

To the organisers and sponsors of the Baconfest South Africa:

La Bottega Restaurant, Totalgaz, Jimmy's Sauces, Lynca Meats, New Style Pork, Brannas Draught, Aquavita Water, Boston Breweries and All Gold.

We are writing from a number of animal advocacy organisations, including Vegilicious, African Vegan Outreach, South African Vegan Society, Boere Vegans, 269Life-SA, Compassion in World Farming-SA, Beauty Without Cruelty-SA, Tin Can Town, Institute for Critical Animal Studies, Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance, Pet Empowerment in Townships, Rhodes Organisation for Animal Rights, Farm Animal Centre for Education, Watershed Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation, United Front 4 Animals, Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary, No Foie Gras-SA, Animal Outreaches, Lamberts and Elands Animal Protection Services, We Are Animals-UCT and Campaign Against Canned Hunting.

We would like to request, with respect, that you cancel the event that is scheduled for 25 July 2015, for the reasons outlined below.

Animal Treatment:

- Pigs are sentient animals. They are emotionally and cognitively sensitive, and the pig farming industry causes them enormous harm.
- Sows, the mothers of the pigs who become our "bacon", are typically kept in gestation crates and farrowing crates for many months at a time, where they are unable to turn around.
- In most operations, the piglets who are intended for meat undergo routine castration and tail docking without anaesthetic, which is without doubt incredibly painful and would be illegal if performed on dogs.
- The way in which pigs are treated on South African factory farms would likely fall foul of the provision of the Animal Protection Act and thus not be legal. The only reason that this industry continues to operate is because it is a long-established and profitable concern that operates out of the public eye.
- Pigs have repeatedly been found to be just as intelligent as dogs, if not more so. Science concludes they have the intelligence of three year old humans. They learn "dog tricks" faster than dogs, and they make wonderful companion animals. In fact, many people do choose to keep pigs as "pets".

Environmental Concerns:

- Pig farming contributes to massive environmental damage:
- The runoff from thousands of tons of manure often ends up contaminating water systems, or it is sprayed as fertiliser, which contributes to airborne pollution and respiratory diseases such as asthma.

- Carbon dioxide from pig manure is a significant contributor to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing society today, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from livestock is imperative. Globally, GHG emissions from livestock account for more than the entire transport sector (cars, trains, aeroplanes etc.).

Human Health:

- There is broad medical and dietary consensus that bacon and other animal fats are conducive to western diseases such as coronary artery disease and obesity.
- In a country that ranks 3rd in the world for its obesity problems, it is disturbing to see companies promote the consumption of this “food”.

We are targeting the Baconfest specifically (as opposed to other meat-based events), because

- a) pig farming is one of the worst animal industries (as outlined above);
- b) it is a celebration of large-scale cruelty; and
- c) it promotes factory farming.

If you would like any more information, or links to relevant organisations concerning these issues, please feel free to contact us.

There is a growing public awareness about these issues and we hope that you will take these concerns seriously, but please be aware that if you decline to cancel your event, we intend to support public actions to discourage attendance at your event and to raise awareness of the above-mentioned issues.

Sincerely,

Representatives and members of:

Vegilicious;
 African Vegan Outreach;
 South African Vegan Society;
 Boere Vegans;
 269Life-SA;
 Compassion in World Farming-SA;
 Beauty Without Cruelty-SA;
 Tin Can Town;
 Institute for Critical Animal Studies;
 Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance;
 Pet Empowerment in Townships;

Rhodes Organisation for Animal Rights;
 Farm Animal Centre for Education;
 Watershed Animal Rescue and
 Rehabilitation;
 United Front 4 Animals;
 Greyton Farm Animal Sanctuary;
 No Foie Gras-SA;
 Animal Outreaches;
 Lamberts and Elands Animal Protection
 Services;
 We Are Animals-UCT.