



December 9, 2024

Kenneth W. Bayles, PhD  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Via e-mail:** [kbayles@unmc.edu](mailto:kbayles@unmc.edu)

Dear Vice Chancellor Bayles:

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. The University of Nebraska Medical Center 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 Nebraska Medical Center used more than 37,000 mice, rats, frogs, fishes, and birds in experiments. A 2023 federal report also documented the school's use of 926 hamsters, 16 rabbits, 31 nonhuman primates, and 118 pigs 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 Nebraska Medical Center'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 Nebraska Medical Center received over \$98.6 million in taxpayer funding from the National Institutes of Health, with approximately half of that amount directed toward experiments on animals. Among these, mice were repeatedly injected with tamoxifen, causing severe side effects such as rectal bleeding, hunched postures, and extreme lethargy before being gassed to death.

PEOPLE FOR  
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TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

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

The University of Nebraska Medical Center'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

Laboratory Oversight & Special Cases

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