



Dr Heather Melville  
Chancellor  
University of York

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Via e-mail: [chancellor@york.ac.uk](mailto:chancellor@york.ac.uk)

Dear Dr Melville:

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Following the unveiling of a statue of beloved duck Long Boi, we'd like to suggest that – to really honour him – you remove all bird flesh from campus menus. This way, he can live on as an ambassador for his feathered brethren.

Like Long Boi, every bird is an individual with their own unique personality and desires. Ducks are gregarious, social animals who enjoy chatting with loved ones. They even display regional accents, just like we do. Geese are family-oriented and mate for life and sometimes refuse to love again should they lose their “soulmate”. Chickens possess communication skills similar to some primates and empathise with their friends. Clever turkeys are affectionate and like listening to music, often singing along loudly (like most university students!)

Despite this, birds used for food in the UK are crammed into dark, filthy sheds on factory farms. Most never see sunlight, and many lack the room to stretch a single wing. Forced to grow unnaturally large very quickly and deprived of the chance to roost above the dirty ground, chickens suffer from arthritis and foot rot, and farmers often cut their sensitive beaks off without pain relief. At just a fraction of their natural lifespan, these birds are roughly forced onto trucks bound for a slaughterhouse. There, they are gassed or electrocuted and hung upside down and their throats are slit.

Aside from being cruel, farming birds for their flesh is terrible for the planet and human health. Meat is a leading cause of the [climate catastrophe](#) and [zoonotic diseases](#) like avian flu, meaning that every time we eat a bird, we gamble with our young people's lives. By replacing the flesh of dead birds with delicious, kind, inclusive, and green vegan options, the University of York can take the lead in creating a better future for the planet, human health, and of course, gentle, intelligent birds.

We believe that, wherever he may be, Long Boi would be happy to know that students were reaching for a [vegan starter kit](#) (we'll happily install a stand of them beside his statue) rather than the body parts of his fellow birds. We hope you'll consider honouring him in this meaningful way.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elisa Allen  
Vice President of Programmes

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Affiliates

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