



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

April 3, 2020

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Via e-mail: jacobsda@ohsu.edu

Dear President Schulz,

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide regarding an urgent matter. Based on the repeated and documented failure of Oregon Science & Health University (OHSU) to abide by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), and given the COVID-19 pandemic that is influencing the shut-down of animal experiments around the world,¹ we urge OHSU to immediately: 1) prohibit approval of new animal protocols and experiments; 2) prohibit breeding and acquisition of new animals for laboratories; 3) finalize and end ongoing animal experiments; and, 4) prove that all of these animals and experiments are concretely advancing human health, and if they're not then switch to superior human-relevant, animal-free research methods.²

OHSU's Culture of Noncompliance: Animal Welfare Act Violations

According to public records obtained by PETA from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), OHSU has been cited by the USDA on several occasions. The following are a few AWA violations that the agency's inspections have revealed: four prairie voles died of dehydration and one more had to be euthanized when staff forgot to provide them with water; a ferret underwent a craniotomy and the staff member performing the surgery did not follow an aseptic technique; a primate who was subjected to a surgery did not receive the appropriate post-operative medications; a young primate had to be euthanized after getting constrained by a perch; a primate had his/her tail amputated after being injured during handling; and a primate flagged as surgically-restricted underwent surgery after staff failed to verify her records.

¹ <https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/14/coronavirus-pandemic-forces-research-labs-shut-down/>

² https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Research-Modernization-Deal-Report-US_FINAL_2020_300.pdf

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COVID-19: Ending Animal Experiments Protects Animals, Staff, and Patients

As part of its COVID-19 contingency plan, OHSU announced that, “the university's research mission has been curtailed.”³ We understand that at least one OHSU experimenter has euthanized more than two-thirds of the mice colony in her lab alone.⁴ When combined with similar action by other experimenters, this will likely lead to the destruction of numerous animals who the school deems non-critical or non-essential. This begs the question why taxpayer dollars are being used on experiments that can easily be ended or delayed or that involve animals who, apparently, are considered by many universities to be extraneous to the testing in the first place. Equally troubling is that the experiments themselves are not critical to advancing human health, since more than 90 percent of highly promising basic science discoveries (most of which involve animal experiments) do not enter routine clinical use in humans.⁵

We call on OHSU to publicly release the following information:

- 1) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will continue as part of OHSU’s COVID-19 response plan (such that they may be categorized as critical, essential, necessary, and/or other similar terminology);
- 2) An itemization of all experimental protocols that will not continue as part of OHSU’s COVID-19 response plan (such that they may be categorized as extraneous, non-critical, non-essential, ramped down, disposable, unnecessary and/or other similar terminology);
- 3) The number and species of animals who are in experimental protocols covered by item number 1 above (e.g., in a critical and/or similar terminology category), and the number and species of animals who are in experimental protocols covered by item number 2 above (e.g., not in a critical and/or similar terminology category); and,
- 4) The endpoint/disposition of animals used in experimental protocols covered by item number 2 above (e.g., not in a critical and/or similar terminology category), and notice of if, when, and how many of these animals have been and/or will be euthanized, culled, killed, destroyed, disposed or reduced in cage census.

You can contact me by e-mail at ShalinG@peta.org or by telephone at 757-962-8325. We look forward to your swift reply to this quickly developing and urgent matter. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Shalin G. Gala
Vice President, International Laboratory Methods
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³ <https://news.ohsu.edu/2020/02/28/preparing-for-the-novel-coronavirus-at-ohsu>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/RauchLab/status/1240827252369055744>

⁵ <https://www.bmj.com/content/348/bmj.g3387.long>