

Shriya Swaminathan

From: Peterson, Kellie <kellie.peterson@montana.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 13, 2022 9:58 AM
To: Kaylie Flaughner
Subject: RE: Public Records Request

Kaylie,

Your records request specifically asked for records of “animals euthanized as a result of any and all circumstances and/or impacts *related to COVID-19.*” The following statement is accurate: no animals were euthanized due to COVID-19 issues. All labs conducting animal research were covered in the “15-20%” that were deemed to be essential. I cannot speak for the Sentient Media author’s interpretation of events, but MSU Animal Resource Center records reflect that the euthanizing of animals during that time period were for reasons other than COVID-19 impacts, such as the conclusion of an experiment.

Kellie



Office of Legal Counsel
216 Montana Hall | Post Office Box 172420
Bozeman, Montana 59717-2420
Phone: (406) 994-4570
Fax: (406) 994-1893
Email: kellie.peterson@montana.edu

From: Kaylie Flaughner <kaylief@peta.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Peterson, Kellie <kellie.peterson@montana.edu>
Subject: Re: Public Records Request

May 12, 2022

Dear Ms. Peterson,

Thank you for your reply on April 28, 2022, in which you stated that, “Montana State University has no records responsive to your request. Specifically, no animals were euthanized due to COVID-19 issues. The campus implemented research protocols that allowed for the continued care and maintenance of all animals through the pandemic.”

However, I’d like to point out that an [article](#) published in Sentient Media indicates that responsive records do exist. Specifically, the article refers to Montana State University (MSU) [records](#) that include directives to euthanize mouse colonies, and Animal Resources Center (ARC) Daily Animal Health Information documents related to guinea pigs stating, “[a]ll animals euthanized. Room empty”

Furthermore, a set of responsive public records that we received from another institution includes [an email](#) that mentions that only 15-20% of MSU’s laboratories were approved as “essential” that are continuing in a “much reduced”

manner—indicating that the remaining laboratories at MSU were not approved as “essential” and may have reduced animal populations in response to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, on evidence and belief, it appears that there are responsive records to our request and an adequate search was not conducted. We ask that you please perform a new thorough search for responsive records as per our request.

Thank you, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Kaylie Flaughner (she/her)

Executive Assistant to the Vice Presidents

Laboratory Investigations Department

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

From: Peterson, Kellie <kellie.peterson@montana.edu>

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 6:26 PM

To: Kaylie Flaughner <kaylief@peta.org>

Subject: RE: Public Records Request

Kaylie,

Montana State University has no records responsive to your request. Specifically, no animals were euthanized due to COVID-19 issues. The campus implemented research protocols that allowed for the continued care and maintenance of all animals through the pandemic.

Kellie



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216 Montana Hall | Post Office Box 172420
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Phone: (406) 994-4570
Fax: (406) 994-1893
Email: kellie.peterson@montana.edu

From: Kaylie Flaughner <kaylief@peta.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 3:00 PM

To: Peterson, Kellie <kellie.peterson@montana.edu>

Subject: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Peterson,

Please find enclosed a request for public records made on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) pursuant to Montana Public Records Act § 2-6-1001 et seq.

Thank you,

Kaylie Flaughner (she/her)

Executive Assistant to the Vice Presidents

Laboratory Investigations Department

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)