

Editor,

As a former Washington University in St. Louis student, I was saddened to learn that the St. Louis Children's Hospital, in conjunction with WUSTL, is still engaging in the all-but-archaic practice of using cats for painful medical training exercises. In a given session, as many as ten trainees repeatedly force plastic tubes down cat's throats. I am told by experts that most teaching facilities are using more modern, effective and humane methods to learn how to treat human children, and have long ago given up harming animals in this way.

It doesn't take a medical degree to recognize that practicing intubation on a limp cat is nothing like doing the same procedure on a larger, crying, squirming and/or coughing human child. I've drawn the accompanying cartoon to convey the grave consequences of this kind of antiquated logic.

Sincerely,

Dan Piraro

Creator of internationally syndicated cartoon strip, "Bizarro"