



August 7, 2024

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

Dear Dr. Morse:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—to request that your office investigate possible noncompliance with the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS Policy) and the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (the Guide) related to the treatment of a monkey at Emory University (Emory; Animal Welfare Assurance ID D16-00113).

According to a June 26, 2024, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [inspection report](#) for Emory, on July 26, 2023, an infant rhesus macaque—not yet three months old—escaped through a three-inch wide and long hole in a cage and fractured his right arm. His arm was then surgically amputated above the elbow.

This incident described in the USDA's inspection report also indicates noncompliance with PHS Policy and the Guide. The Guide states, "The primary enclosure should provide a secure environment that does not permit animal escape and should be made of durable, nontoxic materials that resist corrosion, withstand the rigors of cleaning and regular handling, and are not detrimental to the health and research use of the animals" (p.51). Surely, this guidance includes that a baby monkey should not be able escape through a hole in a cage and sustain an injury so severe as to require the amputation of a limb.

We urge you to investigate the concerns summarized in this letter and to take swift and decisive action against Emory. In FY 2023 alone, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded Emory over \$485 million. Such funding should be able to ensure that a program functions properly, but Emory has proved that it can't meet even basic animal welfare requirements, regardless of what resources it has. Emory has a long history of noncompliance with animal welfare requirements, and this incident is not the first time in which a monkey has been injured or died due to Emory's failure to provide a secure environment.

Emory should no longer receive NIH funding for its National Primate Research Center, and its Animal Welfare Assurance should be revoked.

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
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OF ANIMALS

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

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at AmandaE@peta.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Elyse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amanda Elyse, J.D., M.S.
Laboratory Oversight Specialist
Laboratory Investigations Department
PETA