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Dear Dr. Zhou,

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide regarding disturbing animal tests conducted and recently published by the Institute for Traffic Medicine (ITM) and other laboratories associated with Army Medical University (AMU) / Daping Hospital.

Based on the information presented below, we urge ITM / AMU / Daping Hospital to stop using animals for barbaric and deadly car crash tests, in accordance with policies established by major vehicle manufacturers that long ago ended this violent practice in favor of more effective, ethical, and economical non-animal research methods.

ITM / AMU / Daping Hospital have recently conducted the following cruel experiments on animals despite their inapplicability to human health, the availability of superior non-animal research methods, and the absence of any regulations that require the use of animals for this purpose:

- Experimenters tied live pigs to a metal sled for 8 hours without water or food, screwed a metal block onto their pelvis, inserted electrodes into their abdomen, slammed them into a wall—which caused multiple fractures and severe injuries to the animals' spine, pelvis, and internal organs—and killed and dissected them.[1]
- Experimenters starved pigs for 24 hours, deprived them of water for 6 hours, strapped them into car seats with seat belts and ropes, slammed them into a wall—which caused animals to suffer severe fractures, contusions, lacerations, bleeding of internal organs, and immediate death for half of the animals used—and dissected them.[2]
- Experimenters forced dogs onto a "L-shape rigid seat" in a "human sitting position" using cloth restraints, affixed a disc on their heads with

[1] Guan, S., Liao, Z., Xiang, H., Zhu, X., Wang, Z., Zhao, H., ... & Lai, X. (2018). Experimental Study of Thoracoabdominal Injuries Suffered from Caudocephalad Impacts Using Pigs. *Applied bionics and biomechanics, 2018.*

[2] Wang, Q., Xiang, H., Guan, S., Liao, Z., Zhu, X., Yin, Z., & Zhao, H. (2019). A study of thoracoabdominal injury of immature pigs restrained by various belts in front crashes. *International Journal of Crashworthiness*, 1-9.

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> a steel wire rope and sewed sensors into their heads, held their heads up by their ears, dropped a hammer to hit the disc (which causes the dogs' heads to violently thrust backwards and result in whiplash, limping, and difficulty in moving hind limbs), and killed and dissected them.[3]

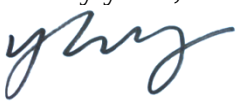
Using animals for car crash tests is antiquated. More than 25 years ago, General Motors Company stopped using animals for car crash tests following an intense campaign by PETA.[4] All major car manufacturers followed suit shortly after, in favor of modern non-animal testing methods.

Using animals to simulate human car crash injuries is unscientific. The experimenters of the aforementioned tests admitted that "the anatomical structure of pigs in the thoracoabdomen differs from human … especially for curvature of the spine,"[5] and that, "there are some inherent discrepancies in anatomy and function between human being and animals, which may result in misunderstanding for the paediatric injuries from the present experiment."[6] They also commented how the horizontal position of the pig in the first experiment "ignore[s] the influence of gravity" and the restraining devices used in the second experiment "may be different" from what is used in practice nowadays. The photos from the experiments – which we will publicize on our web site – show the pigs' forelimbs tied up with ropes and held high, which is not realistic for human passengers.

Using animals to study car crash is unnecessary since animal-free models exist. In the 1970s, General Motors Company was studying the impact of blunt trauma on pigs,[7] however, they have exclusively used non-animal research methods to study car crash injuries since 1993. These days, they incorporate advanced technologies—such as clinical human studies, advanced computer modeling, 3D medical imaging,[8] and sophisticated manikins,[9] for their car crash research. Other researchers have also used human cadavers[10] and virtual reality (digital crash dummies)[11] for the same purpose.

There is no justifiable reason to use animals for car crash tests. We urge you to stop this barbaric and outdated practice, in favor of humane and modern non-animal methods. May I please hear from you by November 25, 2019? You can contact me via email at FrancesC@peta.org.

Sincerely yours,



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[3] Chen, H., Tang, H., Cheng, X., Zhang, L. Y., & Wang, Z. G. (2012, July). Experimental Observations of Animal Neck Injuries under Whiplash Simulations. In *2012 Third International Conference on Digital Manufacturing & Automation* (pp. 398-401). IEEE.

[4] https://www.peta.org/blog/25-year-anniversary-peta-ends-car-crash-tests-on-animals/

[5] Guan, S., Liao, Z., Xiang, H., Zhu, X., Wang, Z., Zhao, H., ... & Lai, X. (2018). Experimental Study of Thoracoabdominal Injuries Suffered from Caudocephalad Impacts Using Pigs. *Applied bionics and biomechanics*, *2018*.

[6] Wang, Q., Xiang, H., Guan, S., Liao, Z., Zhu, X., Yin, Z., & Zhao, H. (2019). A study of thoracoabdominal injury of immature pigs restrained by various belts in front crashes. *International Journal of Crashworthiness*, 1-9.

[7] Viano, D. C., Warner, C. Y., Hoopes, K., Mortenson, C., White, R., & Artinian, C. G. (1978). *Sensitivity of porcine thoracic responses and injuries to various frontal and a lateral impact site* (No. 780890). SAE Technical Paper.

[8] https://media.gm.com/media/us/en/gm/news.detail.html/content/Pages/news/us/en/2012/Aug/0809_um.html

[9] https://media.gm.com/media/us/en/gm/news.detail.html/content/Pages/news/us/en/2012/Aug/0827_crash_dummy.html

[10] https://www.thesouthend.wayne.edu/archives/article_3b11df2c-301d-5ed0-a230-aafeb4082c39.html

[11] https://www.technologyreview.com/s/543951/a-smarter-kind-of-crash-test-dummy/