



Penny Mordaunt
Minister of State for Trade Policy

Via e-mail: penny.mordaunt.mp@parliament.uk

18 August 2022

Dear Minister:

I am writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals UK – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally – following the introduction of sanctions on Russian oil, spirits, and other commodities. We urge you also to implement an emergency ban on the importation of Russian down. Such a ban would send a strong message to the Russian government that there are consequences for acts of aggression to all living, feeling beings.

PETA Asia has recently visited goose farms in Russia's Novosibirsk region and documented that geese were not stunned before their necks were stretched across a stump and repeatedly hacked at with a dull axe. In [PETA's video exposé](#), a worker is heard laughing after decapitating a goose with five blows and tossing the body into the snow. Another goose shrieks in terror while being struck seven times.

As the investigation shows, banning down imports from Russia would also help protect consumers in the UK from grossly misleading “humane” labels. A down broker told PETA Asia's investigators that any feathers bought from the Novosibirsk region are considered “Responsible Down Standard–certified”. This was news to the farmer, who said that her farm was *not* certified. However, according to the broker, because this farm falls within the certified region, down from the geese seen in PETA Asia's video footage would nevertheless be sold with this deceptive label. This demonstrates that this sham certification does not protect animals from egregious abuse – or consumers from unknowingly supporting it.

Geese are sentient, intelligent, loyal, and protective. They choose a partner for life, and they refuse to leave the side of a sick or injured mate or chick even at great personal risk. There is no excuse for abusing and killing them for their feathers.

Animals need kind people to be their allies. Please hold the Russian government accountable for these atrocities that are occurring on its own soil. Please ban the importation of down and feathers originating in the Russian Federation.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid Newkirk
Founder

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315
London N1P 2RG
United Kingdom
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

Info@peta.org.uk

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)
FOUNDATION – a charitable
company limited by guarantee,
with its registered office at
Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street,
London EC4N 6AF.
Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
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Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
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