

## **ABBOTT SHAREHOLDER RESOLUTION**

This Proposal is submitted by Marion Catron.

WHEREAS, the Company conducts tests on animals as part of its product research and development; and

WHEREAS, the Company also retains independent laboratories to conduct tests on animals as part of product research and development; and

WHEREAS, abuses in independent laboratories have recently been revealed and disclosed by the media; and

WHEREAS, the Company has an *Animals in Biomedical Research* policy (the "Policy") posted on its website as part of its commitment to Corporate Responsibility; NOW

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the shareholders request that the Board issue a report to shareholders on the feasibility of amending the Company's Policy to ensure (a) that it extends to all contract laboratories and that it is reviewed with such outside laboratories on a regular basis, and (b) superior standards of care for animals who continue to be used for these purposes, both by the Company itself and by all independently retained laboratories, including provisions to ensure that animals' psychological, social and behavioral needs are met. Further, the shareholders request that the Board issue an annual report to shareholders on the extent to which in-house and contract laboratories are adhering to this policy, including the implementation of the psychological enrichment measures.

### ***Supporting Statement:***

A number of pharmaceutical companies have adopted and prominently published animal welfare policies on their websites committing to the care of animals used in product research and

development. The Company, as an industry leader, is commended for its efforts aimed at minimizing "unnecessary pain or suffering" and "reducing the number of animals used in any test we conduct ..."<sup>1</sup>

However, the recent disclosure of atrocities recorded at Covance, Inc. has made the need for a formalized, publicly available animal welfare policy that extends to all outside contractors all the more relevant, indeed urgent. Filmed footage showed primates being subjected to such gross physical abuses and psychological torments that Covance sued to stop PETA Europe from publicizing it. The Honorable Judge Peter Langan, in the United Kingdom, who denied Covance's petition, stated in his opinion that the video was "highly disturbing" and that just two aspects of it, namely the "rough manner in which the animals are handled and the bleakness of the surroundings in which they are kept ... even to a viewer with no particular interest in animal welfare, at least cry out for explanation."<sup>2</sup>

Shareholders cannot monitor what goes on behind the closed doors of the animal testing laboratories, so the Company must. Accordingly, we urge the Board to commit to ensuring that basic animal welfare measures are an integral part of our Company's corporate stewardship.

We urge shareholders to support this Resolution.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://abbott.com/citizenship/citizen\\_abbott/position.cfm](http://abbott.com/citizenship/citizen_abbott/position.cfm).

<sup>2</sup> The case captioned *Covance Laboratories Limited v. PETA Europe Limited* was filed in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, Leeds District Registry, Claim No. 5C-00295. In addition to ruling in PETA's favor, the Court ordered Covance to pay PETA £50,000 in costs and fees.