# Jeremy Clarkson faces backlash over squirrel dish at Farmer's Dog pub



Jeremy Clarkson has faced backlash for his decision to serve squirrel as part of a special menu at his countryside pub, the Farmer's Dog, located in the Cotswolds. The former 'Top Gear' presenter is set to host a unique culinary event called 'Dare Night,' aiming to deliver what he describes as "weird and wonderful" dining experiences, but this initiative has drawn sharp criticism from animal welfare advocates.

The event, scheduled for later this month, features a provocative menu charging £85 per person, including offerings such as pan-fried brains, lamb's hearts, and the controversial addition of crispy squirrel. Elisa Allen, Vice President of Programmes at PETA, has publicly condemned Clarkson's choice, accusing him of exploiting wildlife for shock value. Speaking to the publication, she remarked, "How desperate does one have to be to turn wildlife into a pub stunt for some kind of shock value straight out of the bargain bin?"

Highlighting the nature of the animals involved, Allen added, "Squirrels are industrious, clever and sentient, but recognising they are also vulnerable, only a hideous bully would take them from their life in a park and slice them up on a plate." PETA has challenged Clarkson to consider a different approach, suggesting that he explore compassionate plant-based cuisine instead.

The Farmer's Dog, which opened its doors in August, has already been under scrutiny from PETA for its animal product offerings, previously receiving criticism regarding its pork production practices. In an announcement for the upcoming 'Dare Night', the establishment has described the event as a memorable affair, stating, "This is not an event for the faddy or those of a vegan disposition," inviting adventurous diners to explore an array of unusual culinary delights.

Clarkson, now 65, has actively promoted the event through his social media platforms, urging potential diners to step outside of their comfort zones and try dishes they would not typically consider. He stated, "Fed up with beige, safe food? Want to try new things? Difficult things? Weird things? Well, if you're intrigued, join us at the Farmer's Dog." The menu promises a variety of dishes, served in a small-plate style on large sharing tables, and aims to provide an eclectic mix of flavours and textures.

Critics of the event have taken to social media to express their disapproval, with one Instagram user commenting, "It looks like road kill." Meanwhile, Clarkson's ex-'Top Gear' co-presenter James May has also opened a pub and has claimed that his establishment surpasses Clarkson's in terms of quality.

As discussions surrounding the ethics of dining choices continue, Clarkson's 'Dare Night' is poised to be a focal point for both culinary adventure and ethical debate. The differing opinions highlight the broader discourse surrounding animal rights and contemporary dining practices.

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

## References

* <https://www.gbnews.com/celebrity/jeremy-clarkson-bully-peta-squirrel-pub-menu-farmers-dog> - This article corroborates Jeremy Clarkson's decision to serve squirrel at The Farmer's Dog and the backlash from PETA, labeling him a 'hideous bully' for exploiting wildlife for shock value.
* <https://thefarmersdogpub.com> - This is the official website of The Farmer's Dog pub, highlighting its focus on British ingredients and unique dining experiences, though it doesn't specifically mention the squirrel dish or 'Dare Night' event.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremy_Clarkson> - This Wikipedia page provides background on Jeremy Clarkson, including his career and public controversies, though it may not specifically address the squirrel menu item controversy.
* <https://www.peta.org.uk/> - PETA's official UK website reflects their stance on animal welfare issues, consistent with their criticism of Jeremy Clarkson's decision to serve squirrel at his pub.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-53684245> - This BBC page, while not directly about the squirrel menu, may provide context on Jeremy Clarkson's activities in the Cotswolds and his interactions with local and national media.