



December 18, 2024

Mohamed Sami Abdel-Sadek, Ph.D.  
President  
Cairo University

Via e-mail: [president@cu.edu.eg](mailto:president@cu.edu.eg)

Dear President Abdel-Sadek:

Thank you in advance for your time, and congratulations on your recent appointment as the new president of Cairo University. I'm 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 veterinary surgical practices at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Cairo University (VMCU). **Based on the information presented below, we urge you to investigate this matter and 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.**

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 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

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

<sup>2</sup>REFK Animal Rescue Team. Facebook post. October 17, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/refk.animals/permalink/8927348113975927/>

<sup>3</sup>Saving an Innocent Animal Soul. Facebook post. October 18, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1658674034362612/permalink/3985010125062313/>

<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/3417267051736997/>

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

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1716637495805379&rdid=juwmyHafKVDApBP2>

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

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=548861400884054&id=100072805957914](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=548861400884054&id=100072805957914)

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- PETA France
- PETA Australia
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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>

### **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

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<sup>7</sup>El-Shai. Instagram post. October 15, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

[https://www.instagram.com/elshai.eg/p/DBJdZZBtIs/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/elshai.eg/p/DBJdZZBtIs/?img_index=1)

<sup>8</sup>El-Shai.

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

<sup>10</sup>Occupy for Animals! Accessed October 31, 2024. <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>

<sup>11</sup>Cart Animal Rescue Group. Facebook post. October 17, 2024. Accessed October 31, 2024.

<https://fb.watch/vzrsb5T-Ki/>

<sup>12</sup>PETA. E-Mail to Cairo University Veterinary School Dean. June 1, 2012. Accessed October 31, 2024.

<https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/peta-correspondence-with-cairo-university.pdf>

<sup>13</sup>PETA. E-Mail to Cairo University Veterinary School Dean. June 25, 2013. Accessed October 31, 2024.

<https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/peta-correspondence-with-cairo-university.pdf>

prohibited during such trainings. There are many humane training methods available that can effectively prepare veterinary students:

- 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>14</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>15,16</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>17</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>18</sup>

### **Precedent for Modernizing Veterinary Training**

After calls in 2022 from PETA to the Pakistan Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training,<sup>19</sup> and other institutions,<sup>20,21,22,23</sup> to ban harmful and medically unnecessary veterinary training on animals, Salman Sufi, then-head of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s Strategic Reforms

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<sup>14</sup>SynDaver. Canine Surgical Model. SynDaver. Accessed October 30, 2024. <https://syndaver.com/product/canine-surgical-model/>

<sup>15</sup>Rescue Critters. Critical Care Jerry. A Thales & Co. Accessed October 30, 2024. <https://rescuecritters.com/product/critical-care-jerry>

<sup>16</sup>Rescue Critters. Critical Care Fluffy. A Thales & Co. Accessed October 30, 2024. <https://rescuecritters.com/product/critical-care-fluffy>

<sup>17</sup>Virtual Animal Anatomy. Virtual Animal Anatomy. Colorado State University. Accessed October 30, 2024. <https://virtualanimalanatomy.colostate.edu>

<sup>18</sup>Biosphera. Interactive anatomy models. Published November 13, 2020. Accessed October 30, 2024. <https://biosphera3d.com>

<sup>19</sup>Pons S. Letter to Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-MoFEPT-re-vet-animal-training.pdf>

<sup>20</sup>Pons S. Letter to Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-ARID-re-vet-animal-training.pdf>

<sup>21</sup>Pons S. Riphah International University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-Riphah-re-vet-animal-training.pdf>

<sup>22</sup>Pons S. Letter to COMSATS University. PETA.org. June 14, 2022. Accessed November 1, 2024. <https://www.peta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PETA-to-COMSATS-re-vet-animal-training.pdf>

<sup>23</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>

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>24,25</sup>

### **Request for Action to End Cruelty to Animals in Veterinary Training at Cairo University**

Mutilating and killing animals for veterinary training is unethical, and we urge you to please 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 you modernize science teaching at your school, along with helping you 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>26,27</sup>

Thank you for your consideration of this important and urgent issue. You can contact me at [ShriyaS@peta.org](mailto:ShriyaS@peta.org). Please reply by January 31, 2025.

Sincerely yours,



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<sup>24</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>25</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>26</sup>Thomas G. Egyptian surgeons will no longer practice on sheep, thanks to PETA. *Vice*. January 24, 2013. Accessed November 1, 2024. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/egyptian-surgeons-will-no-longer-practice-on-sheep-thanks-to-peta/>

<sup>27</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/>