

March 12, 2009

The Honorable John J. Young, Jr.
Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, USD(ATL)
3010 Defense Pentagon
Room 3E1010
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Mr. Young:

I am writing to you on behalf of PETA and our more than 2 million members and supporters to applaud your landmark first step in forming a Joint Analysis Team (JAT) “to examine the use of animals for medical education and training across the Services”—after more than 16 months of public campaigning by PETA—according to a Department of Defense (DoD) “Information Paper” that Congressman John Dingell sent to one of our supporters. **We respectfully offer the JAT the following information in support of an end to the military’s use of animals in trauma and chemical casualty training exercises.**

As we have discussed in previous correspondence, non-animal methods are currently available for the military’s medical education and training program. Our request to replace the DoD’s trauma exercises on animals with non-animal methods has received written support from Harvard Medical School simulation expert Dr. John Pawlowski, decorated Operation Iraqi Freedom trauma surgeon and medical general counsel for the Iraq War Veterans Organization Dr. Michael Murphy, and the American Medical Student Association, among others. Neither the Air Force Expeditionary Medical Skills Institute’s Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills nor the Navy Trauma Training Center use animals for trauma training—proving that the DoD does not need to use animals.

Among the many effective non-animal methods of combat trauma management training are rotations in civilian trauma centers; the Combat Trauma Patient Simulation System (CTPS) already being used in several military facilities; the Simulab Corporation’s TraumaMan system, which is approved by the American College of Surgeons as a replacement for the use of animals in Advanced Trauma Life Support courses; and Dr. Emad Aboud’s “living” cadaver model.

Within a few days, we will be sending a comprehensive packet of information regarding non-animal training methods that the military can use. Our military and medical experts would also be happy to meet with the JAT to discuss non-animal training methods in detail. May we please hear from you soon? You may contact me at ShalinG@peta.org or 757-962-8325. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Shalin G. Gala, Laboratory Methods Specialist
Laboratory Investigations Department

cc: The Honorable Ellen P. Embrey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of
Defense (Force Health Protection and Readiness), JAT member
RDML David Smith, USN, Joint Staff Surgeon, JAT Member
Dr. Ashton Carter, Presidential-Nominee for New USD(ATL)



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