

September 6, 2007

Dr. Richard Herman, Chancellor
Office of the Chancellor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
Swanlund Administration Bldg.
601 E. John St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Dr. Herman:

I am writing on behalf of PETA and our more than 1.6 million members and supporters regarding Frederick Kaufman's *New York Times Magazine* article describing his visit to George Fahey's UIUC lab, in which Kaufman saw ileally cannulated dogs who "had been mutilated for the sake of science" ("They Eat What We Are," September 2).

Surgically attaching tubes to dogs' intestines to measure their metabolism and nutrient absorption is as outdated as it is cruel. TNO Nutrition and Food Research's functional gastrointestinal dog model (FIDO) is a dynamic computer-controlled *in vitro* system of a dog's gastrointestinal tract that has been validated as an excellent alternative to live-animal gastrointestinal experiments. **We ask that you immediately mandate the adoption of FIDO in place of cannulating dogs in all UIUC labs.**

In a FIDO study, the protein digestibility for many dry dog foods was tested and then compared with results obtained from using ileally cannulated dogs. The overall recovery of nitrogen in the FIDO experiment was 93 ± 6 percent, meaning that the system is capable of adequately predicting the digestibility of protein for different diets. For more details on this study, please see the enclosed document.

UIUC's refusal to adopt FIDO has caused much needless suffering, and it appears that Fahey is shirking his duty under the Animal Welfare Act to employ alternatives to painful procedures when they are available. It's difficult to imagine a foreign object in the animals' side as something that simply "becomes a part of their anatomy," as Fahey describes it. Nor can anyone who is familiar with dogs believe that the dogs, living for years confined to laboratory kennels, are "spoiled brats," as one veterinary technician called them.

Pet-food manufacturer Iams, whose own experimenter G.A. Reinhart has worked with Fahey in the past to implant ileal cannulas in dogs, has since talked with PETA and established a corporate policy that effectively excludes cannulating dogs. The UIUC and Fahey need to follow suit.

Please let me know that you will take immediate action to stop these unnecessary and cruel experiments. You can reach me directly by e-mail at ShalinG@peta.org or by telephone at 757-962-8325. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Shalin G. Gala
Research Associate



PETA

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