

TRANSPARENCY IN ANIMAL RESEARCH

RESOLVED, to promote transparency and minimize the use of animals, the Board should issue an annual report to shareholders disclosing procedures to ensure proper animal care, as well as specific plans to promote alternatives to animal use.

Supporting Statement

Our Company posts a number of public policies on its website. Specific data regarding air emissions,¹ water use,² waste,³ energy,⁴ and transportation⁵ are reported, as are fines for safety violations, spills, and remediation investigations.⁶

In contrast, our Company's animal testing policy is included in a random "product stewardship" list⁷ and provides no specific information, despite touting the virtues of reducing animal use. Other international companies provide detailed information such as animal use numbers and specific efforts to incorporate replacement methods.⁸

In the last three years, our Company used more than 20,000 animals in-house. This number includes more than 2,600 dogs and 3,400 primates. Nearly 12,500 of these animals were used in painful experiments—a staggering 62%.⁹

These figures do not include animals used in Bristol-Myers Squibb experiments in contract laboratories nor the vast numbers of animals who are most commonly used in experiments and, though not legally required to be counted, suffer as well.

Animals used in laboratory experiments experience pain, fear, and stress. They spend their lives in unnatural settings—caged and deprived of companionship—and are subjected to painful experiments. Undercover investigations have exposed atrocities at accredited institutions and footage shows animals being beaten, tormented, abused, and left to suffer from illness and injury without veterinary care.

Our Company's animal testing policy states that "we evaluate each contractor animal care and use program . . . for conformance to published regulations and standards for the humane care, treatment and use of all animals."

¹ http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/greenhouse_gas_emissions.aspx

² http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/water_use.aspx

³ http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/waste.aspx

⁴ http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/energy_conservation.aspx

⁵ http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/transportation.aspx

⁶ http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/compliance_and_remediation.aspx

⁷ http://www.bms.com/sustainability/environmental_performance/Pages/product_stewardship.aspx

⁸ http://www.novonordisk.com/science/bioethics/animal_ethics.asp

⁹ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/efoia/7023.shtml

Yet in one contract laboratory used by our Company, Covance, Inc., an undercover investigator videotaped workers striking primates and throwing them against cages. Primates circled frantically in their cages, pulled out their hair, and chewed at their own flesh.¹⁰

In other instances, a primate became trapped in his cage bars, unable to reach food or water for days, while others suffered frostbite from inadequate weather protection. The government has cited and fined Covance for improper care and failure to provide pain relief to suffering animals.

Given that 92% of drugs deemed safe and effective when tested on animals fail in human clinical trials,¹¹ our Company has an ethical and fiscal obligation to ensure that a minimum number of animals and the best science possible are used.

Our Company must incorporate recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences to use recent scientific advances to “transform toxicity testing from a system based on whole-animal testing to one founded primarily on *in vitro* [non-animal] methods.”¹² These approaches will improve efficiency and reduce costs, and increase speed and predictivity to humans.

We urge shareholders **FOR** this socially and ethically important proposal.

¹⁰ www.covancecruelty.com

¹¹ FDA Commissioner: <http://www.fda.gov/oc/speeches/2006/fdateleconference0112.html>

¹² *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: A Vision and a Strategy* (NRC 2007)