

# JAMES CROMWELL

The Honorable Sherif Fathy  
Minister of Tourism and Antiquities

Dear Minister:

As you know, my friends at PETA released a [mini-documentary](#) three weeks ago that revealed—once again—appalling abuse of the camels used as photo props and the horses forced to haul visitors on their backs or in carriages at the Giza pyramid complex. Yet your office has remained silent. I'm writing to ask what you're doing to end their suffering, which would benefit both the animals and Egypt's tourism industry.

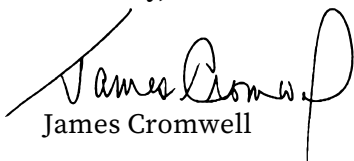
PETA's [latest investigation](#) shows that the animals are made to work long hours in blistering heat while being deprived of food, adequate shade, rest, and proper veterinary care. Horses with open sores and severe, untreated injuries try to subsist by eating from garbage dumps. Handlers whip them mercilessly as they struggle to keep going despite exhaustion, hunger, and pain. When their bodies give out, these gentle, sensitive animals are left to die and their bodies are dumped in the piles of trash just behind the pyramid complex. At a market where many camels are sold to be used for pictures, the animals' legs are tightly bound with ropes—making every movement difficult—to prevent them from escaping. They certainly want to escape, because traders shove and punch them, beat them with batons, yank on their delicate lips and ears, and prod them in the testicles. The animals are left with bloody wounds that become infested with flies. When they're no longer considered useful, they're trucked to slaughterhouses, where their throats are slashed.

After PETA's 2019 investigation first exposed this pervasive cruelty, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities promised meaningful change. And while it's encouraging to hear that at PETA's urging, you have introduced a few electric vehicles and added some water for the animals, Egyptian authorities have chosen to shut their eyes to the extreme and obvious cruelty that horses and camels are subjected to. PETA frequently fields messages from travelers who say that their highly anticipated visit to Giza was ruined by the abuse they witnessed. Even Egypt's prominent businessman Naguib Sawiris [recently stated](#) that the gangs of animal handlers at the pyramids are destroying the nation's reputation.

I implore you to watch this [video](#), if you haven't already, and to take immediate action. It's clear that ending the abuse would be the best option for the animals, the handlers, and the country's status as a top destination. Egypt is a magical place with so much to see and experience, but no one wants to have cruelty to animals included in their travel plans.

Please end the suffering at the pyramids now.

Sincerely,

  
James Cromwell