



The Right Honourable Jacinda Ardern  
Prime Minister of New Zealand

31 March 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

Hello from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). I hope this message finds you well. As the recent Suez Canal incident trapped at least 20 ships carrying cows and sheep, putting the lives of hundreds of thousands of animals at risk, the world's eyes are again on the horrible business of live-animal export. As your government prepares to decide on a ban, we're following up on previous correspondence to ask you again to **end all live-animal export from New Zealand**.

When we last wrote, New Zealand had recently experienced a live-export tragedy – the sinking of the *Gulf Livestock 1*, an incident that claimed the lives of 41 humans and 5,867 cows. That's 5,908 individuals who spent their last moments terrified on the New Zealand Government's watch.

As you know, a horrific fate also awaits animals who survive live-export journeys. The government has no power to enforce New Zealand welfare standards overseas, meaning animals are vulnerable to mistreatment and slaughter methods that would be illegal here.

The millions of cows, chickens, sheep, and other animals thrown about on rough seas, trampled by their shipmates, suffocated by their own faeces, and dying of dehydration, starvation, or illness aboard these ships do not care that New Zealand "only" exports "breeding stock". All this means is that these animals endure gruelling journeys – and face unacceptable risks – only to give birth over and over on hideous factory farms before being killed.

We remind the government once again that live export is also a human rights issue. In 2016, veterinarian Dr Lynn Simpson said of the humans aboard live export vessels: "We all get covered in shit all day every day. There are repercussions ... people get sick, be it the runs or eye infections or sores."

Additionally, live-export ships are a potential breeding ground for the next pandemic. Belgian veterinarian Jeroen Dewulf warns that live animals are the largest source of disease transmission. "The more you are going to move animals," he warns, "the more you run the risk that diseases will be spread through these animals."

Your government has a unique opportunity – and an undeniable responsibility – to protect New Zealanders, no matter their species. **Please, do the right thing: shut down this cruel industry and spare the lives of countless animals – including humans.**

Yours sincerely,

Emily Rice

PEOPLE FOR  
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OF ANIMALS

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