



July 6, 2021

Board of Directors
Eli Lilly and Company

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Dear Directors,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing to you again to ask that you make a positive change, in line with industry and scientific thinking, for both animals and science. Will you ensure that Eli Lilly never again conducts, commissions, or funds forced swim test experiments?

PETA has provided scientific documentation on the controversy surrounding this test. We have shown Eli Lilly executives that the company's own published papers show the test to be flawed and inefficient. When this evidence was ignored, we attended shareholder meetings, held demonstrations with Indianapolis residents, and took out ads to draw Eli Lilly's attention to this issue. We have shown that the test has been dropped by Eli Lilly's competitors, including Johnson & Johnson, Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, AbbVie Inc., Roche, AstraZeneca, Novo Nordisk A/S, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Amgen, and Bristol Myers Squibb.¹

Still, Eli Lilly insists on supporting this test. Perhaps the reason Eli Lilly won't drop the forced swim test is rooted in its long history of animal use—despite the fact that 95% of new drugs that test safe and effective in animals fail in humans. Eli Lilly has experimented on thousands of animals—including hundreds of dogs and monkeys—in various controversial tests for years, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports. While some tests on animals are required by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, many—including the forced swim test—are not.

In 2008 alone, Eli Lilly used more than 2,200 animals in various tests, including 784 dogs, 424 primates, and 424 rabbits, among other animals. These numbers don't even include multitudes of mice, rats, and other small animals who are not afforded even the meager protections of the Animal Welfare Act.

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¹ People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. [peta.org. Victories! PETA Is Ending Near-Drowning Experiments on Animals. https://www.peta.org/features/peta-ends-near-drowning-tests-small-animals/](https://www.peta.org/features/peta-ends-near-drowning-tests-small-animals/). Updated May 2021. Accessed June 29, 2021.

Among these animals were four dogs and three monkeys used to test experimental drugs. Despite "severe" toxicity, neither the dogs nor the monkeys were given pain medication, because that would have "confounded interpretation of the experimental results," the reports say. More recently, 65 Guinea pigs suffered unalleviated pain after experimenters in 2016 intentionally gave them cardiovascular or renal disease so they could test new drugs.

In an experiment published in 2020,² Eli Lilly paid a laboratory to surgically open the chests of dogs and pigs and insert tubes into their blood vessels. An experimental protein was pumped into them through the tubes to see how it affected their blood pressure and heart rate, among other things.

Eli Lilly also paid outside laboratories to experiment on monkeys, according to papers published over the last two years. Experimenters injected 55 macaques with different antibodies, and the monkeys endured 13-14 blood draws over 31 days.³ In another experiment, mice were force-fed sodium lauryl sulfate, which caused intense physical distress and killed 14% of the mice in the study.⁴

[Covance](#), a notorious contract laboratory, conducted some of these experiments for Eli Lilly.

Eli Lilly, as a leading pharmaceutical company, could be a leader in the industry by eliminating animal experimentation that is not required by law and is not necessary to develop new medications. Banning the forced swim test would be an easy, common-sense place to start.

Thank you for your attention and please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below for any additional information.

Sincerely,



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² Tune JD, Baker HE, Berwick Z, et al. Distinct hemodynamic responses to (pyr)apelin-13 in large animal models. *Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol*. 2020;318(4):H747-H755.

³ Kovalova N, Boyles J, Wen Y, et al. Validation of a de-immunization strategy for monoclonal antibodies using cynomolgus macaque as a surrogate for human. *Biopharm Drug Dispos*. 2020;41(3):111-125.; Kovalova N, Knierman MD, Brown-Augsburger PL, Wroblewski VJ, Chlewicki LK. Correlation between antidrug antibodies, pre-existing antidrug reactivity, and immunogenetics (MHC class II alleles) in cynomolgus macaque. *Immunogenetics*. 2019;71(10):605-615.

⁴ Irizarry Rovira AR, Hilbish KG, Schroeder M, et al. Effects of 0.5% and 2.0% Sodium Lauryl Sulfate in Male CD-1 Mice From a 3-Month Oral Gavage Toxicity Study. *Toxicol Pathol*. 2021;49(5):1100-1108.