



December 9, 2024

Juliane K. Strauss-Soukup, PhD
Vice Provost, Research & Scholarship
Creighton University

Via e-mail: jksoukup@creighton.edu

Dear Vice Provost Strauss-Soukup:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, over 22,000 of whom live in Nebraska. Creighton University has maintained a Public Health Service-approved Animal Welfare Assurance for decades. This assurance requires adherence to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, including implementing the 3Rs principle: replacing animal use whenever possible, reducing the number of animals used, and refining procedures to minimize suffering.

Despite this, the university continues to use thousands of animals in its laboratories. A recent inventory reported that Creighton University used more than 2,500 mice, rats, zebrafish, and frogs in experiments. A 2023 federal report also documented the school's use of 9 guinea pigs, 307 hamsters, and 35 rabbits in its laboratories. Of the 35 rabbits, 30 were used in experiments that caused pain or distress, with no measures taken to alleviate their suffering. These figures contradict the university's assertions of reducing animal use, revealing a troubling disregard for its stated intention to adopt non-animal replacements and reduce reliance on animal experimentation.

What exactly has Creighton University's plan to implement the 3Rs been, and what is your plan for next year, 2025? We believe the public has the right to know if the University's pledge has been truthful.

You must be aware that numerous studies dating back more than two decades reveal the failure of animal experiments to lead to cures and treatments for human beings. Conferences, papers, and all manner of information sources show the availability of countless superior, non-animal research methods that produce far more reliable and species-relevant results for human health than experiments on animals. PETA scientists' [Research Modernization Deal](#) provides a detailed strategy for replacing experiments on animals with humane and human-relevant methods. Have you read it, and what is your own plan to implement it or alternative solutions to this burgeoning use of animals on your campus?

In 2023, Creighton University received more than \$8.5 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed towards experiments on animals, including subjecting mice as young as 10 days old to extreme stress through a series of harmful procedures. These included placing the mice on hot plates, depriving them of food for 24

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hours, confining them in cages that delivered painful foot shocks, and forcing them to swim in inescapable beakers of water to avoid drowning.

Creighton University's failure to adhere to the 3Rs principles undermines public trust. We ask you to address this matter of public interest without delay. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Alka Chandna, Ph.D.

Vice President

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