

For Immediate Release:

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PETA WITHDRAWS GE SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL AFTER REACHING AGREEMENT OVER ANIMAL CARE STANDARDS

Norfolk, Va. — Following negotiations with General Electric (GE), PETA has agreed to withdraw a shareholder resolution that the group planned to present at GE's annual meeting in April. PETA's resolution called for the company to implement psychological, social, and behavioral enrichment measures for animals who are used in the company's laboratories and contract facilities. GE challenged the resolution with the Securities and Exchange Commission and lost, and the company has now agreed to update its animal welfare policy and provide PETA with regular updates on its efforts to implement enrichment measures for animals.

Studies of caged animals have shown that they suffer from stress, loneliness, and frustration as a result of the often barren and unnatural conditions in which they are forced to live. The enrichment measures that PETA is encouraging GE to implement include providing animals with nesting materials, hiding places, opportunities to forage and exercise, and group rather than isolation housing. GE Plastics has also agreed to conduct animal tests for skin corrosion, skin irritation, skin absorption, phototoxicity, and pyrogenicity **only when the company is required by law to do so.**

"This agreement is a small but vital step forward for animals in GE's laboratories," says PETA's director of regulatory testing, Jessica Sandler. "We look forward to working with GE to ensure that the company uses as few animals as possible and that GE leads the way in improving conditions for those animals who are still used."

Copies of the resolution and the withdrawal letter are available upon request. For more information, please visit PETA.org.

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PETA

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