rules to allow refugees to bring their companion animals, with veterinary checks and quarantine measures implemented after arrival.

Animals do not start wars, yet they are often victims of them. Considering the dangerous circumstances, please suspend the Australian regulations to allow people from Gulf states refuge in Australia with their animal companions, saving lives.

Yours sincerely,

Mimi Bekhechi
Senior Campaigns Advisor to PETA Australia

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

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
London EC4N 6AF.
Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands