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16 May 2006

Her Majesty The Queen  
c/o Sir Robin Janvrin  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1A 1AA

Your Majesty:

As a big-time animal lover, I've always admired the UK for its progressive view of animal treatment. So I was shocked to learn from my friends at PETA that those towering hats the guards wear outside Buckingham Palace are actually made from the *real* skins of Canadian black bears.

Apparently it takes the entire hide of one bear to make a single ceremonial hat, with the hats' being made from bears who have been shot – often several times before they die. Even more sickening is that when female bears are killed for their smoother pelts, which are judged to be “superior” to the pelts of male bears, their orphaned cubs are left to slowly starve to death. I know that the Ministry of Defence claims the skins come from a “necessary cull”, but senior wildlife officers and both the federal and provincial Canadian governments say this is not so. If this kind of cruelty were happening in Britain, it would have stopped years ago.

From what I hear, you're a modern monarch – I've even checked out your Web site. So if you haven't already, please visit [PETA.org.uk](http://PETA.org.uk), where you can see for yourself the distressing footage of what happens to these bears in Canada. Britain's reputation as a nation of animal lovers is being tarnished by these money-grubbing hunters.

I know that your Army Drummers' cool leopard-skin aprons are synthetic and that the Royal Horse Artillery has fabulous faux-beaver caps. Isn't it about time that your five Regiments of Foot Guards joined your other ranks by replacing real fur? Sorry to be a royal pain, but my feelings reflect the sentiment of a new generation that respects animals.

I can be reached through PETA's UK office at 0207 357 9229.

Kind regards,



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