



Abi Tierney
Chief Executive Officer
Welsh Rugby Union

Via Email: info@wru.wales

12 March 2025

Dear Ms. Tierney:

Greetings from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and good luck for Wales's final Six Nations fixture against England this Super Saturday. We want to suggest a simple wardrobe change to boost team morale for next year's competition and remind people that feathers belong on *birds*, not humans: re-vamp the Welsh jersey by swapping the Prince of Wales's ostrich feathers emblem for an iconic dragon.

Ostriches and other birds exploited for their feathers suffer greatly. A PETA US [investigation into ostrich farms and abattoirs](#) in South Africa exposed workers forcibly restraining ostriches as young as 12 months old, striking birds in the head, and mocking them as they stumbled through the abattoir doors. At the slaughterhouse, ostriches are restrained and electrically stunned before having their throats slit and their feathers torn from their still-warm bodies. They're then skinned and dismembered.

Other birds are also exploited for their feathers. One investigation into peacock farms in China found birds confined in plastic bags while being transported, denied natural movement and behaviours. These birds are repeatedly plucked alive, resulting in painful and sometimes fatal injuries. Meanwhile, "marabou" feathers most often come from turkeys and chickens raised on filthy factory farms.

This change would be a wonderful way to honour ostriches, who are top athletes, too. These spectacular birds are the envy of every winger, covering up to five metres in a single stride and reaching speeds of seventy kilometres per hour. And, like all good fullbacks, they're masters of defence – when cornered by predators, ostriches can kick with a force powerful enough to kill!

Our suggested tweak to your kit may seem small, but seizing every opportunity to remind people that wearing feathers harms birds can make a big difference to animals' lives. We hope you'll consider it as you take a well-earned break after the Six Nations wraps up.

Kind thanks,



Yvonne Taylor
Vice President of Corporate Projects

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,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands