

Henry Hope
Head of Branch
Animal Welfare Division – Branch E
Dept Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
1A Page Street
Westminster
London SW1P 4PQ

13 July 2007

Dear Henry,

Animal welfare in TV and Film

By way of introduction, Pact is the largest UK trade association that represents the commercial interests of independent film, television, animation and interactive media companies.

We would like to state that we support the government's objectives in achieving proper safeguards for animal welfare in the making of films and TV programmes. In addition, we see the development of open and auditable industry systems as the appropriate means to achieve this aim. We understand you are seeking to find out the latest progress in this regard.

PAWSI (Performing Animals Welfare Standards International), with the support of Skillset (the Sector Skills Council for the audio-visual industry) and leading training providers, have designed and established a number of training schemes leading to NVQ level qualifications for animal trainers/handlers and grooms. We also understand that PAWSI are seeking to establish an auditable quality assured system of registration of animal trainers. We support such steps to improve standards and training across the industry.

PAWSI have asked us to confirm whether we would recommend the use of trained and registered animal handlers to our members and we certainly would do so.

In the meantime, should you have any queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Cummins
Head of Legal Affairs

CC Samantha Perahia – UK Film Council
David Martin – Production Guild
Rona Brown - PAWSI