

## Re: Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair

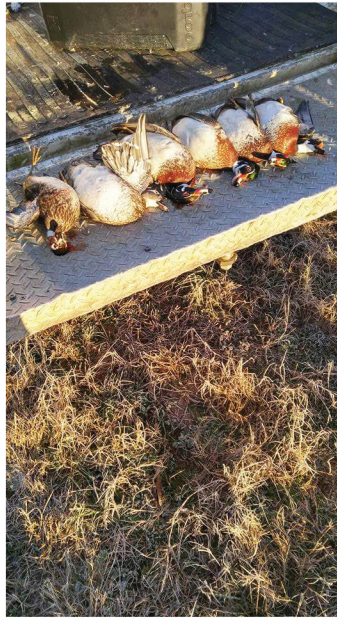
thekellykirkland@yahoo.com

To: John Di Leonardo

Monday, August 22, 2016 4:02 PM

With hunting season just around the corner here in Georgia I plan on taking videos of each animal I kill. I will then send these videos to each of your members who have emailed me today.

*Kelly Kirkland*  
Swainsboro Jaycees Fairboard President



----- Original message -----

**From:** John Di Leonardo  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 22, 2016 12:12 PM  
**To:** [thekellykirkland@yahoo.com](mailto:thekellykirkland@yahoo.com);  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair

Animal-free circuses have all the thrills, chills, and fun of the big top—but none of the cruelty to animals. I invite you to check out our list of animal-free circuses [here](#). There are many ways to entertain visitors and raise funds without putting animals at risk.

Sincerely,

John Di Leonardo, M.S.

Animals in Entertainment Campaigner

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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**From:** Kelly Kirkland [mailto:[thekellykirkland@yahoo.com](mailto:thekellykirkland@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2016 11:58 AM  
**To:** John Di Leonardo  
**Subject:** RE: Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair

Not really seeing anything that could serve as a 5 day attraction for our event.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Mon, Aug 22, 2016 at 11:53 AM, John Di Leonardo  
<[JohnD@peta.org](mailto:JohnD@peta.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Kirkland,  
A fact sheet of animal-free fundraisers is [available at this link](#). We hope to hear that you will thoughtfully reconsider hosting Haai Shark Encounters.  
Sincerely,  
John Di Leonardo, M.S.  
Animals in Entertainment Campaigner  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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**From:** Kelly Kirkland [<mailto:thekellykirkland@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2016 11:49 AM  
**To:** John Di Leonardo  
**Subject:** RE: Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair

I have not received the fact sheet you mentioned so at this point in the game we have no other choice but to continue with Haai Shark Encounters as an attraction.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Fri, Aug 19, 2016 at 12:51 PM, John Di Leonardo  
<[JohnD@peta.org](mailto:JohnD@peta.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Kirkland,

We're disappointed that our cordial letter to Jamey Chalker prompted such a sardonic response—one certainly not in keeping with the Jaycees' mission of teaching leadership and business skills.

There are many ways to entertain visitors and raise funds without putting animals at risk. I'm attaching a factsheet with suggestions. People who care about animals will continue to question why your Jaycees are supporting cruelty to animals.

The Jaycees have an opportunity to make a real and lasting difference in the community by setting an ethical example. We hope to hear that you will thoughtfully reconsider.

Sincerely,

John Di Leonardo, M.S.  
Animals in Entertainment Campaigner  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

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**From:** Kelly Kirkland [<mailto:thekellykirkland@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 9:50 PM  
**To:** John Di Leonardo  
**Subject:** Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair

Dear Sir, Madam or whichever gender neutral restroom you choose to use daily.

You as a representative of PETA recently ask our organization to cancel the showing of Haai Shark Encounters at the Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair. Since your initial email we have received several comments through social media from presumably your members to also cancel the show. You nor your members in protest have yet to offer a competitively priced alternative for a small town agricultural fair. If your organization chooses to show up at our event the prices are as follows: adults \$5, children 48"-36" \$3 and children smaller than 36" are admitted free. The proceeds from our yearly fair help us sponsor community events such as the Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby, a kids fishing rodeo, Toys For Tots and numerous other projects. If your organization feels like helping a small town with said event then by all means, please show up. If you have no other alternatives, please shut up.

Sincerely

Kelly Kirkland

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



## Request from PETA

John Di Leonardo

To: [swainsborojaycees@gmail.com](mailto:swainsborojaycees@gmail.com)

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 6:37 PM

- This message was sent with High importance.

Via e-mail: [swainsborojaycees@gmail.com](mailto:swainsborojaycees@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Chalker,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 5 million members and supporters worldwide about the recent announcement that Philip Peter's Haai Shark Encounter is coming to the Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair. As you may know, there has been growing public opposition to the use of wild animals for entertainment. And PETA has received messages from members of the public concerned about the cruel and exploitative nature of this marine-animal exhibit. After you read the following information, **we hope you will cancel the appearance of the Haai Shark Encounter immediately.**

Sharks are surprisingly sensitive and complex animals, but animals exploited for the Haai Shark Encounter are denied all the rich sensory experiences of their natural environment as well as the opportunity to swim freely and forage for food. Their exceptional sensory systems would normally allow them to detect minute electrical fields and also hear and sense low-frequency sounds and vibrations, but in captivity, their sensory perceptions are disrupted. Noisy crowds, whom Mr. Peters actually encourages to bang on the tank as part of his show, further interfere with them, creating a confusing and stressful atmosphere for the animals trapped inside the tank, agitating and tormenting them. While nurse sharks—the type of sharks used for this "encounter"—are notoriously bashful, avoiding contact with humans and never committing for a fatal attack, this exhibit forces them into close contact with Mr. Peters, who repeatedly pulls on their fins and tails while playing on the ignorant stereotype that sharks are vicious killing machines, even opening with the theme song to *Jaws*.

The lives of these sharks while on exhibit are horrendous, but their lives off exhibit are no better. Between fairs, they may be transported more than 2,000 miles in the back of a semi-truck with constant movement and intense vibrations that overload their senses, causing stress and disorientation. At the end of the season, the sharks are unloaded on aquariums and Haai Shark Encounter obtains a new round of sharks to exploit, reportedly making an effort to trade among allegedly irresponsible owners or aquariums but leaving the door open to wild capture as well.

While Mr. Peters has a choice to perform, the animals have no choice—and they have no protections. Sharks are exempt from even the federal Animal Welfare Act. **In light of the above information, may I please hear from you as soon as possible that you will cancel the Haai Shark Encounter at the Southeast Georgia Jaycee Fair?** I can be reached at 516-592-3722 or [JohnD@peta.org](mailto:JohnD@peta.org). Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Di Leonardo, M.S.  
Animals in Entertainment Campaigner  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals