Prof. Dr. Petra Winter President The European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education

Via email: office@eaeve.org

Dear President Winter:

Thank you in advance for your time. I am writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—regarding disturbing reports of cruel and potentially illegal veterinary surgical practices at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University (VMCU) in Egypt, which is a member of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE).<sup>1</sup> We respectfully urge EAEVE to investigate this urgent matter and persuade VMCU to require the use of superior and humane simulation models and prohibit the use of animals in veterinary training involving procedures that are neither medically necessary nor of direct benefit to the animals involved.

An informant—who leaked video footage to PETA reportedly showing a dog, in October 2024, tied to and standing on a metal railing outside of VMCU, crying in distress—told us that instructors kept the dog in a room without food and water for days and subjected him to different invasive procedures, injections, and an overdose of anesthesia.<sup>2</sup> Other sources have documented and reported on the horrific treatment of animals at VMCU and other universities across Egypt,<sup>3,4,5,6</sup> including a female dog who reportedly had her legs cut off, and other dogs who underwent

https://www.peta.org/blog/cairo-vet-school



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Info@peta.org PETA.org

#### Entities:

PETA Asia

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education. Members. EAEVE. Accessed November 11, 2024. <u>https://www.eaeve.org/about-eaeve/members</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>PETA. Whistleblowers: Egyptian University Cuts Into Dogs for Cruel Training. December 18, 2024. Accessed December 18, 2024.

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PETA India

experimentation and then had their bodies burned in an incinerator.<sup>7</sup> Students are also speaking out about this cruelty, reporting being "traumatized" by what they have been forced to witness in the name of their education and are calling on the university to "implement ethical treatment standards and proper veterinary protocols."<sup>8</sup> Their testimonies allege that dogs endure multiple invasive surgeries, often without proper anesthesia.<sup>9</sup> These claims are supplemented by whistleblower reports to PETA Asia that describe animals "being caught, starved, and kept in bags for extended periods" and reportedly being "electrocuted while still alive and used for live dissection in front of students."<sup>10</sup>

This is not the first documented instance of cruelty at VMCU. In 2012, students reported that dogs were tied, dragged, and thrown out of the window from the third floor of a building after being experimented on and made several other allegations of cruelty to animals against the veterinary faculty.<sup>11</sup> PETA had also previously written to Cairo University's former dean of veterinary medicine, Dr. Fathy Farouk Mohamed, in 2012 regarding disturbing videos in Cairo University's veterinary program depicting dogs tied down, beaten with sticks, and stomped on in preparation for experiments and a donkey undergoing anal electrocution. These videos appear to have resurfaced on social media after the recent allegations were made.<sup>12</sup> In that correspondence, we urged the institution to "prohibit all veterinary training procedures that cause harm or result in the death of an animal and instead adopt a cruelty-free curriculum," which would benefit future veterinarians and their future patients, animals.<sup>13</sup> We also offered assistance in modernizing the university's veterinary curricula but have not heard back, despite following up the next year.<sup>14</sup>

Thus far, VMCU has failed to take sufficient steps to prohibit this cruelty to animals. Given the new disturbing evidence that has emerged showing similar patterns of abuse, we urgently request that EAEVE pressure VMCU to modernize its veterinary curriculum. As Egypt's primary veterinary training program and a member of international veterinary organizations,<sup>15,16</sup> VMCU ought to honor their standards. Otherwise, it risks losing the trust of current and future students, aspiring veterinary academics, and animal guardians, as well as lagging behind the professional

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world of veterinary medicine and global health.<sup>17,18,19</sup> This is especially true in today's hyperconnected society, where shocking evidence of animal cruelty can spread rapidly, and thus maintaining high ethical and professional standards is more crucial than ever.

# Alleged Cruelty to Animals Violates the Egyptian Constitution and Penal Laws

The reported incidents at VMCU and other veterinary training programs in Egypt appear to violate a provision in the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt,<sup>20</sup> specifically:

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The state also commits to the ... prevention of cruelty to animals.

Likewise, the type of mistreatment of animals by the faculty and students of VMCU—and likely other veterinary colleges in Egypt—is forbidden by Penal Code No. 58 01 of 1937,<sup>21</sup> as follows:

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A penalty of detention of a period not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding two hundred pounds shall be inflicted on whoever willfully unjustifiably kills or poisons any of the tame animals other than those mentioned in Article 355, or causes a grievous harm to it.

Given these federal provisions, it's imperative that EAEVE work to prohibit the aforementioned reported cruelty to animals at VMCU and other veterinary training programs in Egypt.

## Humane Veterinary Training Methods Are Widely Available

Veterinary students need to acquire supervised hands-on experience with live animals as an important part of their clinical training and preparation. However, this training can be accomplished ethically without harming or unjustifiably killing animals, and there's no need to keep animals on-site in laboratory cages or chained to objects. Basic skills training—such as IV catheter placement, blood draws, intubation, restraint, radiographic positioning, and critical care monitoring as well as advanced surgical training—can be accomplished by using realistic simulation models. Carefully supervised veterinary clinical practicums involving animals who present with a medically relevant issue or who would directly benefit from the procedures performed on them in the clinic would also allow veterinary trainees to put their knowledge to use. Importantly, procedures that are neither medically necessary for nor of direct benefit to the animals subjected to these practices should be prohibited during such trainings. There are many humane training methods available that can effectively prepare veterinary students:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. Simulators Expand Training, Reduce Harmful Animal Use in Veterinary Schools. HSVMA. Published April 26, 2011. Accessed November 19, 2024.

https://www.hsvma.org/simulators expand training reduce harmful animal use veterinary schools 042611. <sup>20</sup>Constitute Project. Constitution of Egypt 2019. Constitute Project. Accessed November 20, 2024. https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Egypt 2019.

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- The SynDaver Surgical Canine—which breathes and bleeds; has muscles, organs, and bones; and can be operated on repeatedly—can replace animal use in veterinary surgical training.<sup>22</sup>
- Critical Care Jerry and Critical Care Fluffy are complete emergency room veterinary training dog and cat manikins, respectively. They can simulate trauma, feature jugular and vascular access, and allow training in airway management, ventilation, endotracheal intubation, mouth-to-snout resuscitation, and circulation with external chest compressions.<sup>23,24</sup>
- Virtual Animal Anatomy is an innovative anatomy software program that includes virtual anatomical models of dogs, cats, cattle, and horses. Virtual Canine Anatomy, the dog model, has received outstanding accolades from members of the American Association of Veterinary Anatomists, students, and instructors globally. The program allows for the luxury of self-paced, individualized learning and offers a focal point around which instructors and students can exchange ideas and make interpretations of course content.<sup>25</sup>
- Biosphera offers interactive software models that allow students to explore human and animal anatomy through virtual dissection. It currently has 12 model options, including dogs, cats, horses, rats, pigs, and cattle, designed especially for students, teachers, and professionals in the life sciences and veterinary medicine.<sup>26</sup>

## **Precedent for Modernizing Veterinary Training**

After calls in 2022 from PETA to the Pakistan Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training,<sup>27</sup> and other institutions,<sup>28,29,30,31</sup> to ban harmful and medically unnecessary veterinary training on animals, Salman Sufi, then-head of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Strategic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>SynDaver. Canine Surgical Model. SynDaver. Accessed October 30, 2024. https://syndaver.com/product/canine-surgical-model/

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>Pons S. Letter to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-MoFEPT-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Pons S. Letter to Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-ARID-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>Pons S. Riphah International University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-Riphah-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>Pons S. Letter to COMSATS University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-COMSATS-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>Pons S. Letter to IPC Pakistan. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-IPC-re-vet-animal-training.pdf

Reforms Unit, announced historic new measures in Pakistan, stating, "Live testing of animals in vet colleges and industrial complexes is banned from today in Islamabad Capital Territory."<sup>32,33</sup>

## **Request for Action to End Cruelty to Animals During Veterinary Training in Egypt**

Mutilating and killing animals for veterinary training is unethical, and we urge you to please demand that VMCU and other veterinary colleges in Egypt switch to humane teaching methods such as those described above and prevent cruelty to animals from occurring again. EAEVE's intervention would compel VMCU to align its training with current technological advancements and the evolving ethical standards of the veterinary profession.

PETA has an international team of scientists who are ready to help these institutions modernize science teaching at these schools, along with helping them to obtain advanced, animal-free, humane models as we previously did when we helped Egypt's Advanced Trauma Life Support program replace its use of animals with advanced simulation models.<sup>34,35</sup>

Thank you for your consideration of this important and urgent issue. You can contact me directly via email at <u>MaggieW@peta.org</u>. Please reply by January 31, 2025.

Sincerely,

Winieur

Maggie Wiśniewska, Ph.D. Science Policy Advisor - International Laboratory Methods Division Laboratory Investigations Department

Shriya Swaminathan Science Policy Advisor, International Laboratory Methods Laboratory Investigations Department

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>Saeed A. In rare instance, Pakistan announces fine, jail term for perpetrators of animal cruelty. *Arab News*. June 30, 2022. Accessed October 30, 2024.

https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2114161/pakistan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>Saeed A. In rare animal rights push, Pakistan government to work with PETA on 'critical' reforms. *Arab News*. July 1, 2022. Accessed October 30, 2024.

https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2114566/pakistan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>Thomas G. Egyptian surgeons will no longer practice on sheep, thanks to PETA. *Vice*. January 24, 2013. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.vice.com/en/article/egyptian-surgeons-will-no-longer-practice-on-sheep-thanks-to-peta/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup>PETA. Egypt eliminates trauma training cruelty. PETA. August 3, 2021. Accessed November 1, 2024. https://www.peta.org/blog/egypt-eliminates-trauma-training-cruelty/.

The Honorable Professor Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research Egypt

Via e-mail: <u>Minister@mohesr.gov.eg</u>

Dear Minister Ashour:

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An informant—who leaked video footage to PETA reportedly showing a dog, in October 2024, tied to and standing on a metal railing outside of VMCU, crying in distress—told us that instructors kept the dog in a room without food and water for days and subjected him to different invasive procedures, injections, and an overdose of anesthesia.<sup>1</sup> Other sources have documented and reported on the horrific treatment of animals at VMCU and other universities across Egypt,<sup>2,3,4,5</sup> including a female dog who reportedly had her legs cut off, and other dogs who underwent



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This is not the first documented instance of cruelty at VMCU. In 2012, students reported that dogs were tied, dragged, and thrown out of the window from the third floor of a building after being experimented on and made several other allegations of cruelty to animals against the veterinary faculty.<sup>10</sup> PETA had also previously written to Cairo University's former dean of veterinary medicine, Dr. Fathy Farouk Mohamed, in 2012 regarding disturbing videos in Cairo University's veterinary program depicting dogs tied down, beaten with sticks, and stomped on in preparation for experiments and a donkey undergoing anal electrocution. These videos appear to have resurfaced on social media after the recent allegations were made.<sup>11</sup> In that correspondence, we urged the institution to "prohibit all veterinary training procedures that cause harm or result in the death of an animal and instead adopt a cruelty-free curriculum," which would benefit future veterinarians and their future patients, animals.<sup>12</sup> We also offered assistance in modernizing the university's veterinary curricula but have not heard back, despite following up the next year.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Virtual Animal Anatomy. Virtual Animal Anatomy. Colorado State University. Accessed October 30, 2024. <u>https://virtualanimalanatomy.colostate.edu</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>Biosphera. Interactive anatomy models. Published November 13, 2020. Accessed October 30, 2024. <u>https://biosphera3d.com</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Pons S. Letter to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-MoFEPT-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>Pons S. Letter to Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-ARID-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Pons S. Riphah International University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-Riphah-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup>Pons S. Letter to COMSATS University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-COMSATS-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>Pons S. Letter to IPC Pakistan. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-IPC-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

Reforms Unit, announced historic new measures in Pakistan, stating, "Live testing of animals in vet colleges and industrial complexes is banned from today in Islamabad Capital Territory."<sup>31,32</sup>

# **Request for Action to End Cruelty to Animals During Veterinary Training in Egypt**

Mutilating and killing animals for veterinary training is unethical, and we urge you to please demand that VMCU and other veterinary colleges in Egypt switch to humane teaching methods such as those described above and prevent cruelty to animals from occurring again. PETA has an international team of scientists who are ready to help these institutions modernize science teaching at these schools, along with helping them to obtain advanced, animal-free, humane models as we previously did when we helped Egypt's Advanced Trauma Life Support program replace its use of animals with advanced simulation models.<sup>33,34</sup>

Thank you for your consideration of this important and urgent issue. You can contact me directly via e-mail at <u>MaggieW@peta.org</u>. Please reply by January 31, 2025.

Sincerely,

Mariante.

Maggie Wiśniewska, Ph.D. Science Policy Advisor - International Laboratory Methods Division Laboratory Investigations Department

Shriya Swaminathan Science Policy Advisor, International Laboratory Methods Laboratory Investigations Department

cc: Citizen service complaint (<u>c.service@moe.gov.eg</u>) Government complaint (<u>info@shakwa.eg</u>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>Saeed A. In rare instance, Pakistan announces fine, jail term for perpetrators of animal cruelty. *Arab News*. June 30, 2022. Accessed October 30, 2024.

https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2114161/pakistan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>Saeed A. In rare animal rights push, Pakistan government to work with PETA on 'critical' reforms. *Arab News*. July 1, 2022. Accessed October 30, 2024.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>Thomas G. Egyptian surgeons will no longer practice on sheep, thanks to PETA. *Vice*. January 24, 2013. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.vice.com/en/article/egyptian-surgeons-will-no-longer-practice-on-sheep-thanks-to-peta/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>PETA. Egypt eliminates trauma training cruelty. PETA. August 3, 2021. Accessed November 1, 2024. https://www.peta.org/blog/egypt-eliminates-trauma-training-cruelty/.

Alaa Ashmawy, Ph.D. President National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education Egypt

Via e-mail: <u>naqaaeit@naqaae.eg; president\_naqaae@naqaae.eg</u>

Dear Dr. Ashmawy:

Thank you in advance for your time. I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—regarding disturbing reports of cruel and potentially illegal veterinary surgical practices at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University (VMCU) and other veterinary training programs in Egypt. We respectfully request that the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE) investigate this urgent matter and issue a directive requiring the use of superior and humane simulation models and prohibiting the use of animals in veterinary training involving procedures that are neither medically necessary nor of direct benefit to the animals involved.

An informant—who leaked video footage to PETA reportedly showing a dog, in October 2024, tied to and standing on a metal railing outside of VMCU, crying in distress—told us that instructors kept the dog in a room without food and water for days and subjected him to different invasive procedures, injections, and an overdose of anesthesia.<sup>1</sup> Other sources have documented and reported on the horrific treatment of animals at VMCU and other universities across Egypt,<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>



PETA

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#### Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India

- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA SwitzerlandPETA Netherlands
- I LIA Nemenanas
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>PETA. Whistleblowers: Egyptian University Cuts Into Dogs for Cruel Training. December 18, 2024. Accessed December 18, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/blog/cairo-vet-school</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>REFK Animal Rescue Team. Facebook post. October 17, 2024. Accessed

October 31, 2024.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/refk.animals/permalink/8927348113975 927/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Saving an Innocent Animal Soul. Facebook post. October 18, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1658674034362612/permalink/3985010 125062313/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Saving the Soul of an Innocent Animal. Facebook post. October 16, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/936000409863686/permalink/34172670 51736997/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Markato Outlet. Facebook Post. October 18, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1716637495805379&rdid=juwmyHa fKVDApBP2

PETA France

including a female dog who reportedly had her legs cut off, and other dogs who underwent experimentation and then had their bodies burned in an incinerator.<sup>6</sup> Students are also speaking out about this cruelty, reporting being "traumatized" by what they have been forced to witness in the name of their education and are calling on the university to "implement ethical treatment standards and proper veterinary protocols."<sup>7</sup> Their testimonies allege that dogs endure multiple invasive surgeries, often without proper anesthesia.<sup>8</sup> These claims are supplemented by whistleblower reports to PETA Asia that describe animals "being caught, starved, and kept in bags for extended periods" and reportedly being "electrocuted while still alive and used for live dissection in front of students."<sup>9</sup>

This is not the first documented instance of cruelty at VMCU. In 2012, students reported that dogs were tied, dragged, and thrown out of the window from the third floor of a building after being experimented on and made several other allegations of cruelty to animals against the veterinary faculty.<sup>10</sup> PETA had also previously written to Cairo University's former dean of veterinary medicine, Dr. Fathy Farouk Mohamed, in 2012 regarding disturbing videos in Cairo University's veterinary program depicting dogs tied down, beaten with sticks, and stomped on in preparation for experiments and a donkey undergoing anal electrocution. These videos appear to have resurfaced on social media after the recent allegations were made.<sup>11</sup> In that correspondence, we urged the institution to "prohibit all veterinary training procedures that cause harm or result in the death of an animal and instead adopt a cruelty-free curriculum," which would benefit future veterinarians and their future patients, animals.<sup>12</sup> We also offered assistance in modernizing the university's veterinary curricula but have not heard back, despite following up the next year.<sup>13</sup>

Thus far, VMCU has failed to take sufficient steps to prohibit this cruelty to animals. Given the new disturbing evidence that has emerged showing similar patterns of abuse, we urgently request that NAQAAE pressure VMCU to modernize its veterinary curriculum. As Egypt's primary veterinary training program and a member of international veterinary organizations.<sup>14, 15</sup> VMCU ought to honor their standards. Otherwise, it risks losing the trust of current and future students, aspiring veterinary academics, and animal guardians, and lagging behind the professional world

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\_fbid=548861400884054&id=100072805957914 <sup>7</sup>El-Shai. Instagram post. October 15, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Markato Outlet. Facebook post. October 13, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

https://www.instagram.com/elshai.eg/p/DBJdZZBtlsS/?img\_index=1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>El-Shai.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Whistleblower 1. E-mail to PETA Asia. October 19, 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>Occupy for Animals! Accessed October 31, 2024. <u>https://occupyforanimals.weebly.com/staff-of-the-faculty-of-veterinary-medicine-cairo-university-fovmcu-threw-dogs-off-the-third-floor-after-experimenting-on-them.html</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Cart Animal Rescue Group. Facebook post. October 17, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024. <u>https://fb.watch/vzrsb5T-Ki/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>PETA. E-Mail to Cairo University Veterinary School Dean. June 1, 2012. Accessed October 31, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/peta-correspondence-with-cairo-university.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>PETA. E-Mail to Cairo University Veterinary School Dean. June 25, 2013. Accessed October 31, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/peta-correspondence-with-cairo-university.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education. About EAEVE Members. Accessed November 15, 2024. <u>https://www.eaeve.org/about-eaeve/members</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>One World One Health Conference at Cairo University. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University. <u>https://vet.cu.edu.eg/new-web/study/conferanceweb.php</u>.

of veterinary medicine and global health.<sup>16,17,18</sup> This is especially true in today's hyper-connected world, where information spreads rapidly, and thus maintaining high ethical and professional standards is more crucial than ever.

# Alleged Cruelty to Animals Violates the Egyptian Constitution and Penal Laws

The reported incidents at VMCU and other veterinary training programs in Egypt appear to violate a provision in the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Egypt,<sup>19</sup> specifically:

• Article 45

The state also commits to the ... prevention of cruelty to animals.

Likewise, the type of mistreatment of animals by the faculty and students of VMCU—and likely other veterinary colleges in Egypt—is forbidden by Penal Code No. 58 01 of 1937,<sup>20</sup> as follows:

• Article 357

A penalty of detention of a period not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding two hundred pounds shall be inflicted on whoever willfully unjustifiably kills or poisons any of the tame animals other than those mentioned in Article 355, or causes a grievous harm to it.

Given these federal provisions, it's imperative that NAQAAE prohibit the aforementioned reported cruelty to animals at VMCU and other veterinary training programs in Egypt.

## Humane Veterinary Training Methods Are Widely Available

Veterinary students need to acquire supervised hands-on experience with live animals as an important part of their clinical training and preparation. However, this training can be accomplished ethically without harming or unjustifiably killing animals, and there's no need to keep animals on-site in laboratory cages or chained to objects. Basic skills training—such as IV catheter placement, blood draws, intubation, restraint, radiographic positioning, and critical care monitoring as well as advanced surgical training—can be accomplished by using realistic simulation models. Carefully supervised veterinary clinical practicums involving animals who present with a medically relevant issue or who would directly benefit from the procedures performed on them in the clinic would also allow veterinary trainees to put their knowledge to use. Importantly, procedures that are neither medically necessary for nor of direct benefit to the animals subjected to these practices should be prohibited during such trainings. There are many humane training methods available that can effectively prepare veterinary students:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>Braid HR. The Use of Simulators for Teaching Practical Clinical Skills to Veterinary Students – A. Review. *Altern Lab Anim.* 2022 May;50(3):184-194.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society. Medical and Vet Students. NZAVS. Accessed November 19, 2024. <u>https://www.nzavs.org.nz/alternatives-and-animal-free-science/medical-and-vet-students</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. Simulators Expand Training, Reduce Harmful Animal Use in Veterinary Schools. HSVMA. Published April 26, 2011. Accessed November 19, 2024. https://www.hsyma.org/simulators expand training reduce harmful animal use veterinary schools 042611.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Constitute Project. Constitution of Egypt 2019. Constitute Project. Accessed November 20, 2024. https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Egypt\_2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Global Animal Law. Law No. 58 01 The Year 1937 Promulgating The Penal Code. Accessed November 1, 2024. https://www.globalanimallaw.org/downloads/database/national/egypt/criminal-code.pdf.

- The SynDaver Surgical Canine—which breathes and bleeds; has muscles, organs, and bones; and can be operated on repeatedly—can replace animal use in veterinary surgical training.<sup>21</sup>
- Critical Care Jerry and Critical Care Fluffy are complete emergency room veterinary training dog and cat manikins, respectively. They can simulate trauma, feature jugular and vascular access, and allow training in airway management, ventilation, endotracheal intubation, mouth-to-snout resuscitation, and circulation with external chest compressions.<sup>22,23</sup>
- Virtual Animal Anatomy is an innovative anatomy software program that includes virtual anatomical models of dogs, cats, cattle, and horses. Virtual Canine Anatomy, the dog model, has received outstanding accolades from members of the American Association of Veterinary Anatomists, students, and instructors globally. The program allows for the luxury of self-paced, individualized learning and offers a focal point around which instructors and students can exchange ideas and make interpretations of course content.<sup>24</sup>
- Biosphera offers interactive software models that allow students to explore human and animal anatomy through virtual dissection. It currently has 12 model options, including dogs, cats, horses, rats, pigs, and cattle, designed especially for students, teachers, and professionals in the life sciences and veterinary medicine.<sup>25</sup>

## **Precedent for Modernizing Veterinary Training**

After calls in 2022 from PETA to the Pakistan Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training,<sup>26</sup> and other institutions,<sup>27,28,29,30</sup> to ban harmful and medically unnecessary veterinary training on animals, Salman Sufi, then-head of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Strategic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>SynDaver. Canine Surgical Model. SynDaver. Accessed October 30, 2024. https://syndaver.com/product/canine-surgical-model/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>Rescue Critters. Critical Care Jerry. A Thales & Co. Accessed October 30, 2024. https://rescuecritters.com/product/critical-care-jerry

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>Rescue Critters. Critical Care Fluffy. A Thales & Co. Accessed October 30, 2024. https://rescuecritters.com/product/critical- care-fluffy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Virtual Animal Anatomy. Virtual Animal Anatomy. Colorado State University. Accessed October 30, 2024. <u>https://virtualanimalanatomy.colostate.edu</u>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Pons S. Riphah International University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-Riphah-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>Pons S. Letter to IPC Pakistan. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-IPC-re-vet-animal-training.pdf</u>

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Thank you for your consideration of this important and urgent issue. You can contact me directly via e-mail at <u>MaggieW@peta.org</u>. Please reply by January 31, 2025.

Sincerely,

Mariante.

Maggie Wiśniewska, Ph.D. Science Policy Advisor - International Laboratory Methods Division Laboratory Investigations Department

Shriya Swaminathan Science Policy Advisor, International Laboratory Methods Division Laboratory Investigations Department

cc: Citizen service complaint (<u>c.service@moe.gov.eg</u>) Government complaint (<u>info@shakwa.eg</u>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>Saeed A. In rare instance, Pakistan announces fine, jail term for perpetrators of animal cruelty. *Arab News*. June 30, 2022. Accessed October 30, 2024.

https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2114161/pakistan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>Saeed A. In rare animal rights push, Pakistan government to work with PETA on 'critical' reforms. *Arab News*. July 1, 2022. Accessed October 30, 2024.

https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2114566/pakistan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>Thomas G. Egyptian surgeons will no longer practice on sheep, thanks to PETA. *Vice*. January 24, 2013. Accessed November 1, 2024. <u>https://www.vice.com/en/article/egyptian-surgeons-will-no-longer-practice-on-sheep-thanks-to-peta/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>PETA. Egypt eliminates trauma training cruelty. PETA. August 3, 2021. Accessed November 1, 2024. https://www.peta.org/blog/egypt-eliminates-trauma-training-cruelty/.

The Honorable Motaz Zahran Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United States of America

Via E-mail: ambassador@egyptembassy.net

Dear Ambassador Zahran,

Thank you in advance for your time. I am writing to you on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally—regarding disturbing social media posts and reports PETA Asia has obtained of cruel veterinary surgical practices at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University (VMCU).<sup>1</sup> We urge you to implore Cairo University to adopt a public policy requiring the use of superior and humane simulation models and prohibiting the use of animals in veterinary training involving procedures that are neither medically necessary for nor of direct benefit to the animals involved.

We've written to the president of Cairo University,<sup>2</sup> Egypt's Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research,<sup>3</sup> the National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education,<sup>4</sup> and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education<sup>5</sup>—of which VMCU is a member urging an immediate intervention.

You can contact me via e-mail at <u>ShriyaS@peta.org</u>. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and we look forward to your response.

<sup>1</sup>PETA. Whistleblowers: Egyptian University Cuts Into Dogs for Cruel Training. December 18, 2024. Accessed December 18, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/blog/cairo-vet-school</u> <sup>2</sup>Swaminathan S. Letter to Cairo University President. PETA. December 18, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-18-letter-to-cairo-university-re-veterinary-training.pdf</u> PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

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

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Wiśniewska M. Letter to MHESR. PETA. December 18, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-18-letter-to-mhesr-re-cairo-university-veterinary-training.pdf</u>
<sup>4</sup>Wiśniewska M. Letter to NAQAAE. PETA. December 18, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-18-letter-to-naqaae-re-cairo-university-veterinary-training.pdf</u>
<sup>5</sup>Wiśniewska M. Letter to EAEVE. PETA. December 18, 2024. <u>https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-18-letter-to-naqaae-re-cairo-university-veterinary-training.pdf</u>

Sincerely yours,

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Shriya Swaminathan Science Policy Advisor, International Laboratory Methods Laboratory Investigations Department