

Executive Producers

I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here

ITV Studios UK

2 Waterhouse Square

Holborn

London

EC1N 2AE

Wednesday 25 November 2020

Dear Mr Cowles, Mr Brogden and Ms Walker,

RE: Serious animal welfare concerns around the continued use of animals on I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here 2020

Our organisations collectively represent around 25,000 veterinary professionals –and we are writing to express our grave concerns around the continued use of snakes, rats and other animals in trials and settings which are completely unfit for their welfare needs and which are damaging to their health and welfare.

Over a year on from our [first letter](#) to you, which detailed a number of examples of contestant trials where the welfare of the animals involved were seriously compromised, we are extremely disappointed that our concerns have been ignored and that the latest series of I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here continues to use animals in cruel and stressful settings.

In particular we are disappointed that your team did not take the opportunity of relocation to the UK to develop a fresh approach to the contestant trials without the use of animals, despite the high volume of Ofcom complaints and this being an issue that we had offered advice on in the past. The UK has some of the highest standards of animal health and welfare in the world and in its current form we feel the show compromises our reputation as a nation of animal lovers.

Alongside the RSPCA, we are calling for an end of the use of animals in contestant trials on I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here and we echo the [recent RSPCA statement](#) which outlines the scale of the problem: *"Since 'I'm a Celebrity' was first aired, animals have been dropped, thrown, handled roughly, crushed, chased, overcrowded, scared by contestants and prevented from escaping from stressful experiences. The show's messaging and the potential to prompt people to try and copy the 'bushtucker trials' at home for entertainment is also worrying."*

From a veterinary perspective, the animals used in this series, have showed signs of fear and distress. At a time when the nation has been focusing on how we can improve the lives of sentient animals, it is anathema that mistreatment of animals is being displayed on primetime television for entertainment purposes.

Collectively, our members - many of whom specialise in some of the species featured on the programme – urge you to step away from this outdated and cruel use of animals which compromises

their welfare for entertainment reasons only, and call time on using animals in contestant trials altogether.

We look forward to your thoughts and response.

Yours Faithfully,

BVA Senior Vice President, Daniella Dos Santos

BVNA President, Jo Oakden

BVZS President, Peter Kettlewell