



The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister of New Zealand

4 September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. We hope this message finds you well during what is a difficult time to be a leader. As you have rightly noted, "It takes courage and strength to be empathetic." It is empathy that we call for today as we ask you to **end all live-animal exports from New Zealand.**

While we commend the government's 2003 ban on live export for slaughter purposes, dangerous loopholes remain that still condemn animals to suffering. Regardless of whether they are shipped for imminent slaughter or to endure miserable lives as "breeding stock" *before* being killed, millions of cows, chickens, sheep, and deer still endure long journeys on rough seas – often while pregnant. They are still confined to small pens on the voyage and, on arrival, face the concrete confines of a factory farm – surely, the saddest place to give birth.

Live-export voyages always expose living, feeling beings to tremendous risk. Now, the ship *Gulf Livestock 1* has been lost at sea, feared to have capsized with 43 crew members - including two New Zealanders - and 5,800 cows aboard. Even animals who survive the journey are condemned to suffer, as we saw last year, when an exposé filmed in Sri Lanka uncovered hundreds of sick and dying cows. Furthermore, as the government has no power to enforce New Zealand welfare standards overseas, animals are vulnerable to slaughter methods that would be illegal here.

As the recent tragedy shows, this is also a human rights issue. In 2016, veterinarian Dr Lynn Simpson spoke out about human rights concerns within the industry, saying, "What shocked me most [about live export] was the disregard for humanity and the poor conditions that many seafarers are forced to endure." In addition, live-export ships are a potential breeding ground for the next pandemic. In fact, epidemiologist Marylouise McLaws says that live-animal export "can't be safe" and has warned of an outbreak of "ghastly disease".

Even if disasters en route such as that which befell the *Gulf Livestock 1* are avoided, sending animals on arduous journeys to become captive breeding machines, denied their maternal bond as they produce babies who are torn away from them before they're deemed no longer "useful" and their throats are slit, is a travesty that cannot be justified by profits.

We call on the New Zealand government to shut down this cruel industry before any more animals – including humans – suffer.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Rice  
Senior Outreach and Partnerships Manager  
PETA

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Australia

PO Box 20308  
World Square  
Sydney NSW 2002

08 8556 5828  
Info@peta.org.au  
PETA.org.au

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)

PETA Australia Pty Ltd  
ACN – 128209923