

TRANSPARENCY IN ANIMAL RESEARCH

RESOLVED, to promote transparency and minimize the use of animals, the Board is requested to issue an annual report to shareholders disclosing the numbers and species of all animals used in-house and at contract research laboratories for both explicitly required tests and in basic research and development.

Supporting Statement

Product development and testing involve ethical issues relating to animal suffering. In 2008 and 2009, our Company experimented on 19,579 animals in-house. This number does not include mice and rats or any animals used for Merck experiments in contract research laboratories. Among others, 2,674 primates, 4,444 dogs, 5,011 rabbits, and 3,550 guinea pigs were used. 11,830 of these animals were used in painful experiments in Merck laboratories and more than 1,330 of them were given no pain relief whatsoever.¹

Animals used in laboratory experiments experience pain, fear and stress. They spend their lives in unnatural settings – caged and deprived of companionship – and subjected to painful experiments. This is reality for animals in laboratories. What should not be the norm is the outright torture of defenseless animals.

A recent undercover investigation of a Merck contract research organization, Professional Laboratory and Research Services, Inc., shows that Merck has hired a laboratory where animals suffered above and beyond the commissioned tests even though our Company's policy specifically states that "Merck places high value on its animal welfare stewardship responsibility."² Documentation and video footage³ from this investigation showed:

- Sick and injured animals regularly denied veterinary care;
- An inadequately anesthetized dog struggling while an untrained worker extracts his tooth with pliers;
- Cats slammed into cages;
- Cats and dogs sprayed with pressure hoses;
- Technicians screaming obscenities at animals while dragging, throwing, and kicking them;
- One worker repeatedly tried to rip out a cat's nails;
- Filth and deafening noise.

Our company has the ability and the obligation to ensure that no animal suffers from lack of veterinary care, poor housing, or outright mistreatment. Further, our Company has an ethical and fiscal obligation to ensure that a minimum number of animals are used and that the best science possible is employed in the development of products. Given the fact that 92% of

¹ http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/efoia/7023.shtml

² <http://www.merck.com/corporate-responsibility/research-medicines-vaccines/new-technologies/animal-research/approach.html>

³ <http://origin.www.peta.org/tv/videos/animal-experimentation/599609536001.aspx>

drugs deemed safe and effective when tested in animals fail when tested in humans and that, of the remaining 8%, half are later relabeled or withdrawn due to unanticipated, severe adverse effects, there is a clear scientific imperative for improving how our Company's products are tested.⁴

We urge shareholders to vote in favor of this socially and ethically important public policy proposal.

⁴ FDA Commissioner: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Speeches/ucm053539.htm>
Recent advances in genomics, systems biology, and computational biology can do much to reduce and eventually replace the use of animals in experiments.