



August 24, 2023

Brent C. Morse, D.V.M.  
Director  
Division of Compliance Oversight  
Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare  
National Institutes of Health

Via e-mail: [MorseB@mail.nih.gov](mailto:MorseB@mail.nih.gov)

Dear Dr. Morse:

We believe that the federal Animal Welfare Act violations documented in the attached U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection report posted against University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; (UTMB; Animal Welfare Assurance A3314-01) constitute violations of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy). Last year, UTMB received more than \$156 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and according to NIH, an estimated 47% of those funds supported projects that involved experiments on animals.

In 1985, members of Congress from both sides of the aisle worked together to strengthen protections for animals in laboratories in order to address deep-seated ethical concerns held by the American public regarding the use of animals in experiments. Polling by the Pew Research Center found that more than 50% of U.S. adults oppose the use of animals in experiments, and other surveys suggest that the support of the shrinking group that continues to accept animal experimentation is contingent on the existence and enforcement of stringent regulations aimed at protecting animals.

As you know, institutions that receive funding from Public Health Service agencies—including NIH—are required to comply with PHS Policy. Failure to comply violates not only federal animal welfare guidelines and policies but also public expectations that facilities receiving tax dollars to use animals—who are capable of experiencing pain, distress, love, and companionship and value their lives just as we value ours—at the very least, comply with minimal standards aimed at ensuring some modicum of animal welfare.

We ask that your office investigate the incidents outlined in the attached report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.  
Vice President  
Laboratory Investigations Cases

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

Washington  
1536 16th St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles  
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90026  
323-644-PETA

Norfolk  
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-PETA

Info@peta.org  
PETA.org

Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
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