**Notes:**

Please replace the red text with the relevant option or name and the text highlighted in yellow should not be included in the final letter/email.

Dear (insert teacher’s name),

(insert child/children’s name(s)) (is/are) thoroughly enjoying (his/her/their etc.) time at school and really appreciate the warmth, consideration and professionalism, you and your team are bringing to Year (insert year number).

(I/We) know the class are looking forward to many activities and special days during the school term, but (I am/we are) quite uncomfortable with the upcoming visit by (name of mobile zoo) on (date of visit). Whilst (I/we) know visits of this kind are relatively common in schools, and has no doubt been organised with the best of intentions, (I/we) feel that the underlying message conveys to pupils that that it is acceptable to capture, hold, transport, and handle wild animals, and may lead to misconceptions around wild animals and their welfare.

Although the (mobile zoo name) has a relatively good reputation (remove if not relevant to the facility), [optional] with a dedicated section covering a commitment to animal welfare on their website, mobile zoos are still largely unregulated, which can compromise both animal welfare and human safety. Animals used during these sessions can experience high levels of stress, through continuous transport, busy environments, and repeated handling by both keepers and/or classes of children. Cold-blooded animals such as reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates face being removed from temperature and humidity-controlled environments, whilst nocturnal animals will experience disrupted sleep and exposure to changing light levels, all of which impacts negatively on their health and welfare.

Many animals used in mobile zoos can also pose a potential risk to human health and safety, particularly when touched or handled; reptiles can host infectious diseases (such as salmonella sp.) and some mammals and birds can inflict nasty bites and scratches, even during supervised sessions.

As well as (my/our) concerns around the treatment of animals involved, are the underlying moral principles and negative educational outcomes. (I/We) believe that presenting animals in this way teaches children that animals are objects to be put on show and/or handled for our entertainment and curiosity – that animals have no right to be treated as sentient individuals deserving of respect and compassion.

(I/We) hope you understand why (I/we) would prefer (insert child/children’s name(s)) not to take part in this session and (is/are) offered alternative activity in school. Optional: (I/We) discussed this with (insert child/children’s name(s)), and (he/she/they etc.) (has/have) also expressed that (he/she/they etc.) (doesn’t/don’t) wish to take part.

(I/We) love how much you care about providing balanced learning, and a variety of experiences for (insert child/children’s name(s)) and (his/her/their etc.) classmates. (I/We) also love that you and (insert school name) want to inspire pupils about the wonder of nature. To support this (I/we) would encourage (insert school name) to consider alternative experiences that focus on local wildlife, active participation in conservation or embracing VR opportunities.

Please do continue to share a love and respect for both people and wildlife.

With (my/our) very best wishes,

(Name(s))