

## M.1617-17 Motion to prevent future use of live reindeer at HUU Christmas events

### HUU Notes:

1. On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at the Hull University Union Christmas fair event live reindeer were displayed and penned in outside of the Union building for the amusement of students.

### HUU Believes:

1. The use of live reindeers at these events is unnecessarily cruel, they are not naturally sociable animals outside of their species and suffer a great deal of stress from constant human attention. The noise, lights, cramped conditions and travelling also add an additional negative impact to the animal's well-being.

2. Even if the animals themselves have been well taken care of it adds to a culture and expectation of having Reindeer at these 'Xmas' 'Winter Wonderland' type fairs and there can be no guarantee by the Union of the condition and treatment of animals at events outside their jurisdiction.

3. In recent years, an increasing number of individuals have seen the money to be made by bringing reindeer to these events and I would ask that Hull University Union not add to that culture.

The increased demand for reindeer to appear at these events is now leading to them being taken away from their natural habitat and is also leading to the creation of reindeer farms to supply demand. Surplus reindeer or those that are deemed unsuitable to perform at these events due to stress or disease are slaughtered for meat.

See citations below for further evidence:

“Various health and welfare issues are raised by uprooting reindeer from their natural habitat and transporting them around the country in captive situations, many degrees south of their normal range. According to research at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, a poor diet, exposure to diseases from other animals and the stress of being taken from their natural environment have contributed to an increase in deaths in young reindeer who have been imported in increasingly large numbers from Scandinavia in order to make festival suppliers a quick quid at Christmas.”

**Huffington Post**

As Dr John Fletcher, founder of the Veterinary Reindeer Society, said:

“Reindeer have adapted to live in the Arctic. They are not well able to cope with the stress of captivity, and most of the diseases we see here in reindeer are stress-related”.

**PETA, UK**

**HUU Resolves:**

1. That HUU does not use live reindeer at its future Christmas events.

**Proposer:** Laura Shand

**Seconded:** Jordanna Oyemwen Eriyo