

Dear business owner,

It has come to my attention that you are hosting an event this Easter where pet rabbits will be in attendance. I would urge you to reconsider this as Scottish welfare organisations have issued the following statements regarding these events.

*"No animal should be subjected to pain, suffering or distress in the name of entertainment. Unfortunately many mobile animal experiences - particularly those set up for temporary events like Easter 'petting zoos'- are unregulated and often overlook key welfare considerations. Rabbits are naturally quiet, prey animals who are easily stressed by loud noises, unfamiliar environments and frequent handling - especially by strangers. Handling can cause significant anxiety, and poor practice may even lead to injury. We have seen cases where rabbits used in public settings have suffered due to inadequate transport conditions, lack of breaks, and little freedom to express natural behaviours. At present, mobile animal exhibitors in Scotland should be licenced under the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. We strongly urge you to choose activities that do not compromise animal welfare." - SSPCA*

*"Scotland is facing a rabbit crisis and the effects of these events is detrimental to rabbit welfare. By having rabbits at events, this directly contributes to the rising crisis as more rabbits are purchased on a whim for children after attending. This leads to an increase in rabbits being dumped and abandoned at rescue centres shortly after. Rabbits are fragile prey animals who do not cope well out of their own habitat. They are nervous animals who are sensitive to strange smells and sounds. Rabbits do not like being handled, picked up and are not toys to be used for entertainment. It does not benefit this species socially to interact with strangers or children." - Baby Blue Bee Bunnies (Scotland's leading rabbit welfare organisation)*

More information:

<https://www.babybluebeebunnies.com/keep-rabbits-at-home.html>

There is a direct correlation between children abusing animals and later becoming violent adults. We should be teaching children to be responsible animal guardians instead of using animals as entertainment.

There are many welfare led alternative events which I have attached for you. I hope that you will consider one of these instead. If you choose to, I will be delighted to promote and share using my large reaching platforms.

How do the public feel about these events?

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/183tYPPFd/>

Last year this event was cancelled due to concerns from the public.

If you choose to proceed with your event having rabbits in attendance, I will have no choice but to take further action.