

From: Samuel Pons
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Registrar Riphah
Cc: Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad; Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat; Dr. Asif Iqbal /RCVetS
Subject: RE: For Vice Chancellor Ahmad, from PETA – complaint re Riphah veterinary training

Importance: High

July 19, 2022

Dr. Khalid Mahmood Lodhi
Registrar
Riphah International University

Dear Dr. Lodhi,

Thank you for your reply, and we appreciate your investigation into this matter. However, your explanation—that “a dog had an accident and was found in severe pain and heavy bleeding on the road” and died due to “severe internal bleeding” after students “picked him up and started treatment in the operation theater of Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences Lahore”—does not appear to comport with the disturbing [video](#) showing *multiple* dogs lying bloodied and seemingly lifeless on operating tables for training purposes at Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences Lahore.

Further, a student whistleblower at your institution told Arab News in a June 10, 2022, [article](#), that your institution reportedly *requires* students to obtain stray dogs for harmful surgical practice training. That article states:

Some university students explained that students had to identify and arrange animals themselves for surgeries and had to pool in money to feed the animals, with the whole process costing over Rs30,000 (\$150) per surgery. Veterinary universities, they said, did not even have the budgets to arrange animals for them.

“Our teachers divide students into groups of eight to ten to perform these surgeries,” Asim Akhtar*, a student at Riphah International University, Lahore, told Arab News. “It is the responsibility of students to arrange a stray dog for surgery and then bear all expenses for experimentation, treatment and feed.”

Akhtar said the students had to take care of the animals post-surgery also, and any medical complications or casualty could have an adverse effect on their grades.

....

*Names marked with * have been changed to protect identities*

The aforementioned video, and the testimonial from this Riphah student whistleblower, corroborate that stray animals are apparently routinely kidnapped and used for harmful surgical training at your institution, and *your reply to us did not explicitly prohibit this cruel practice*. As you're aware, after [PETA called on Pakistani officials](#) to ban harmful and medically unnecessary veterinary training exercises on animals and directly communicated this recommendation and broader concerns about animal testing to Mr. Salman Sufi, head of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Strategic Reforms Unit, he agreed to initiate discussions with us on relevant reforms. On June 30, 2022, Mr. Sufi [announced](#) historic new measures, stating, "Live testing of animals in vet colleges and industrial complexes is banned from today in Islamabad Capital Territory."

We recognize that Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences Lahore is geographically outside the purview of Mr. Sufi's new policy that applies to the Islamabad Capital Territory. Given your reply to us—in which you stated that your institution is "committed to eliminating cruelty to animals" and is "fully aware of all SoPs being observed globally regarding the treatment of animals"—**we urge Riphah International University (all campuses) to immediately implement the following:**

1. **Adopt Mr. Sufi's policy banning the use of live animals in testing & surgical veterinary training in favor of the [SynDaver Surgical Canine](#) and other animal-free options we previously suggested; and,**
2. **Adopt the public policy language we presented in our June 14, 2022, [letter](#) to you, to use superior and humane simulation models and prohibit the use of animals in veterinary and zoology training involving procedures that are neither medically necessary for, nor of direct benefit to, the animals subjected to these practices.**

PETA has an international team of scientists who are ready to help modernize biomedical research and veterinary training at Riphah International University. We look forward to your swift reply regarding this important matter.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Pons (He/Him) | PETA
Research Associate, International Laboratory Methods
501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510

From: Registrar Riphah [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 2:29 AM
To: Samuel Pons [REDACTED]
Cc: Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad [REDACTED]; Prof. Dr. Yawar Hayat [REDACTED]; Dr. Asif Iqbal /RCVetS [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: For Vice Chancellor Ahmad, from PETA – complaint re Riphah veterinary training

Mr. Samuel Pons
Research Associate, International Laboratory Methods
PETA

Dear Mr. Samuel Pons,

The subject matter has been properly attended. As per the initial investigation, a dog had an accident and was found in severe pain and heavy bleeding on the road. Students of Riphah Lahore Campus due to the concern for life of the injured dog, picked him up and started treatment in the operation theater of Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences Lahore. Sadly, the dog did not survive. Post Mortem Report revealed that the cause of death was severe internal bleeding.

Moreover, it is informed that Riphah International University is a Higher Education Commission recognized and ISO Certified University. Riphah College of Veterinary Sciences (RCVets) has well qualified teachers and Instructors. Riphah University is following the prescribed SOPs against Cruelty to Animals in Punjab and the visitation team of the said authority visits the college often and show its satisfaction over the operations of treatment and practicals being performed in the RCVets.

In the end, I assure you and the community of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA that we are committed to eliminating cruelty to animals and our college team is fully aware of all SoPs being observed globally regarding the treatment of animals.

Best Regards

Dr. Khalid Mahmood Lodhi

Registrar

Riphah International University (ISO 9001:2015 Certified)

G-7/4 Campus, Islamabad. Pakistan.

Cell: [REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Samuel Pons** [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Jun 14, 2022 at 7:14 PM

Subject: For Vice Chancellor Ahmad, from PETA – complaint re Riphah veterinary training

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

June 14, 2022

Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad

Vice Chancellor

Riphah International University

Dear Dr. Ahmad:

Please find enclosed an urgent letter from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters around the world—regarding reportedly cruel surgical training on dogs and other animals performed at Riphah International University.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Pons (He/Him) | PETA

Research Associate, International Laboratory Methods

501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510

