# PETA demands cancellation of livestock Grand Parade at Royal Highland Show



Animal rights group PETA has intensified its campaign against the long-standing tradition of showcasing livestock at the Royal Highland Show, calling for the cancellation of the Grand Parade. The organisation describes this annual event, which takes place from June 19 to 22 at Ingliston near Edinburgh, as a cruel relic that should be consigned to history as Scotland moves into the 21st century. With nearly 200,000 attendees expected and about 4,500 head of livestock on display, the event underlines Scotland's agricultural heritage, yet PETA urges a reevaluation of how animals are treated in such contexts.

Dawn Carr, vice president of vegan corporate projects at PETA, argues for a more progressive approach, suggesting that instead of parading animals before noisy crowds, organisers should celebrate them through public art. She proposed erecting a statue dedicated to farmed animals, emphasising the individuality and complexity of their lives, which she believes are often overlooked. "Cows and bulls are playful and loyal, sheep are clever and empathetic, and chickens are curious and nurturing," Carr articulated. She further stated that transforming the show into a celebration of plant-based farming could honour the work of UK farmers while also acknowledging broader ethical considerations around animal welfare.

This call for change mirrors a broader sentiment that has surfaced among animal rights activists recently. In a demonstration earlier this year, members of the group Animal Rising disrupted events at the Royal Highland Show by gluing themselves to sheep stalls and interrupting competitions. They donned pink T-shirts marked with "For All Life" and engaged in dialogues with attendees while advocating for a transition towards a plant-based food system and rewilding initiatives. Such actions not only delayed competitions by over 20 minutes but also highlighted growing discontent with the traditional practices embedded in agricultural shows.

The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, which organises the event, maintains that they have prioritised animal welfare throughout their 241-year history. Chairman James Logan responded to PETA’s criticism by asserting that claims of cruelty are "inaccurate and misleading." He insists that expert veterinary oversight is in place to ensure that the animals’ needs are met during what he describes as a respectful and calm celebration of Scotland's rural life and agricultural achievements.

While the traditional livestock parade remains a centrepiece of the show, there is increasing pressure from various corners of society to rethink these practices. PETA’s proposition to create a vegan event, dubbed the Royal Highland Grow, would feature plant-based activities and competitions, potentially cultivating a more inclusive environment for all forms of life. Their vision also includes fun ideas like a vegan haggis-eating contest and a turnip beauty pageant, which aim to engage a broader audience while promoting the benefits of plant-based living.

As societal values evolve, the debate surrounding animal rights and agricultural traditions is likely to continue. The Royal Highland Show stands at a crossroads, facing calls from activists for reform while simultaneously cherishing its agricultural heritage. How it chooses to navigate this changing landscape could have significant implications for the future of agricultural events in Scotland.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14766227/Scrap-cruel-archaic-Highland-livestock-parade-say-animal-rights-activists.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/environment/edinburgh-royal-highland-show-2023-animal-rights-group-animal-rising-storms-stage-in-protest-at-highland-show-4195877> - In June 2023, Animal Rising activists disrupted the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh by storming the stage during a sheep shearing competition and gluing themselves to stalls. They wore pink t-shirts reading 'For All Life' and held placards, protesting against the event's treatment of sheep. The competition was delayed by at least 20 minutes due to the disruption. The group also engaged in conversations with farmers attending the event, advocating for a transition to a plant-based food system and rewilding programme.
3. <https://www.peta.org.uk/blog/royal-highland-show/> - Ahead of the annual Royal Highland Show, PETA sent a letter to the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, urging them to transition to a vegan event called the Royal Highland Grow. PETA proposed replacing animal displays with plant-based activities, such as a vegan haggis-eating contest and a turnip beauty pageant, to celebrate Scotland's plant-based farmers and cuisine.
4. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23612090.animal-rising-activists-disrupt-royal-highland-show/> - Animal Rising activists disrupted the Royal Highland Show's sheep shearing competition by gluing themselves to animal stalls and holding posters. They argued that the event caused stress and discomfort to sheep for entertainment purposes. The group also highlighted the broader issue of the UK's use of animals in food production, calling for a shift towards a plant-based food system and rewilding efforts.
5. <https://nen.press/2023/06/24/for-all-life-animal-rights-protesters-disrupt-royal-highland-show/> - Animal Rising activists disrupted the Golden Shears World Championship at the Royal Highland Show by gluing themselves to sheep stalls and holding placards. They protested against the treatment of sheep during the competition and advocated for a plant-based food system and rewilding programme. The group also engaged in dialogue with farmers attending the event to discuss their concerns.
6. <https://news.stv.tv/east-central/animal-rising-protestors-glue-themselves-to-sheep-stalls-at-royal-highland-shown-in-edinburgh> - Animal Rising protesters disrupted a sheep shearing event at the Royal Highland Show by gluing themselves to animal stalls and holding placards. They protested against the event's treatment of sheep and called for a transition to a plant-based food system and rewilding programme. The group was removed by security, and the event was delayed by at least 20 minutes.
7. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/royal-highland-show-stormed-animal-30313868> - Animal rights protesters from Animal Rising disrupted the Royal Highland Show by storming the stage and gluing themselves to gates during the Golden Shears World Championship. They wore pink t-shirts reading 'Animal Rising: For All Life' and held signs with facts about the farming industry. The group called for a transition to a plant-based food system and rewilding programme.