



PETA

**PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
(PETA) FOUNDATION**

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Consultation Team
Oxford City Council
Town Hall, St Aldate's
Oxford
OX1 1BX

The Licensing Authority
Oxford City Council

25 July 2011

Dear Consultation Team,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 130,000 UK members and supporters. Having heard that you are currently considering allowing horse-drawn carriages to operate in the city centre once again, we strongly urge you to decide against it.

Horse-drawn carriages are not only cruel but also dangerous to both horses and people, especially in modern cities. Horses are forced to pull oversized loads in all temperatures and often suffer serious leg ailments from pounding on hard surfaces all day. Lameness and hoof deterioration are common, and many drivers, unwilling or unable to recognise signs of lameness, fail to give injured horses a break from working. Even in cities with stringent rules, violations such as overworking horses or failing to provide proper care are common, yet they frequently go unreported.

Horse-drawn carriages are also dangerous to riders, pedestrians and motorists. Horses can become spooked and run out of control, often causing serious and sometimes fatal accidents. In 2008, a bride in Worcestershire sustained major injuries when she was thrown from a horse-drawn carriage after the horse became frightened and ran amok. Just last month, a woman was killed and a number of other bystanders were injured by a runaway horse and carriage at a country fair in Bury St Edmonds.¹ The liability associated with these rides is very real.

Many cities around the world – including Paris, Toronto, Rome and cities across the US such as Las Vegas and Santa Fe, New Mexico – have banned horse-drawn carriages.

Please make the compassionate decision to protect Oxford's tourists, residents and horses by upholding your policy on horse-drawn carriages and refusing this proposal to reintroduce them. May I please hear from you about this important matter? I can be contacted on +44 (0)207 357 9229, extension 238, or at MimiB@peta.org.uk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your speedy reply.

Yours sincerely,

Mimi Bekhechi
Manager
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

An international
organisation dedicated to
protecting the rights
of all animals.

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