(Assume parent sending email)

Dear Head teacher of [School name],

It has been brought to my/our attention that you intend to bring (free living/exotic) animals into the classroom to enhance the topic that (Year\_/class\_) are currently learning. I can appreciate that real-life experiences are an important part of school life and really help children to make the connection between what they are learning inside the classroom and the wider world. However, (I/we) am/are writing to ask [School name] to consider vegan-inclusive practice when delivering this topic. (My/Our) child, [Child’s name], is vegan and (I/we) would like (my/our) child to be able to take part in accordance with their beliefs.

You may or may not know, veganism is a protected philosophy and way of living which seeks to exclude – as far as is possible and practicable – all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. From our perspective, non-human animals used in the mobile zoo industry are being exploited; therefore, (our/my) child (insert name) will not feel comfortable taking part in this activity, any pre-learning activities prior to the (free living/exotic) animal(s) visit, or any recount work undertaken afterwards. Consequently, the planned use of a (free living/exotic) mobile zoo is both excluding my child and extremely upsetting for (him/her/them).

**Animal Rights**

The very nature of this industry creates a welfare catastrophe for the (free living/exotic) animals used. Travelling around in the back of a dark, loud van for hundreds of miles to classrooms where they are handled by multitudes of children, will undoubtedly cause stress to the (free living/exotic) animals used.

Animals who would naturally roam their habitats and engage in a variety of wonderful, natural behaviours including socialising with others of their species, foraging, hunting and defending territories are completely denied the opportunity to have any of these experiences when used in a mobile zoo*.*

Animals are sentient beings who share this planet with us; they have every right to their freedom and deserve our respect.

**Disease**

Even though you will undoubtedly carry out a full risk assessment there is still a concern regarding the spread of disease when using(free living/exotic)animals. Mobile zoos of all kinds have notoriously been linked with numerous outbreaks of diseases such as E. coli, cryptosporidiosis, salmonellosis and dermatomycosis (ringworm), to name a few.

**Is it really educational?**

By having (captive/caged) animals in your classroom you are not providing an honest learning experience.

The [RSPCA](file:///C%3A%5C%5CUsers%5C%5Claura.chepner%5C%5COneDrive%20-%20The%20Vegan%20Society%5C%5CEDUCATION%20NETWORK%5C%5C2022%5C%5CLETTERS%20DRAFTS%5C%5CComms%20Letters%5C%5CMicrosoft%20Word%20-%20Animal%20friendly%20schools%20web%20version%20-%20English%20-%20May%2011%20%28rspca.org.uk%29) strongly discourages the use of non-human animals in schools. Schools can be noisy and frightening places for some animals. The RSPCA state that it is difficult to look after any non-human animals’ needs properly in a classroom environment.

**Alternatives**

So that the children do not miss out on an exciting experience, they could take nature walks to see other animals in their natural habitats or visit a sanctuary. You could arrange a non-human animal fancy dress day, watch a great documentary, create your own free-living space or you could arrange talks from an animal charity such as [The Vegan Society](https://www.vegansociety.com/lifestyle/vegan-inclusive-education) or [Animal Aid](https://www.animalaid.org.uk/education/request-school-speaker/).

You can make any topic exciting, remembering that the children in your class have never and will never meet a T-Rex but are in awe of them. This wonder and awe can also be generated without inviting mobile zoos and [insert visiting non-human animal(s)] into school.

I/We have not made this request lightly, as I/we know how hard you work and how far in advance you must plan your termly work and activities. For more information you can request free CPD training on vegan inclusion from The Vegan Society or visit The Vegan Society’s [Education](https://www.vegansociety.com/lifestyle/vegan-inclusive-education) page.

A concise guide for educators on how to provide a vegan-inclusive education can be found [here](https://www.vegansociety.com/sites/default/files/uploads/downloads/TVS_Education%20Booklet_A5_DIGITAL.pdf).

Thank you for reading this letter. I/We would be more than happy to work in partnership with you on any issues raised because of my/our request.

Yours sincerely,

[Sender name]