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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

To supporters of Animal Concern, Animal Concern Advice Line and Save our Seals Fund.

Hi Folks,

A couple of days ago I sent you links to a couple of things I have been involved in over the last few weeks.

One of our supporters has reminded me about another BBC TV programme which should be of interest. It's about deer killing in the Scottish Highlands and will be up on the BBC iPlayer for the next 24 days. You can find it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bhkbv7>

This reminded me that due to my IT problems there are other things buried in my email system which I should inform you of. My apologies for not being able to action or even reply to many emails over the last two months as, when I got my new computer up and running, a backlog of over 5,000 emails streamed in. Things have not been helped by "upgrading" to Windows 10 and Outlook 365 which surely were designed by people who have never worked in a "proper" office in their life. They took the best parts out of previous versions of Windows, flushed them down the toilet, then created an expensive monster which comes complete with "Candy Crush" and other huge but daft internet games taking up disc space which could have been used to provide the excellent and easy document filing and retrieval system of older Windows programmes. Sorry for the digressionary rant!

A very important issue which needs your attention is the proposed sentient slaughter (killing without stunning) of sheep to supply markets in the Middle East. Farmers and politicians are desperate to find new lucrative markets for their "products" after the UK leaves the EU (most likely with no deal having been reached) next April.

I understand Welsh farmers have a £5M a year deal to send sentient slaughtered sheep to Saudi Arabia. That's an awful lot of slit throats. This deal was set up by Meat Promotion Wales which is heavily funded by the Welsh Government (i.e. Welsh tax payers).

A few years ago we were involved in a successful campaign to stop the construction of a massive sentient slaughter abattoir in Lockerbie where it was intended to kill literally millions of sheep and lambs (sourced from all over the UK) every year for export to the Middle East. This plan for extra-cruel slaughter on an industrial scale could easily be revived after Brexit, especially as, given his stance on live export, the Scottish Farming Minister does not seem to give a sorry, does not seem overly concerned about animal welfare.

We need to campaign on two fronts here. First of all we must make it clear to the Governments of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that we want sentient slaughter made totally illegal. If people are going to eat animals the very least we can do is ensure that those animals are rendered totally unconscious before and while their throats are cut and they bleed to death. The second task is to make it illegal to export live animals for slaughter outside of the UK. It would be totally ridiculous to ban sentient slaughter in the UK only to subject live animals to the suffering involved in long journeys by road and sea before being subjected to sentient slaughter at their destination.

At the end of this email is a rough draft for a letter/email which those of you in the UK should customise and send to your politicians (MPs, Assembly Members, MSPs) whose details you can find here: <https://www.writetothem.com/> .

In addition (non-UK supporters can also write to the following) please also contact Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs at the Welsh Government. lesley.griffiths@gov.wales

Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom Government. michael.gove.mp@parliament.uk

Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy for the Scottish Government Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot

George Eustice MP, Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs: george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk

Please note I have given you the direct emails for the politicians above as I believe they seldom see emails sent to their general Ministerial addresses. If you get a reply asking you to send your email to their Ministerial address, please do so. At least they will have seen your message!

Cheers4now,

John

PS My thanks to Derek Hector of Cardiff Animal Network for info on the Welsh situation.

Dear.....

I write to express my concern that post Brexit there may be an increased trade in live animals and meat to non-EU countries where it is traditional to eat meat from animals which are fully sentient at time of slaughter. I understand the Welsh Government has, through Meat Promotion Wales, already secured a 5 year, £25M contract to supply Saudi Arabia with sentient-slaughtered sheep and lamb.

This is a horrendous situation which will cause great suffering to millions of animals. If animals are to be slaughtered for meat the very least we must do is ensure they are rendered totally unconscious before and during the whole of the killing process. Slitting the throats of fully conscious animals and letting them bleed to death simply is no longer acceptable.

Instead of trying to profit by filling any gap in the market caused by more enlightened nations putting animal welfare before wealth, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should join the growing list of countries which have banned sentient slaughter.

Please do whatever you can to have sentient slaughter made illegal throughout the UK. Such a ban would of course only make sense if it is accompanied with a total ban on the export of live animals for slaughter, something which is also long overdue.

I would appreciate it if you would please reply and let me know what your position is on this issue and if you will do anything to stop this cruel trade.

Yours sincerely,