



PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
Florida State Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Via e-mail: GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Thank you for your service to our nation and for your continued dedication to the people of the great state of Florida. On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which has over 412,000 members and supporters in Florida, I'm writing to ask you—as the governor of the state with the largest number of older Americans—for your help in stopping a series of horrific and completely wasteful taxpayer-funded “aging” experiments on tiny marmoset monkeys about to commence at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

PETA is all for meaningful, human-relevant research to help seniors. However, waking up tiny monkeys every 15 minutes all night long by blaring loud noises at them won't do that. The experimenters say it will tell us something about “cognitive decline” in elderly humans with sleep problems, but that's insulting to the intelligence of those of us over the age of 60. Keeping a monkey from sleeping—considered a form of torture in humans that can ultimately result in death—won't mimic insomnia in people. This proposed experiment is so cruel that it's classified by the university as what's called a “Column E” study—meaning it causes distress and pain without any relief.

The experimenters have further insulted Americans by sending us a \$400,000 bill for this cruelty, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. This money could be used instead to actually help the residents of Florida and other states.

Would you please speak out against this absurd waste of taxpayer funds at a research institution that should know better? Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kathy Guillermo
Senior Vice President
Laboratory Investigations Department

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