

13 July, 2019

Ronald J. Daniels, President
242 Garland Hall,
John Hopkins University
3400 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear Dr. Daniels,

I know that John Hopkins University has been a national leader in medical research for more than a century, and I deeply appreciate your efforts to solve daunting health problems and improve the quality of medical care for all of us.

However, as a wildlife ecologist who has studied and written about owls for more than 30 years, I was appalled to hear about research within your Health Center Laboratory that involves confining barn owls in cages, inserting screws into their skulls to expose their brains, forcing the birds into plastic tubes, exposing them to a frightening bursts of light, mutilating their brain tissue, and eventually killing them.

These practices sound more like something from the Inquisition than from the research laboratory of an esteemed university. The justification, that the research may help us to better understand attention deficit disorder in humans, seems only remotely credible.

As a society, we've moved well beyond the old dichotomy of "sentient humans" and "other animals." We know that all vertebrates experience strong feelings of joy, pain, fear, and compassion. It's way past time we eliminated medical research that treats animals cruelly.

Please investigate what can be done to terminate this extreme confinement and torture of barn owls as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Stephen Jones, raptor specialist/wildlife consultant
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