



July 22, 2021

Dear President Banks:

I'm writing on behalf of PETA and our more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide to point out false statements made by Peter Nghiem, the head of the Texas A&M canine muscular dystrophy (MD) experimentation program, and at least one other university representative, as well as to ask you to clarify the university's policy and intentions.

In December 2020, at Session IV of the National Institutes of Health's Virtual Workshop on Validation of Animal Models and Tools for Biomedical Research, Nghiem [stated](#) that healthy carrier dogs are spayed and adopted out after experimenters have finished using them in the canine MD program. This statement contradicts the fact that eight healthy carrier dogs and one healthy noncarrier from the canine MD program were transferred to another laboratory in Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine, where they remain, instead of being put up for adoption.

Another university representative lied to a Texas state representative who contacted Texas A&M about the dogs. The legislator was told that *all* the dogs are ill with severe canine MD and must remain in the laboratory to receive round-the-clock veterinary care. This is clearly false. Only seven of the dogs still in Nghiem's laboratory are afflicted with canine MD. Three dogs in the laboratory are healthy. And as stated above, nine healthy dogs have been transferred out of Nghiem's lab. Of the 19 dogs from the MD program remaining at the university, 12 are healthy and unaffected by the disease.

What is the truth about the fate of these dogs? Why is Texas A&M lying about them? I will make this offer again: PETA would be happy to take the 19 dogs—or as many as you would release—and place them in permanent, loving homes, and we would publicly thank and praise the university for facilitating this.

May I please hear from you so that we can discuss a plan to find these dogs the homes that they deserve? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Guillermo
Senior Vice President
PETA

PEOPLE FOR
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TREATMENT
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