



December 9, 2024

Santa J. Ono
President
University of Michigan

Via e-mail: presoff@umich.edu

Dear President Ono:

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally, nearly 168,000 of whom live in Michigan. The University of Michigan 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 tens of thousands of animals in its laboratories. A recent inventory reported that the University of Michigan used more than 94,000 mice, rats, fishes, and amphibians in experiments. A 2023 federal report also documented the school's use of 4 cats, 178 guinea pigs, 48 hamsters, 909 rabbits, 8 nonhuman primates, 70 sheep, 366 pigs, and 535 other animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act in its laboratories. 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 the University of Michigan'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, the University of Michigan received over \$698 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed toward experiments on animals. Among these, experimenters inflicted severe burns on pigs by pressing a 176°F copper bar against their shaved

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skin for up to 30 seconds. The pigs were left to suffer for three weeks before being killed.

The University of Michigan'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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