

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

January 4, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters worldwide—to share new information related to our complaint sent to you on September 3, 2021,¹ and our follow-up letter sent to you dated March 16, 2022.² **Based on the information presented below, we would like to reiterate our request that you move swiftly to formally ban the use of animals in your agency's trauma training exercises, also known as live-tissue training (LTT).**

As we previously detailed to you, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals Service spent more than \$100,000 of taxpayers' money on horrific and archaic trauma training drills.³ These exercises typically involve shooting, stabbing, and dismembering live pigs or goats in attempts to recreate human battlefield injuries in order to practice trauma management, after which the animals are killed. However, President Joe Biden recently signed into law the 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which includes language blocking the funding of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) gruesome training drills on animals unless you, as attorney general, issue a "determination that such training is medically necessary and cannot be replicated by alternatives."⁴

Since this scenario won't occur—given that animals are poor stand-ins for human anatomy and physiology and given that superior human-simulation technology is readily available—we again urge you to *formally ban* LTT in favor of animal-free methods in the agency's trauma training. More than 80,000 PETA supporters have called on the DOJ to end these wasteful animal mutilation drills,⁵ following the lead of the U.S. Coast Guard, which stopped

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¹People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland. September 3, 2021. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-09-03-letter-to-ag-merrick-garland.pdf>

²People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland. March 16, 2022. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-03-16-PETA-Letter-AG-Garland-DOJ-Tier-One.pdf>

³Franzin, R. PETA Asks DOJ to Stop Conducting Training That Harms Animals. *The Hill*. October 30, 2019. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/468249-peta-asks-doj-to-stop-conducting-training-that-involves-harming>

⁴Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

⁵People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. PETA to Department of Justice: End Gruesome Trauma Training on Animals. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://support.peta.org/page/14376/action/1?locale=en-US>

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

this self-proclaimed “abhorrent” practice in 2017 after a PETA campaign.⁶ The U.S. Department of Defense also now requires that animal-free simulations be used “to the maximum extent practicable.”⁷

You can contact me at ShalinG@peta.org. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shalin G. Gala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Shalin G. Gala
Vice President, International Laboratory Methods
Laboratory Investigations Department

⁶People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. U.S. Coast Guard Ends Use of Animals in Trauma Training. March 18, 2018. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.peta.org/blog/coast-guard-commandant-congress-ending-animal-use-right-thing/>

⁷U.S. Department of Defense. Use of Animals in DoD Conducted and Supported Research and Training. March 20, 2019. Accessed January 3, 2023. <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/321601p.pdf>