

FAO Mr Kevin Tomlinson
CEO of Magna Trust
Magna Science Adventure Centre
Magna Way
Rotherham
S60 1FD

Email: info@magnatrust.co.uk

Dear Mr Tomlinson,

I am writing to express my concern in relation to Magna Science Adventure Centre hosting the International Herpetology Society (IHS) Reptile Show on 17 September 2023. I feel wildlife shows and markets such as these have no place in today's society and urge you to revise your decision to host this and any future such events at your venue.

The global wildlife trade threatens human health, contributes to the global decline in biodiversity and results in severe animal suffering. At these shows wild animals are housed in tiny, transparent boxes not dissimilar to takeaway containers. The conditions these animals will experience at Magna Science Adventure Centre will be highly stressful, as a result of the inappropriate lighting, noise, vibrations, temperature and lack of refuge.

Furthermore, global epidemics like SARS, Ebola and Covid-19 have all been associated with wildlife markets. The stress experienced by wild animals at such markets causes immunosuppression which could result in the shedding of potentially zoonotic pathogens that they may be carrying.

Numerous wildlife charities have condemned these IHS shows, but this concern is echoed by the public, with over 75,000 people calling for Doncaster Racecourse to stop hosting this cruel wildlife market in June 2020.

I urge you and Magna Trust to cancel the hosting of this and any future such events.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important matter.

(Add your name here, and any contact details, if you wish).