

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

Yasmin Kara
Producer
Dancing With the Stars

Dear Ms. Kara:

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Like many Aussies, we love the glitz and glamour of the *Dancing With The Stars* stage. However, as PETA UK successfully pointed out to the BBC regarding *Strictly Come Dancing*, real birds' feathers are gory, not glamorous, and we urge you to refrain from using them in the series' costumes.

When [PETA US investigated ostrich farms and abattoirs in South Africa](#), where most ostrich feathers originate, eye-witnesses filmed workers forcibly restraining ostriches as young as one year old, striking birds in the head on their way to the slaughterhouse, and mocking frightened birds when they fell. Ostriches are electrically shocked before their throats are slit and their feathers are torn from their still-warm bodies. They're then skinned and dismembered.

It's not only ostriches who suffer. Feathers labelled "marabou" almost always come from turkeys and chickens who've endured short lives on dark, filthy factory farms where sick birds have barely enough room to stretch a wing. Meanwhile, farming and plucking pheasants, parrots, and peacocks is shrouded in secrecy, breeding black market activity. One investigation into peacock farms in China found birds confined to plastic bags, which were taped at their necks to protect their profitable feathers, denying them natural movement and behaviour.

Live plucking is common and causes birds immense pain and sometimes fatal injuries. Factory farming birds to plunder their plumes also increases the risk of a deadly bird flu pandemic. Given how badly COVID chaos affected Australia's theatre industry, we're sure you'll do anything to help avoid another pandemic!

Feathers are falling out of fashion. Shortly after hearing from PETA UK, the BBC assured them that feathers would not be part of future shows. Stella McCartney launched a feather-free fashion pledge in collaboration with PETA UK, and Victoria's Secret recently staged its first show featuring stunning designs made exclusively from faux feathers. Melbourne, Berlin, Copenhagen, and Fashion Weeks have also banned wild feathers from runways.

Please ensure *Dancing With The Stars* shines without real feathers.

Sincerely,

Mimi Bekhechi
Senior Campaigns Advisor

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Entities

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- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)