



The Hon Scott Morrison MP  
Prime Minister of Australia

15 June 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). As you may know, yesterday was Ban Live Exports Day, which saw people all over the world participate in a digital movement to demand an end to this cruel industry. As such, we're writing today to offer you an exciting chance to make history on this issue – and be awarded a new, less controversial, “I Stopped These” boat trophy for your desk, this time featuring a live-export ship! **All you have to do for this beautiful commendation is end the horrific live-animal export trade once and for all.**

We know you take pride in your current boat trophy, which ostensibly celebrates your work to stop migrant boats during your tenure as immigration minister. However, considering that boat “push-backs” have been condemned by a United Nations expert, as they “may intentionally put lives at risk”, while a ban on live exports would actually *save* lives, we believe that this new trophy from PETA would be more appropriate – and something you could truly be proud of.

Numerous investigations have revealed rampant cruelty aboard live-export ships. In the past 30 years, some 2.5 million animals have died during their weeks-long voyages aboard cramped, sweltering vessels – from starvation, dehydration, respiratory illness, heat stress, and salmonellosis. Others are trampled to death or drown in their own waste. Of course, the suffering doesn't end when the boat docks in the Middle East, where weak animal protection laws mean they're subjected to abuse and slaughter methods that are illegal here. It's no wonder 75% of Australians oppose this barbaric trade.

As the recent coronavirus outbreak aboard the live-export ship the *Al Kuwait* proves, animals aren't the only ones who suffer in this industry. Conditions aboard not only exacerbate the risk of contracting viruses but also expose crew members to dangerous levels of ammonia, carbon dioxide, and highly flammable methane – from the animals and their waste. 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.”

It's time for Australia to evolve past detaining sentient beings while risking their health and their lives and instead resolve to *end* suffering. Stopping the ships at the heart of a cruel industry that violates human and animal rights alike would be a move worth applauding, and we stand ready to reward the compassionate decision by the federal government to end live exports for good.

Yours sincerely,

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